

★ ★ ★ AMERICAN LEGION POST 166 ★ ★ ★



Synepuxent Observer
Spring 2023



Commander's Message



Tom Wengert
Commander

Well, what ever happened to old man winter? Except for the three days in January, where our temperatures dipped below 32, we have had some very good, if sometimes rainy, days. I would like by thanking everyone who took time to visit are Legion to share in the camaraderie that has made this Post the "Friendliest Post on the East Coast."

Here's a little of what they were greeted with.

We started the year with a New Year's Eve Party like never before, with great music, great food, and great friends. The next day was New Year's Day and so many of you helped celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1091. The VVA provided some appetizing and chilled salty oysters, and as always there was a lot of good food from the night before, which everyone enjoyed. The Auxiliary in January held its First annual "Putting for a Cause" to help prevent Veteran suicide, raising more than \$12,000. What a great job Emily Nock and her volunteer ladies did. These young Auxiliary ladies are stepping it up again and again, putting their name not only in their history book but also in our Post history books.

February started out with our Four Chaplain Service, which was very well attended. Once again, we need to thank Bob Paul for a great program, which presented the heroic lives of all four chaplains, as told by four local four Ministers. Next our Auxiliary held its second "Sip'n Shop," which drew a large attendance because of all the vendors who participated.

The Sons took the stage the very next night with its Valentines/Sweetheart, New York strip/shrimp dinner. Again, a huge success. What an improvement over the 2022 dinner, where everyone swarmed in at 4 p.m. and overwhelmed the kitchen. As planned this year tickets were sold in timeslots for 4, 5:15, 6:30, and 7:45 p.m. That worked out much better for the staff and diners alike. Thank you, Joe Paul and your crew, along with the ladies who volunteered to serve and clean tables and make sure the trash was emptied.

Game Night at Post 166 ended on March 1 with a tie for first place between Chuck Porter and John Lorman. We had a great year, and everyone said they are coming back for the 23-24 season. Talk

Continued on Page 2

Artist Rendition Shows What We Can Look Forward to With the New Patio/Bart



Here's a sneak preview of what's ahead for Post 166 sometime this summer. That's when construction of the new upstairs, outdoor patio/bar is scheduled to be completed. Commander Wengert provides an update on the construction in his column on page 2, where there's another view of the project.



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Commander's Message

Continued from Page 1

about a party, St. Patrick's Day, which was celebrated the weekend of March 11, was like no other here at Post 166. We had Little Joe's famous corn beef and cabbage and for those who didn't like corn beef, we had hamburger sliders and hotdogs, thanks to Bob Paul, Alicia Muir and Kirsten Brown. Drinks were flowing, people were dancing, and the camaraderie was the best I have ever seen. The partying really started on Thursday, and ended on Sunday afternoon following the Queen of Hearts drawing. This was the best weekend Post 166 ever had. It was because of you, and we thank you for everything that you do to make our Post one of the best. We would like to thank bartenders Tina, Pam, Robin, Sherry, Shannon, and Keven for an outstanding job. Our bartenders are the best, and they made sure that everyone was served with a smile.

Let's not forget our great kitchen crew headed by Tommy O'Meara, Jeff (aka Peaches) Emm and John Taylor and runner Kendall Parsons. These four are the best in Ocean city by far. Head Chef Tommy puts out some fantastic meals, unmatched Ocean city, and how about those low prices? Thanks guys and gals for a job well done.

Now here's the question on everybody's mind. When are we going to start construction on our rooftop patio/bar? That's a great question but finally I can give you a definitive answer. It already has and when you visit the Post you can see it happening for yourself. We've been waiting for delivery of construction materials, and they are here. With the day,

however, I now know one thing for sure that the patio/bar will not be ready by Convention week as we hoped. What is ready are drawings of what it will look like when completed. I'm sharing those with you in this issue of the newsletter.

In closing, I would like to say thank you again from the bottom of my heart for everything that you as members, and especially to our volunteers. Together you Legion what it really is "the Best and Friendliest Post on the East Coast." If you would like to be part of our Volunteer Team, please get in touch with Gidget or John, our Stewards and give them your name and number so you can be part of our team. Our success is because of you.

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

Tom Wengert,
Commander, Post #166



Another view of how the patio/deck will look when finished.



Legion Member Receives 50-Year Service Award

Post 166 member Harry Ballantyne Sr. of Selbyville was honored at the Post's February meeting, receiving a service award for 50 years of unbroken membership. With Harry, who is holding his plaque, was his wife, Ann, and daughter Karen Edmondson and her husband Steve.



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

From the Adjutant



John Bussard
Adjutant

The 2024 Legion year membership registration will be upon us beginning July 1.

Early Bird registration for 2024 begins July 1 and runs to October 20. Membership cards for 2023 will be valid until December 31, at which time they become delinquent and then expire as of February 1, 2024. As in the past, during the coming year there will be multiple notifications to the members who have not renewed, reminding them to remit the dues to the post.

As of this writing, it appears that Post 166 will reach 100% of its membership goal of 895 members. We need less than 100 members to register before June 6 in order to accomplish this goal. The expectation of the leadership of the Eastern Shore Region, of which the Post is a member, is, however, that each post set a goal of reaching 100% membership by December 31. That is a daunting expectation for an organization of our size. On the negative side, we have 233 members from 2020 and 2021 whose memberships have expired.

Keep in mind that can renew your membership with a credit card using the dues notice that you receive in the mail. Or you can log in to MyLegion.org

and choose the membership link. If you go to MyLegion.org take time to check your demographics and verify the information. You can correct or change data that is wrong or no longer is current.

Thank you for your military service and for your participation in Post 166.

John Bussard,

Adjutant Synepuxent Post 166

MyLegion.org and
Constant Contact Training

A training program in MyLegion.org and Constant Contact was held recently by Post 166 Adjutant John Bussard, with 19 attendees at Post 91 in Cambridge. Bussard developed the program, with peer review by the Department's Ebony Dixon, The same training can be organized for others interested in improving their access to both American Legion tools.

If you know a Commander or an Adjutant of another Post who would like to expand their knowledge of MyLegion.org for managing membership, ask them to contact John Bussard, Adjutant Post166 at adjutant166@gmail.com for information.

Legionnaires Instructed in AED Use by Ocean City Fire Fighter



Braniff with J.R. Best, Post 1st Vice Commander who organized the presentation

Members of Ocean City American Legion Post 166 received instruction at the January meeting on how to use the Post's Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) from Jordan Braniff, 3rd Assistant Fire Chief of the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company Braniff also is a nurse practitioner in the Tidal Health System. The AED is a life-saving equipment used to revive an individual suffering cardiac arrest. The Post as an AED on site in the event it is needed.



Braniff holding the packaged chest pads that are used to provide electrical stimulation by an AED to an individual in cardiac arrest



Our Volunteers Made St. Patrick's Day at the Post the Best Ever!

No question about it, the Post had another great St. Patrick's Day Party. And every year we show pictures of crowds. And Irish, and would-be Irish, and corned beef and the works.

This year we've decided to concentrate on just some of our people who make it happen for the hundreds and hundreds of visitors who drop in to celebrate St. Paddy's Day with us.



Helping in the kitchen were from left, Violet Shipping, Joann Wengert, Mari Marron, Lisa Capecci



Selling Queen of Hearts tickets were Debbie Sautter, Steve Sesnovich and Ray Kudobeck



You never have to ask who is cooking the corned beef. It's always Joe Verdura, Just patty cook. Joe Verdura, with Assistant Steward John Karahana on his way to help



Looks like the 50-50 drawing was in good hands with Kirsten Brown and Tina Preziotti

Even though we focused this year on some of our great volunteers, we just had to show some photos of the crowds that made our St. Patrick Celebration the best we have ever had.





New Members to Post 166 December 2022, January and February 2023

Post 166 continues to grow. Another 27 veterans joined our post. Their names and services affiliation if provided, are below. Say hello when you see any of new comrades.

Akram Ayoub	Army
Ian B. Barnard	Air Force
Brian W. Blackstock	Navy
Armond J. Boulanger III	Unknown
Richard Boord	Air Force
Joseph Cain	Air Force
John Daigle	Army
Jerome Edwards	Navy
Kyle Elliott	Navy
Victor E. Freeman	Navy
Bradley B. Gill	Marines

Victor E. Hopkins	Navy
Dennis Horgan	Army
Apryl D. Huster	Army
Glenn P. Jacoby	Army
Jim Jones	Army
Dennis L. Lowe	Marines
William P. McCracken	Coast Guard
Rodney Messer	Unknown
Douglas J. Pall	Army
Robert W. Phelan	Navy
Michael J. Sepety	Marines
Dennis Sharkey	Army
William Stannas	Army
Lee Whitsett	Navy
William Yarzinski	Air Force

Transfers to Post 166 December 2022, January and February 2023

Post 166 is a go-to Post in Maryland. There have been 9 new members transferred in from other posts. Here's a list of their names and service affiliations. If you should happen to run into any of these veterans, say hello and welcome them to the friendliest place in Ocean City.

William Campbell	Army
John Lavery	Marines
Jody McCourt	Coast Guard
Robert O'Connor	Navy
Thomas Reeding	Marines
Ronald Schweiger	Navy
Steven Sisk	Navy
Theodore Vanderlaan	Unknown
Leonard E. Young	Air Force



Some relevant Post 166 statistics for 2023

The Department of Maryland is ninth out of 55 state and National Departments in membership renewals.

- ★ The Department of Maryland is number one in membership renewals in the Northeast Region that comprises the states on the East Coast from Maryland to Maine, and the District of Columbia
- ★ The Eastern Shore Region is number one in the Department of Maryland in membership renewals.
- ★ Our District 2 ranks number three in the Eastern Shore Region in membership renewals.
- ★ Post 166 is 41 out of 127 Posts in the Department of Maryland in membership renewals.
- ★ Post 166 is third in membership renewals in the Department of Maryland for Posts with 751 to 1,000 members.



DONATIONS

Contributions December, January, February

Furnace Town Historic Site	\$2,000
Coastal Hospice	\$3,000
Operation Comfort Warrior	\$2,000
Diakonia	\$2,000
Worcester County Development Center	\$2,000
Worcester County Youth & Family Counseling	\$2,000
Joan Jenkins Foundation	\$1,000
Atlantic United Methodist Church	\$2,000

Dr. Tracy Rush of Healing Hands Chiropractic hands a check for \$240 to Post 166 Commander Tom Wengert. The donation, in February, was made to support our community. Dr. Rush was a guest speaker in Post Membership meeting November 2022. At the time she offered a \$59 spinal diagnosis, with the fee paid to be donated back to the Post. In making the donation she said she would like to extend the offer of relief and wellness to those members who still want to participate. Her office can be reached at 410-629-0610.



A Look Back at our History

Did You Know How Post 166 Began?

With all the new construction going on, it's probably worth a brief look at how far we have come as a Post since our founding in 1946. The first organizing committee met in February 1946 at Sacco's Restaurant and elected George Cropper as the first Commander. After meeting at Sacco's for about six months, the Post moved to the John Dale Showell building on Talbot Street and Philadelphia Avenue. This location is now a parking lot. The arrangement made between John Dale Showell and Post members was that he would receive half of the Post's profits in lieu of rent. He received \$167 the first year, and \$1,700 the second. The Post continued to hold meetings and events there for the next seven years from, 1947 until 1953.

Around 1950, a decision was made to purchase land and establish a permanent Post home. Following a real estate survey, the leadership decided on a tract on 23rd Street, our present location, at a cost of \$12,500. Post members were divided about the purchase, arguing the location was too far out of town. As one member stated at the time, "Why build way out of town." The decision to go ahead with the purchase almost caused a split among the members. That was then, this is now at the same location with a major construction improvement project underway. Look for more history in subsequent issues of the Synepuxent Post.

VVA 1091 Runs Welcome Home Raffle

Volunteers in January were busy putting labels and postage on 1,900 envelopes before stuffing them with the Welcome Home 50/50 raffle tickets. The winning ticket for this fund raiser organized by our own Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1091 was to be drawn March 31, too late for this issue of the Synepuxent Observer to announce the winner, who will get half of the proceeds. The other half will be used by the chapter to help veterans and support community needs.



From left are: James Gilmore, Don Coffin, Gerry Barron, Marie Gilmore, Bob Gilmore, and Bonnie Strawbridge. Missing from the picture, but a big help is Bob Broderick. Taking the picture was Bob Smith.

FOUR CHAPLAINS REMEMBERED

At 12:30 a.m. on February 3, 1943, the ship's bell on the troop ship Dorchester rang twice. It never sounded again. The Dorchester was torpedoed by an enemy submarine and 672 young men paid the supreme sacrifice. Included among them for four Army Chaplains – a Rabbi, a Roman Catholic Priest, a Methodist Minister, and a Dutch Reformed Minister.

Rabbi Alexander B. Goode, Father John P. Washington, the Reverend George L. Fox, and the Reverend Clark V. Poling.

These four gave up their life jackets to save four soldiers and, in doing so, gave up their only means of survival. They were last seen on the deck of the ship with their arms linked and their heads bowed in prayer, and they went to watery graves in the frigid North Atlantic off the coast of Greenland. Each Chaplain received a Purple Heart and Distinguished Service Cross posthumously.

They are honored each year by American Legion Posts. Here is some of what went on at our Post 166.



Program Organizer Bob Paul,
2nd Vice Commander, Post 166



Standing for the invocation



Rabbi Arthur Rutberg spoke
about Chaplain John P. Goode



Methodist Pastor Dale Brown
with comments about
Chaplain George L. Fox



Episcopal Priest Father Larry
Barnhill with comments about
Chaplain Clark V. Poling



The Rev. Mark Piedmonte
delivered remarks honoring
Chaplain John P. Washington



Coast Guardsman FN Brooks
William renders a salute for
Chaplain Washington



Junior Auxiliaries and Program organizer Bob Paul
place a rose, poppy, and life jacket on the Chaplain's
Table in memory of Chaplain Fox



The Final Table with four life jackets, poppies, roses, and
burning candles in observance of the sacrifice
of The Four Chaplains

WORCESTER COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial will be holding its annual Memorial Day program Monday, May 29 at 11 a.m.



MEMORIAL DAY MAY 29, 2023

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial will honor all who died in service to their country May 29 with a solemn ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park in Ocean Pines. The ceremony will begin promptly at 11 a.m. The Veterans Memorial Foundation will also honor and recognize American Ex-POWs and Gold Star Families.

Our Keynote speaker will be First State Detachment Marine Corps League member Al Soto.



**Rotary Club of Ocean City/Berlin & Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation Present
FLAGS FOR HEROES 2023**

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial will once again join with the Ocean City/Berlin Rotary Club to present Flags for Heroes. Everyone is encouraged to sponsor a flag, in honor of or in memory of, any hero in their life. Honorees in the past have been mentors, teachers, First Responders, Drs. and Nurses or Veterans. Anyone who has impacted your life. **Flags will fly from May 20th (Armed Forces Day) through July 4.**

Each flag will have a medallion with the name of the sponsor and your hero. The medallions may be removed from the flag and is yours to keep or share with your hero. Flags are \$50 each to sponsor. Please use the form on the following page, or go to OPVets.org to download and print the form.

by *Marie Gilmore*, President,
Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation



Synepuxent Post 166, Spring 2023



Rotary Club of Ocean City/Berlin
and
Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation



Flags for Heroes 2023

Veterans Memorial Park
Rt 589 between Manklin Creek Road and Cathell Road

Armed Servies Day, May 20th - Independence Day, July 4th



Flags for Heroes is a tribute to the people who have supported and inspired us. Each flag honors a person who has made a difference in someone’s life. Honor your personal heroes - a military member, first responder, teacher, community leader, anyone who has been a hero in your life.

Sponsor A Flag for \$50

Each flag will be identified by a medallion with your name and the name of your hero.
This medallion is yours to keep. It may be removed at any time.

Your tax-deductible contribution will provide funding for *Ocean City Berlin Rotary Club* scholarships and local charities and the *Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation* Educational Outreach Program. *Both are 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organizations.*

To help assure accuracy, please list only **ONE HERO** per form

Name of Hero _____

Sponsor _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ - _____ - _____ Email Address _____

Make your check* payable to: *Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation*

Please write “*Flags for Heroes*” on the memo line.

**One check may be written for multiple flag sponsorship forms at \$50 each.*

Mail to: *Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation*
P.O. Box 1576
Ocean Pines, MD 21811

For more details, e-mail: cliff917@aol.com



American Legion Legislative Priorities



Vincent J. Troiola
Commander

American Legion National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola applauded legislative victories for veterans in the 117th Congress in his opening remarks to members of the Legion Family Feb. 28 at the Washington Conference during the Commander's Call.

"One of our biggest agenda items last year was the PACT Act. Because of your hard work it passed," said Troiola of the legislation, which will allow more than 3.5 million toxic-exposed veterans eligible for VA benefits.

Another piece of significant legislation passed was the Buddy Check Week Act that requires VA to implement a national buddy check week, mirroring the Legion's Buddy Check program. "It's a great step toward creating meaningful suicide prevention measures."

That led Troiola to voice the Legion's Be the One initiative to reduce veteran suicide by destigmatizing the need for veterans to ask for help and encourage everyone to "Be the One" to ask if a veteran is OK.

"We need to push for the expansion of counseling and innovative, evidence-based, complementary and alternative medicine," Troiola said. "We must remind our senators, representatives and their staff that they have no higher calling than the care and well-being of our veterans, our active military and their families."

Legion Family members will visit with their respective representatives and senators following the Commander's Call to voice the Legion's legislative priorities for the 118th Congress, 1st Session. Troiola highlighted a few of those priorities.

Protect and improve the GI Bill. Higher education, vocational training and home ownership are benefits are earned through service and sacrifice. "Yet, reservists and National Guardsmen are often deprived of these benefits. We must urge Congress to honor their service by granting them parity in the awarding of GI Bill benefits."

Respect the U.S. flag. "It means amending the

U.S. Constitution to allow Congress to once again claim the right to protect the flag from desecration. The flag used to cover the caskets of our fallen military heroes."

Protect veterans from predatory actors. There are law firms "that are overcharging veterans after they had already been exposed to contaminated drinking water. We urge Congress to impose a cap on legal services provided in association with the Camp Lejeune Justice Act."

Advocate for citizenship for military service. "It is unjust to deport veterans who served honorably and have expressed a willingness to fight and die for this country."

Ensure the Coast Guard is paid. "This means paying the U.S. Coast Guard, uninterrupted, during any future government shutdowns."

"Thank you all for being here today to advocate in our nation's capital on behalf of our fellow veterans and servicemembers," Troiola said. "Our American Legion Family is strong. We have four solid pillars – National Defense, Veterans, Youth and Americanism. All of these offer opportunities to grow and serve our community. All of these can be used to build an even more powerful and yes, better, American Legion."



picture courtesy wikimedia.org



AUXILIARY NEWS



**Karen Thompson
President**

Hello Auxiliary Members and our Legion Family! ALA Unit 166 has had a fantastic start to 2023 but first I would like to share with you some of our 2022 end-of-year highlights.

In December our unit was able to provide local families with some Christmas cheer and gifts through the "Wishing Tree" program at Holy Savior Catholic Church. Also, with Covid restrictions behind us,

we were able to visit with veterans at the Berlin Nursing Facility. After contacting the nursing home social director we were given wish lists for 12 veterans who live at the facility and we purchased, wrapped, and delivered multiple gifts for each of them. In addition, our unit was able to make donations to the following local and veteran non-profit organizations: 2023 Penguin Swim, Stop Soldiers Suicide, Ocean City Beach Patrol all Female Traveling Competition Team, Support the Troops Care Boxes through Operation we Care, Wreaths Across America, Post 166 local scout troops, and more.

We took all that successful momentum right into 2023 and hosted two successful fundraising events. Putting for a Cause was held on January 21 with all of the proceeds donated to the "Stop Soldiers Suicide" program. This event was so successful that planning for the next one already is in the works. In February and back by popular demand was the "Sip and Shop" fundraiser. Once again it was highly successful. I Would like to thank all the volunteers who make these events possible and thank Unit 166 2nd Vice President Emily Nock for her outstanding work leading, organizing and promoting both of these widely popular fundraising events. Great Job Everyone!

I know every officer of every Legion family has said this time and time again, we could not be this successful without our volunteers. At this point I would like to share how and why we are so organized and blessed to have volunteers for every event at post 166:

As I watched the need for volunteers increase over the past few years, I realized that simply posting a "volunteer sign-up" form on the bulletin board wasn't going to cut it any longer. The need for someone to organize and schedule volunteers for the post was here. After speaking with the Post Steward

and employees of Post 166 I was able to lay the groundwork for this much needed position all I needed was someone to take the reins of this project. At our monthly meeting one year ago Unit 166 executive member Penny Matthews brought her friend and new member Marty Marron to our monthly meeting. During the meeting I shared that we have a new chair position of Volunteer Coordinator and were looking for someone to step into that seat. That very same night Marty Marron accepted the position. Well, let me tell you, Marty did not only take the reins, but she has clearly won this race! Great job Marty, we all appreciate your hard work and dedication to this project!

In April, our Nomination Committee will be looking for member/candidates for several officer positions and numerous committee chairs that are, or will be open in 2023-2024. If you are interested in finding out more about the open positions, please reach out to our nomination committee of Marie Gilmore, Penny Matthews, or Tina Preziotti. We also have numerous events planned and as always if you would like to volunteer, please let Marty know!

I hope everyone has an awesome spring and we look forward to seeing you at Post 166 soon.

**Karen Thompson
President**



Kirsten Brown

I am happy to share we reached our membership goal and goal plus for 2022-2023. I would like to thank every one of our members. Without you this would not be achievable.

Our Auxiliary is enjoying seeing new members at our meetings along with the continued support of our long-standing members.

Our meetings are every third Tuesday of the month, with social hour and light refreshments at 6 p.m. with our meeting starting promptly at 7 p .m. We greatly appreciate your continued support. Whether it was by taking part in the activities of our unit, or enrollment and payment of dues, you have contributed to the success of the Auxiliary.

Kirsten Brown



AUXILIARY JUNIORS



Jessie Parsons
Junior Advisor

Our Juniors opened their 2023 meeting in January with Saylor Amos conducting the formal meeting as the unit's President. The Juniors made Survival Kits for Soldiers that contained candies that represented the qualities we appreciate in our military and veterans. There were:

Lifesavers to remind them of

the many times they have been one; Starburst for the burst of energy they need; Payday, since they are not doing it for the money; Hershey kisses because we love them; Gum to help everyone stick together; Tootsie rolls to roll with the punches; Peppermint Patties to keep their cool; Snickers to keep their sense of humor; Mounds for the mounds of courage they show.

The Juniors presented them to our veterans at the Post and gave them for distribution to others in the military to show our appreciation.

February had our Juniors participating in the Four Chaplains Ceremony at the Post, where they honored the memory of the Four Chaplains with roses and poppies. Brooklynn Paul led the Pledge of Allegiance for the ceremony. Addison and Delaney McDaniel, Saylor Amos, and McKenna Birkhead-Thompson also participated.

At the February meeting, Juniors also partnered with the senior auxiliary members to collect pajamas for the Casey Cares Kammies Jammies program to go to children of all ages who spend considerable amounts of time in hospitals because of extended illnesses. The Juniors and Senior members rolled and tagged 46 pairs of pajamas for the program.



Jessie Parsons, Allyssa Frantz; Alexis Frantz, Delaney McDaniel, Saylor Amos, McKenna Birkhead-Thompson, Addison McDaniel, Sharon Hilty making Survival Kits for Soldiers at the January Juniors meeting

March's meeting included a review of the ALA patch programs and plans to collect items for children's Easter baskets to be taken to Worcester Gold. Delaney McDaniel served as acting unit president to conduct the meeting. Delaney also attended a District Meeting for the first time in March and was introduced to the Senior members of our District.

We are proud to say that Delaney McDaniel, Addison McDaniel, and Sophia Hume of our Juniors unit will all be sponsored to attend the Department of Maryland Girls State Program in June.

Remember that April is Military Child Month. Our Juniors will be setting a table at the Post in honor of Military Children.

Our Juniors continue to excel in school academically and participate in so many activities and sports. We are so proud of their contributions to our American Legion Family and their communities.

As always, a big thank you to Marie Gilmore, Kirsten Brown, Nicole Birkhead-Thompson, and Sharon Hilty for their help with this program.

Jessie Parsons, Junior Advisor



Penny Matthews, Marti Maron, Nicole Birkhead-Thompson; Kirsten Brown, Addison McDaniel, Marie Gilmore, Delaney McDaniel, McKenna Birkhead-Thompson, Brooklynn Paul, Sharon Hilty, and Jessie Parsons with the rolled and tagged pajamas donated for Kammies Jammies



Saylor Amos, McKenna Birkhead-Thompson, Delaney McDaniel, Brooklynn Paul, and Addison McDaniel at the Four Chaplains Ceremony



Joe Paul
Commander

During Valentines Day we had a successful Surf and Turf Dinner, with great music and dancing by our very own DJ Mikey! I would like to give a special thank you to Marty from the Ladies Auxiliary who coordinated the volunteers. I would also like to thank Little Joe, Kirsten, Alicia, Tina, Robin, Tommy and all the volunteers who helped make this night successful, it is because of your self-

ness and hard work that everything ran so smoothly.

It is more important than ever that we have as many members coming to meetings as possible. As a reminder the Son's meetings are on the second Monday night of each month from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., with a happy hour from 6 to 7. Happy hour will be \$1 drinks with a limit of three. At our meetings we discuss upcoming events and donations. We have about 15 members at every meeting.

Ticket sales are going strong for our 2023 Charter Fishing Raffle on the 43-foot Viking Boat "Still Lucky." We started selling them at the Ocean City Boat Show in February and they are flying out the door! Tickets can be purchased at the bar and are five for \$20. After our May meeting we will stuff



Bob Gilmore at the Ocean City Boat Show in February, representing the Post and selling SAL Offshore Fishing raffle tickets.

envelopes to be sent out to all Post Members, so they have the opportunity to purchase and win this exciting trip, even if they are unable to make it to the Post to purchase tickets. The more hands-on-deck for that meeting, the better!

As always, the SAL appreciates any feedback from Legion Members and will always strive to make your voices heard and experiences better.

Joe Paul
Commander

Service Officer Appointed for Post 166



Tom Ottenwaelder
Service Officer

Retired Coast Guard Veteran Tom Ottenwaelder has been appointed Post 166 Veteran Service Officer, a crucial position that, among other things, helps military veterans with VA claims. Legion service officers are specially trained to provide expert assistance to veterans and their families. While a majority of

their work involves application for VA disability benefits, they also provide information, referrals, and resources on education, employment and business, death benefits and other important topics of interest to veterans. Ottenwaelder served in the Coast Guard as an enlisted man and commissioned officer. He goes by the less formal name of Tommy O. Look for information in coming weeks from Constant Contact about when and how to contact him.

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

How to Display The American Flag

The U.S. flag stands for our nation and the shared history, pride, principles, and commitment of its people. When we properly display this powerful symbol, we signal our respect for everything it represents.

- The flag shouldn't be flown in inclement weather unless it's an all-weather flag.
- Flags displayed at night should be properly illuminated.
- In a time of national mourning, hang the flag at half-mast.

The flag can be flown every day, but it is often flown to show patriotism on these observances:

New Year's Day	Easter Sunday	Constitution Day
Inauguration Day	Armed Forces Day	Columbus Day
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday	Memorial Day	Navy Day
Lincoln's Birthday	Flag Day	Veterans Day
Washington's Birthday (Presidents Day)	Independence Day	Thanksgiving Day
National Vietnam War Veterans Day	National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day	Christmas Day
	Labor Day	

Email: alpost166@comcast.net 13



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



Scott Brown
Director

I hope everyone had a great start to 2023. The weather is obviously not cooperating, but it will be riding season soon! Remember, look twice, save a life. Your Legion Riders are working hard with upcoming events to include a ride or two and lots of good food. We're always looking for volunteers and riders. Check your email and the Riders Facebook page. You can get there by opening Facebook and serving post 166 riders. Our page will come up.

I would like to welcome our new members: Bruce Capecci, Michael Carey, Frank DeMarco, Larry Friedman, Bob Phelan, and Don Piarulli. I look forward to getting everyone involved.

Riders and Sons Christmas Party

Just before Christmas, the ALR and SAL got together at Papi's Tacos for an annual Christmas party. Everyone had a good time, and we look forward to next year's party!



Kevin Matthews, Tina Preziotti, Kirsten Brown, and Penny Williams

Charter Fishing Trip Raffle

The drawing for the Charter fishing trip was held on September 18 last year. Thank you to the Crew of the Playmate, Sunset Grill, and East Coast Construction for helping us make the raffle happen! Unfortunately, the winner cannot use the trip, so he has graciously donated it back to the Post. He wants disabled vets to make use of it, so we are putting that together for him. Thank you for your generosity!

14 Email: alpost166@comcast.net

Rifle Raffle

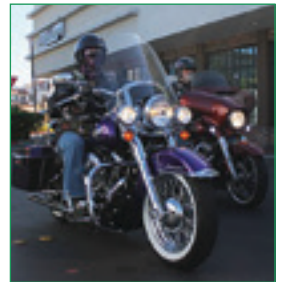
The drawing was held on Super Bowl Sunday, February 12. Two rifles were given away, a Beretta A300 Ultima 12-gauge shotgun and a Franchi Momentum 6.4 Creedmoor bolt action rifle. One winner was from Maryland and the other was Pennsylvania. Thank you for supporting your Legion Riders. Stay tuned for the next raffle!



Pulling the winning ticket was Lois Barstis, with me helping

Future Events

We will be hosting our annual Legion Week Crab Feast on July 13. Tickets will go on sale mid- to late June. Stay tuned. Our annual Bike Week Open house will be held on September 16.



Rider 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 every month (except December and August). Come by and see what it's about.

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



From the Commandant



Bob Broderick

It's been a busy first quarter for First State Marines. We invested more than 1,000 volunteer hours for community service and fund-raising events that included the Seaside Boat Show, and the Hotel Motel Restaurant Association (HMRA) Expo. We've joined the Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, the HMRA, and the

Bethany Fenwick Chamber of Commerce.

We acquired a new "Cheetah" Electric Bike for this year's raffle that has been custom painted by local Artist Mark Brown. In June we'll be hosting a new project, The Marty Kwesko annual Trap Shooting Competition" for local shot gunners at the Synepuxent Gun Club in Berlin. This event will be a competition with an award for the high scorer. And we are moving our annual golf tournament to November 6 and partnering with the Legion to play both 18-hole courses at the Ocean City Golf Club.

Post Commander Tom Wengert has joined the ranks of First State Detachment as an associate member. Tom was sworn in at our March meeting. FSD's relationship to the Post and the Worcester and Sussex Counties veterans' community underscores our mutual commitment to community service and our fellow veterans that we serve. First State Marines is committed to mutually supporting our brothers and sisters of every program within our Post. We appreciate that our commander recognizes the value of our mutual respect for all branches and look forward to serving together.

On Saturday March 11, FSD Marines and Associates entered and participated in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Ocean City. This is the largest parade held in the State of Maryland with thousands lining coastal highway to cheer us on along with local businesses, first responders and the diverse group of civic minded associations that support our community. Thanks go to Greg Baker for providing his perfectly restored Humvee with trailer and Gene Dankewicz, who pulled the Toys for Tots Trailer. The Legion Post's corned beef and cabbage meal ended the day with the best corned beef dinner this Irishman has had Since Mom's.

The First States Marines has become a proud supporter of the Believe in Tomorrow Children's Foundation, as an adopted charity, along with the Semper Fi & America's Fund. Both will benefit from funds raised from our annual Bike Raffle and other fund-raising activities throughout 2023. We displayed the banners of both organizations at this year's annual St. Patrick Days parade to declare that we are proud supporters and recognize the important work they do. The Believe in Tomorrow Children's Foundation provides exceptional hospital and respite housing services to critically ill children and their families. The Believe in Tomorrow Military Initiative gives priority to members of the United States Armed Services who have a child with a life-threatening illness.

Bob Broderick
MCL Commander



First State Detachment Marines at St. Patrick's Day Parade



First State Detachment Tent and volunteers selling this year's bike raffle tickets

Klondike Competition a Winter Highlight for Troop 621

Troop 621 competed in the 2023 Klondike competition held at Henson Scout Ranch on January 21. From 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., our scouts raced sleds full of tools between adventure stations, where they demonstrated and pitted their leadership and outdoor skills against dozens of other scout troops from around the region. Competing with a great attitude and teamwork earned them the 2023 Klondike Spirit Award (T621 won this award in 2020). Additionally, Troop 621 earned third place in the exotic food cook-off by serving a marinated open-fire roasted pork plate.

Young leaders of T621 camped at Shad Landing on February 18 to conduct Introduction to Leadership Training for Scouts to learn teamwork and computer skills at the Snow Hill Library. Several scouts also learned many new skills by attending Merit Badge College held at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore over two weekends in February. T621 spent March 11 and 12 snowboarding and skiing down Shawnee Mountain in Pennsylvania. T621 has more camping trips planned this spring: travel to the Smithsonian and National Zoo in Washington, DC, in April; to Williamsburg and Bush Gardens in May; whitewater rafting also in May, and to summer resident camp at the Scout Reservation in June.

Nick Busko
Scoutmaster



At the 2023 Klondike Competition were, from left: Brooke McCowan, Bailey Herrmann, Matt McCowan, Nicole Kiser, Heather Kiser, Penny Lavezzo, Naomi Ulrich, Nick Busko, Sarah Carpenter, Cristina Esch, Michelle Sebok, and Emery Busko.



Bella Sbriglia, Maggie Simpkins, and Emery Busko are on the slopes at Shawnee Mountain in March



Troop 621 Court of Honor. From left: Heather Kiser, Jeremy Gill, Michelle Sebok, Jenaya Colon, Penny Levezzo, Sarah Carpenter, Brooke McCowen, Nicole Kiser, Bailey Herrmann, Naomi Ulrich, Emery Busko, Helena Undinski, Bella Sbriglia, Megan Kiser, Cristina Esch, Iverson Gill, Ollie Gill, Maggie Simpkins, and Nick Busko.



Cristina Esch, Megan Kiser, Ollie Gill, and Amelia Grevey having fun in the ski lodge at Shawnee Mountain.

AMERICAN LEGION SCOUTING NEWS

Christmas Craft Fair

Christmas 2022 may be a fading memory as Spring approaches but it was a happy time for Scouts from all three troops the Post Sponsors. They participated in the Ocean City Lions Club Christmas Craft Fair, but the event came too late to be included in the previous issue of our newsletter. So we saved the pictures to provide a little post-Christmas Cheer as we leap into Spring.



L to R Will Coleman, Brice Gill, Bennett Brown, Kasch Johnson, Parker Gill, Jonathan Smith from Troop 261



Sonny Gill of Cub Scout Pack 261 made a Christmas gift at Scout Christmas Craft Fair Dec 17, 2023 at the Lions Club in West Ocean City.



L to R Maggie Simpkins, Bella Sbriglia, Emery Busko, Cristina Esch



L to R Jenaya Colon, Naomi Ulrich, Ollie Gill, Willow Hendrix, Nicole Kiser, Sara Carpenter, Megan Kiser, Bailey Herrmann, Penny Lavizzo



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1st Vice Commander

2nd Vice Commander

Adjutant

Judge Advocate

Service Officer

Finance Officer

Historian

Chaplain

Sgt-at-Arms

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JR Best

Bob Paul

John Bussard

Jack Hyle

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George Barstis

Ed Pinto

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CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



Ben Dawson

Heavenly Father,
We thank you that we live n 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

Spring Greetings Comrades

Another Spring greetings comrades from the Chaplains corner. I love spring because warm weather is just around the corner. I'll take the March winds and April rains, just get me to warm. It has been a very mild winter, I believe, the mildest I've experienced. No matter the weather, I plan and hope to enjoy the time I have remaining to the fullest and in the best way I can. God, Family, and Friends.

I am concerned about what's happening around the world today, with wars and threats of wars, earthquakes, floods, fires, famine, lawlessness, violence. I believe that we are getting a wakeup call. If you read and believe in the Bible, take a look at Matthew 24. It does provide a heads up and I believe it.

The Post has been an active place this past winter, with great participation in all activities. I especially enjoy talking to visitors who are always highly complementary about the quality of our food, our low prices, the friendliness of our staff and membership and the condition of our building. I just tell them, there's more to come. A big thank you to all the management folks and those behind the scenes for their dedication and hard work.

It has not been a good winter for the health of many of our members and their families. Quite a few are on sick call and some have transferred to Post Everlasting. Please lift up in your prayers those members and families who are under the weather and the families of those transferred to Post Everlasting. As always, I need your help identifying our members who are under the weather so I can get out a card, a call, or a visit. Your help is greatly appreciated.

I always look forward to coming to the Post and seeing you all, whom I call my friends.

Enjoy Your Spring and God Bless.

Ben

- Ben Dawson, Chaplain

POST EVERLASTING REPORT

The following members transferred to Post Everlasting

- Robert Biel
Russell C. Bradford
Oscar L. Brittingham
Gary R. Broadwater Sr.
Edward J. Bush Jr.
George R. Conner
James J. Crimmins
James Salzman
Robert E. Schwab
Freddie L. Smeltzer Jr.
Bernard Michels
Jerome Guenthner
John E. Walsh



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

John 15:13



APR

Date	Event
2nd	Junior Aux Meeting 1300hrs
3rd	VVA Chapter 1091 Mtg 1800hrs Social 1700hrs
4th	Beach Singles Social Corn Hole) 1400hrs
5th	First Responders Dinner 1800hrs Awards Follows
7th	GOOD FRIDAY FISH FRY 1200hrs Till Sold Out
9th	EASTER SUNDAY Post 1200 Noon
10th	SAL Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
11th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hr
13th	Ravens Roost Meeting 1930hrs
17th	Executive Committee Meeting 1730hrs
18th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
18th	Auxiliary Mtg 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
20th	Riders Membership Mtg 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
23rd	SESD Meeting 1400hrs-1600hrs
24th	Post Membership Mtg 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
25th	Beach Single Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
26th	1st State Detachment Marine Corp League Meeting 1200hrs



MAY

Date	Event
1st	VVA Chapter 1091 Mtg 1800hrs Social 1700hrs
2nd	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
7th	Junior Aux Meeting 1300hr
8th	SAL Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
9th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
11th	Ravens Roost Meeting 1730hrs
14th	Mothers Day Breakfast 0800hrs to 12 Noon
15th	Executive Committee Meeting 1730hrs
16th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
16th	Auxiliary Mtg 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
18th	Riders Membership Mtg 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
22nd	Post Membership Mtg 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
23rd	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
24th	1st State Detachment Marine Corp League Meeting 1200hr
29th	Memorial Day Service On the Beach at the Dunes Manor 0800hrs
29th	Memorial Day Service WCVM 1100hrs
29th	Memorial Day Service Post 166 1300hrs
30th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs



JUNE

Date	Event
4th	Junior Aux Meeting 1300hrs
5th	VVA Chapter 1091 Mtg 1800hrs Social 1700hrs
6th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
8th	Ravens Roost Meeting 1730hrs
9th	10th Annual Honor a Vet Program & Reception at Casino@ Ocean Downs 1900hrs
10-11th	OC Air Show Post 166 Free Parking Members Only
12th	SAL Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
13th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
14th	Annual Flag Day Program At Post 166 1400hrs
15th	Riders Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
19th	Executive Committee Meeting 1730hrs
20th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
20th	Auxiliary Mtg 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
25th	Auxiliary State of Md District Mtg 1400hrs
26th	Post Membership Mtg 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
27th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
28th	1st State Detachment Marine Corp League Meeting 1200hrs

Synepuxent Post 166, Spring 2023

**PERIODICALS
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Tom Wengert - Commander



Scott Brown - Director



Karen Thompson - President



Joe Paul, 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

20 Email: alpost166@comcast.net

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