

★ ★ ★ AMERICAN LEGION POST 166 ★ ★ ★



## Commander's Message

Guess what? Spring has now sprung again. We have outlasted Old Man Winter. The weather and atmosphere here in Ocean City and Post 166 is finally springing back to life. We have finally finished the renovations that we started several months ago. You need to see for yourself what a pleasant and relaxing atmosphere we now have for all of our guests visiting our Legion. Again, I would like to thank everyone who helped with the renovations and assembling all the new furniture. I did that in the last issue of the newsletter, but I left out two people who definitely helped with the renovations. Thank you, Joe Verdura and Chuck Porter for all your help.

Other than having a great time at our New Year's Eve party, January was a pretty quiet month. VVA Chapter 1091 did have its Anniversary party on New Year's Day with oysters and leftovers from the previous evening. All went well and everyone had a great time.

February started out with a bang. We had the Four Chaplains Service and for the first time we had an Anglican priest, Fr Larry Barnhill, a rabbi, Arthur Rutberg, a Methodist Pastor, Dale Brown, and a Catholic priest, the Rev John Solomon. It was a fantastic service and we really do appreciate all four denominations participating. Next was the Auxiliary's Sip'n and Shop night, which was a huge success. If you don't know what a Sip'n and Shop is, you should definitely come out the next time they have one. This was followed by the SAL's Valentine Day Steak and Shrimp dinner. Another huge sell-out success, but there was one problem: everybody

came when the doors opened at 4 p.m. and that created chaos. SAL has promised that the next time will be much better, with staggered dinner times. Our yearly game night ended with Harry Rey taking first place and Joann Wengert holding up the rear. It was a fun night for all that participated on Wednesday evenings to get through the winter months. The 2022 game night season will begin the first Wednesday in October so look for our sign-up sheet on the bulletin board around 15 August.



John G. Granite

February ended on a sad note with the passing of an icon here at Synepuxent Post, my good friend John Granite. John played an instrumental part in rebuilding and refurbishing this Legion. He was someone that you could go to when the goings were rough and get a sensible answer that would solve everything. As long as I have been Commander, John has played a major role in the business affairs of our Post. If you needed someone to fill a position that no one wanted to tackle you could call John and he would volunteer to do the job. Until John got sick he was the Election Committee Chairman, the Chairman of the House Committee where major decisions are made for the daily operations of the Post, Chairman of the Al Harmon Scholarship Fund and the Donations Committee. For many years John and his wife Poppy would volunteer in the kitchen whenever we had major events at the Post. John had a knack for making cheese, fruit and veggie trays and when they were put on the table they looked professionally made. This was his Post

*Continued on page 4*



# AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

## JOHN G. GRANITE 1942-2022 TRANSFERRED TO POST EVERLASTING

John G. Granite, 79, passed peacefully on February 27, at his home in Berlin, MD. John, one of the Post's most beloved members, was remembered in a special celebration of life at Post 166 on Saturday, March 19.

John was born in Clarence, PA, the son of the late Andrew Granite and Mary Murgas. He is survived by his Poppy, his loving wife, and his children Matthew J. Granite (Kayla) and Lisa L. Granite. He is preceded in his death by his son, Shane S. Granite. He also leaves behind three sisters, Dorothy Onder, Judy Kaukani (Hiram), and Patricia Granite Guthrie.

John served in the Army from 1961 to 1963, assigned to the M60 Tan Mechanical Team in Germany. With the Cold War taking place, the unit had to be on alert 24/7. John was a SP 5 when he was discharged from the Army. He then attended Oswego State University where he earned a master's degree in vocational education. He retired from the New Castle County Vocational Technical School District.

In his free time, John enjoyed playing golf, watching football (his favorite Pittsburgh Steelers), drinking beers with his wife and friends, and so importantly, volunteering his time at the American Legion.

John was a member of the Legion for 55 years and Post 166 was fortunate to have him as a member for many of those years. At Post 166 he was a member of the Executive Committee. He was a



Son Mathew Granite delivered a moving eulogy

member of the House Committee and also served as its chairman. He also was on other committee – Donations, Support the Troops (where he helped pack 400 boxes each year), the Al Harmon Memorial Scholarship (as chairman), American Legion Baseball, and Kitchen. He was the organizer and charter director of the Post's Riders Chapter.

His volunteering at the Post was endless and in the years 2012 and 2020 he was chosen as Legionnaire of the Year. As a member of the Legislative Committee he made many trips to Annapolis to testify before the House of Delegates and State Senate. He was involved in getting passage of the Worcester County Slot Machine Bill and the POW/MIA Flag Bill to fly on state buildings.

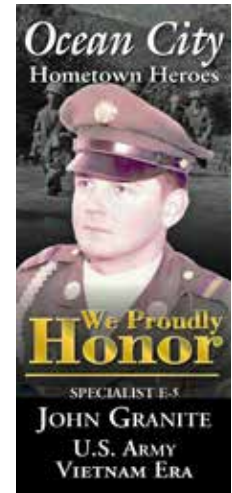
The celebration of John's Life at the Post was led by former Post 166 Commander Sarge Garlitz. Speakers were current Commander Tom Wengert, John's son, Mathew, the Post's Bo Spicer and George Barstis, and former Auxiliary President Rosie Garlitz. An elegant prayer about John's life was presented by Post Chaplain Ben Dawson. Color Guards from Post 166, Berlin Post 123, and Showell Post 231, rendered honors with a slow salute. Post 166 Sgt-at-Arms Bob Gilmore placed the drape around John's Post Everlasting Charter and Auxiliary members Marie Gilmore and Tina Preziotti performed the ceremonial lighting of the candle and placing of the poppy.



Sgt-at-arms Bob Gilmore salutes after draping John's Post Everlasting Charter



When he wasn't drinking beer, John volunteered to serve it. Here he is with Poppy, and Kirsten and Scott Brown at the Auxiliary beer booth at OC's 2021 Sunfest





## AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

### POST STEWARD UPDATE



Sam Wiley  
Post 166 Steward

WOW!!! All I can say is... WOW!!! We have hit the ground running in 2022. I almost feel as though we really hadn't slowed down since last summer. We should consider this a blessing. Not every legion post is having our success. As we move into spring and summer, I expect us to be busy on a regular basis. With

record high gas prices and inflation on the rise it won't take long for folks to realize that the American Legion is the most reasonable place to eat, drink and have fun in Ocean City.

Like Bike Week in 2021, we had a record breaking turnout for St. Paddy's Parade weekend. The crowds started Thursday afternoon and peaked Saturday afternoon with standing room only at the Post, and then carried over to Sunday evening. Everything ran smoothly, thanks to our hardworking paid staff and our small army of amazing volunteers. Thank you all for your hard work, cooperation, and your great teamwork. I am lucky and proud to have worked with you all. As always, Little Joes corned beef and cabbage was a huge hit. Thank you, Joe, for all you do every St Paddy's weekend and for mustering up a great volunteer kitchen crew this year.

Moving forward into the summer season please be patient if we are out of something or substituting with something different as we are still experiencing some supply chain issues. We are also trying to maintain our current pricing but be aware fuel surcharges are being added to almost everything and may affect some pricing.

#### **HELP WANTED!!!**

Please help us by referring good candidates to us if you know anyone who can help us in the kitchen as a prep cook, short order cook, or with catering. We are looking for at least two paid cooks and at least two food runners. If you know your way around a kitchen and would like to help us, we can always use volunteers in the kitchen or to run food. I feel strongly that finding good staffing is going to be a real challenge again this summer in Ocean City. The success of our summer will depend on dependable paid staff and dedicated volunteers.

A few housekeeping notes. If you are an officer in any group of Post 166, can you help us by helping the post rid itself of unneeded clutter. Please inspect the storage room and shelving for anything that belongs to your specific group. If it is an item that is no longer being used, is broken, is outdated or serves no further purpose please store it elsewhere or discard it. We have all kinds of old signs and flags etc. Please look on top of and behind of all shelf's and cabinets.

At post 166 we like to think of our members as family and for our membership this is your home. With that being said, we are also a business, and we must think of all our members, guests, and staff while at post 166. Please do not help yourself to the air conditioning and heat remote control. The bartender on duty has instructions where to keep the temperature in the building for the comfort of all the guests. Please do not open windows. Again, if you are not comfortable, please see the bartender or Post Steward to see if they can assist you.

Officers, and volunteers, we ask that you limit your use of the kitchen entrance during kitchen hours. Please always keep the entrance behind the bar open. Please do not stand or sit there. The only person allowed behind the bar is the bartender or anyone they invite behind the bar to assist them. If you are not actively volunteering, please refrain from walking through the kitchen or socializing in the kitchen. One last request. Smokers please be mindful of your cigarette butts. Please use the cigarette butt receptacles located outside the post. Thank you for your cooperation.

Just a reminder as the weather starts to warm. If you park at the post to go to the beach or boardwalk, please put your membership card on your driver's side dashboard so we know whose cars are in our lot. Remember that on air show weekend the lot will be monitored and reserved for Post 166 members only.

Enjoy your spring everyone. Sunny warmer days are coming! Please reach out to me if there is anything I can do for you.

Best regards,  
*Sam Wiley*

- Post 166 Steward



## AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

### We Have New Furniture

If you haven't been into the Post in recent days, you haven't seen the new furniture in the front bar and the game room. Kudos to the House Committee for spearheading this effort and to MCL Bob Broderick who played a pivotal role in securing the furniture at a good price for the Post. And for his efforts on St. Patrick's Day, helped by Harry Rey, assembling the new stools while the rest of us ate corned beef and drank beer. And thank you, Bob, for the photographs.



### Commander's Message Continued...

and he wanted it to shine and SHINE it did. Last but not least John was an avid Black and Gold fan. If no one knows what Black and Gold means, it is the Pittsburgh Steelers. We would even let him in the Legion when our hometown team, the Ravens, were not playing. He is now above us looking down with most likely a Michelob Ultra in his hand with many of his friends. Rest in peace my friend.

March is always an exciting month with the onslaught of visitors for Saint Paddy's day and our famous corn beef and cabbage made by our kitchen wizard Joe Verdura. This year, without the parade because of bad weather, our Legion rocked and rolled all day and night because our own DJ Mikey was playing your favorite tunes, all day and night. It was great seeing old friends

and making new friends. We had five bartenders working all the time plus many people volunteering in the kitchen serving you your food. What a great job they did. Besides serving our corn beef and cabbage, we also had in the rear hall hamburgers and hotdogs for those of us who did not particularly care for the corn beef and cabbage, sold by Bob Paul, Kirsten Brown, and Alicia Muir. You made Saint Paddy's day the best day ever here at Post 166. The only thing left in March was a Welcome Home Vietnam Day on the 29th, and our First Responders evening on the 30th.

*May God Bless You and May God Bless America.*

*Tom Wengert,*  
Commander, Post #166



# AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

## From the Adjutant



John Bussard  
Adjutant

Registrations for American Legion membership for 2023 will be upon us shortly. We will be receiving membership paperwork during the second quarter. Again, as in past years, there will be six formal notices of dues from the American Legion Department sent to members. Each of these notices is only sent to

members whose dues have not been recorded in the National database by the cutoff date. It takes about two weeks for member registrations to process through the system, so, in order to avoid overlapping dues payment and additional dues notices for unpaid dues, it will be helpful if we receive your dues payment as soon as possible after the notice is received by you.

Again, I would encourage each of you who have an email address to log into MyLegion.org and process your dues online. The cutoff dates

for these six notices will be published in the next newsletter. Your dues should be received at least two weeks before the cutoff dates, which will be posted in the next newsletter.

Also, for those of you with email addresses, it is helpful if you keep your contact information up to date online. Many of our members have two residence addresses, one local and one out of the area. In order to reduce the amount of returned postage fees from the Post Office it would be helpful if each of you would remember to maintain the current mailing address with a change of address notice at your post office when the address changes. We have a list of more than 1,800 addresses, including both email and street addresses to keep up with and we are not likely aware of your moves or address changes throughout the year.

*John Bussard,*  
Adjutant



Ed Pinto

## From the Editor: A Big Shout Out For Your Help

February was a particularly busy month for and at the Post and for our sponsored scout troops. This issue of the newsletter tried to capture what went on the last three months and how you avoided the winter

doldrums and bad weather. So many functions, new furniture to boot. February was also a time

when I was not available to be with you and to take photographs. But that didn't matter. So many of you stepped up to help.

Thank you Tom Wengert (yes, he also takes pictures), and Karen Thomson, and Jesse Parsons, and Bob Broderick, and Robert Smith, and Becca Johnson, Joerg Leinemann and...boy I hope I didn't forget someone. If I did, beer (or whatever you imbibe) is on me.

*Ed Pinto,*  
Editor

## FIRST RESPONDER'S AWARDS PROGRAM

This annual awards program was held March 30, too late for this issue of the Synepuxent Observer to show you photographs of the winners. The next issue will have a story and photographs of these special people who mean so much to our community.

Berlin Police and Berlin Fire Company, Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department, Girdletree Volunteer Fire Company, Maryland State

Police, Newark Fire Department, Ocean City Police and the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company, Ocean Pines Police and the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department, Pokomoke City Police, Pokomoke City Fire Company, Showell Volunteer Fire Company, Snow Hill Police and the Snow Hill Volunteer Fire Company, Stockton Fire Department, The Worcester County Sheriff's Department, U.S. Coast Guard.



# AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

## Post Honors the Four Chaplains With Special Commemorative Service

Every year Post 166 honors the Four Chaplains: Rabbi Alexander B. Goode (Jewish), Reverend George L. Fox (Methodist), Reverend Clark V. Poling (Dutch Re-formed) and Father John P. Washington (Roman Catholic).

The "Immortal Chaplains," as they came to be known, departed New York for Greenland on January 23, 1943, aboard the troopship USAT Dorchester. Off of Newfoundland, a German Submarine (U-223) torpedoed the Dorchester, disabling the electrical system and leaving the ship in darkness. The Four Chaplains sought to calm the men as they organized an orderly evacuation of the ship and helped the wounded to safety.

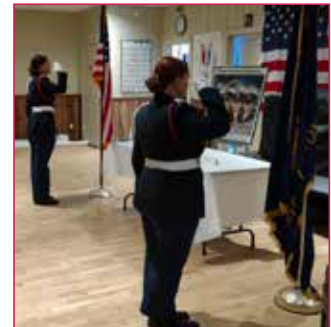
As the life jackets were passed out to the men, the supply ran out before each man had one. The Four Chaplains removed their own life jackets and gave them to others. They then linked their arms as they were saying prayers and singing hymns and they went down with ship in the North Atlantic. February 3, 2022, marked the 79th anniversary of the Dorchester sinking. The heroic deeds of the Chaplains and their combined act of supreme devotion and sacrifice for American liberty and human freedom are an inspiring and ever shining example of real brotherhood for all time to the people of the world.



Table with the ceremonial life vests honoring the sacrifice of the four chaplains



Scouts from Troop 261 Salute the table honoring the Four Chaplains



Wicomico High JROTC students Tytianah Mears (L) and Jaylynn Boyington presented the colors and smartly salute the flags



Coasties from the OC Coast Guard Station joined us for the Ceremony



Rabbi Arthur Rutberg of Temple Bat Yam delivers his remarks



Juniors Delaney McDaniel, Saylor Amos, Sophia Hume, and Mia Hume placing poppies and roses at each of the vests



Our own Scott Brown, Wicomico High JROTC advisor, with Cadet Jaylynn Boyington, and Cadet Tytianah Mears



With their pictures prominent in the background, Kirsten Brown delivers remarks for the Auxiliary





# AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



## St Paddy's Party and Day At the Post

With Spring just days away, the Post held its annual St. Patrick's Day Party on Saturday, March 12, and followed that with the actual St. Patrick's Day at the Post on March 17. What a great two days they were.

It was a sea of green at the Saturday event, attended by more than 400 people. The main hall, the game room, the bar were full of celebrating would-be and real Irishmen and women, from 12 noon to 1 a.m. in the morning. It took a full kitchen staff and five bartenders working the front and back bar to provide the usual excellent Post service.

What did all the party goers have? Let's start

with 600 pounds of corned beef, with the cabbage and potatoes. And beer, beer, beer.

Five days later was the actual St. Patrick's Day and more than 150 legionnaires and their guests consumed another 100 pounds of corned beef and many, many Reubens. That party went on from noon to about 8 p.m.

For both parties, DJ Mikey provided traditional Irish and other music, and on St. Patrick's Day the post was entertained by the Ocean City Pipes and Drums.

No question about it. The only place better than Post 166 to celebrate St. Patrick's Day is to be in Ireland itself.



The Ocean City Pipes and Drums visited the Post on St. Patrick's Day



ALA members Alicia Muir & Kirsten Brown sold some of those shirts during the festivities



The Saturday before St. Patrick's day brought a sea of green in the main party room



Sami Oruc manned the MCL Bike Raffle table at the party.



There was plenty of beer to be had but hardly room to bend an elbow, and a lot of blarney going around



# AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

## Veterans Networking In Ocean City



Gary Skrip checking out the drink station and talking with Sam Wiley and Robin Raszewski

It began with an idea from Post Steward Sam Wiley, a program to invite people into the Post to provide information about what we do and why we do it. "People are passing by every day on Coastal Highway and don't know we are here or why we are here," Sam said.

The idea morphed into something bigger, as a coalition of Ocean City Veterans groups came together to form the Veterans Community of Greater Ocean City, with a mission statement that said: We served our country, now we are serving our community.

On the evening of February 4, the veterans groups were at the Post to welcome visitors invited from OC businesses to thank them for their



Mary Anne Kowzan talking with Gene Dankewicz and Bill Russell about MCL programs and events



At the Marine Corps League Table with, L-R, Bill Russell, Gene Dankewicz, Milt Warren, Bob Broderick



Nancy Bradford and Susan Teach looking on their way to another booth



George Barstis and Bob Gilmore were there to help out



Marie Gilmore and Jeanette Deskiewicz at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Station



Some of the visitors walking through the main hall



# AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

## Veterans Networking In Ocean City

support to and to talk about how the Post, the other veterans groups, and the businesses can share common interest and goals.

Over light fare and drinks, and with help and support of the Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce and the Ocean City Downtown Development Corporation the Post, Auxiliary 166, Sons of the American Legion, Legion Riders, Vietnam Veterans of America, First Detachment Marine Corps League, and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial greeted guests from greater Ocean City business.

It was the first of hopefully an annual event to keep veterans community service front and center with the local community at large.



Legion Riders had a table and Commander Wengert stopped by to chat with George Pickrell



Steward Sam talking with visitors to the event



Adjutant John Bussard mans the Legion table



Food service by Alicia Muir and Kirsten Brown of ALA 166



Wicomco High Junior ROTC presented the colors at the event



VVA's Robert Smith explaining what the VVA is and does for the community



## AUXILIARY NEWS

### Spring Forward Everyone



Karen Thompson

Spring Forward everyone can you believe it? Time has just flown by this winter and here we are quickly approaching Easter and Ocean City's season opener Springfest! The St. Patrick's Day celebration gave us a great warm-up to what I refer to as the "Volunteer Season" here at post 166.

The Winter 2021 edition of the Synepuxant Observer requested that any member interested in being informed of upcoming events in need of volunteers submit to me their contact information. This would allow me to construct a database of members that are only interested in volunteering. This does not mean that you will be guilted or be under any obligations to volunteer. By submitting your contact information, it allows the event coordinator (chair is open for any legion family member to fill) to identify of members to reach out to instead of sending out a vague, generalized request for help to hundreds of members via Facebook and Constant Contact, which only develops into complete "Volunteer Chaos." We experienced that with the St. Patrick's Day party.

Two different requests were posted via social media by two different people asking for help over the holiday weekend. As you can imagine a lot of confusion and frustration was experienced by everyone involved. No one who volunteers their time should ever be told by a Post 166 employee to go home because they weren't needed, or to be spoken to disrespectfully. This is unacceptable and the only thing a volunteer should feel when they arrive at the post is a warm welcome and appreciation from everyone, especially Post 166 employees. Any Volunteer who takes the time to help, whether it be for five minutes, five hours, or five days, is and should always be treated with respect as we cannot do this without you.

Moving on, or should I say springing forward, the auxiliary monthly meeting attendance continues to increase with our "meeting challenge campaign." Unit 166 officers challenge every member out there to attend a meeting and see what your membership is all about. We want your membership to mean something to you, other than inexpensive drinks and good food: those are just a bo-

nus! I promise if you attend one meeting, you will have a new or restored sense of pride in being an auxiliary member.

Our monthly meetings are held every third Tuesday at 7 p.m., with social hour beginning at 6 p.m. Each month we offer a complimentary dinner and \$1 bar drinks for members attending the meeting. Sitting down with our fellow auxiliary members to enjoy a hot meal is always a nice relaxing way to start the evening. We follow up dinner with an informative and productive meeting, sharing and brainstorming ways we can continue to support the aims and values of the American Legion Auxiliary.

The March meeting was wrapped up with member Jesse Parsons winning the meeting challenge door prize. This month's prize included a heated massaging neck wrap, plush bath towel set, Calgon body wash set along with a \$25 gift card to Bath and Body works. All the items a lady needs for "A Relax and Pamper Day" Congratulations, Jesse!

Don't miss our next meeting on Tuesday, April 19 with a special start time of 11 a.m. This meeting will be followed by our annual Americanism Essay Awards Luncheon. Please plan to attend and celebrating our local Americanism Essay Winners. Remember that our Post 166 Spring 2022 Quarterly Event Calendar is included in every newsletter. This calendar list dates and times for all scheduled events, meetings, and holiday celebrations. Never miss a good time again. Just post the calendar on your fridge or download a photo on your cell phone.

In order for our post to host these events and celebrations in an organized and professional manner, we would like each and every member from all Legion families to add their name to our Event Volunteer Database. Again, this is just a database of possible volunteers; it is not mandatory, and you may always decline to volunteer if contacted. This is all being done in hopes to provide a fun and organized volunteer experience, everyone! That's why I am asking you to send the following information questionnaire with as much detail as possible to Karen Thompson via email or pick up a blank form to complete at the post.

*Karen Thompson*  
President

See form on next page

**AUXILIARY NEWS**

Email: [alabeach166@gmail.com](mailto:alabeach166@gmail.com)

RE: Future Volunteer Contact Info (please put this in the reference section of the email)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Your name)

Phone Number; \_\_\_\_\_

(Contact phone number include home and cell)

Preferred method of contact: \_\_\_\_\_

(How would you like us to contact you when volunteers are needed email, text, or phone call)

I am Available: (circle the days of the week you ARE available to volunteer)

Any day and Anytime

Weekdays only

Weekends only

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Mornings

Afternoon

Evenings

\*\*\*SPECIFIC TIMES WILL VARY WITH EACH EVENT, BUT REMEMBER ANY  
LENGTH OF TIME VOLUNTEERED Is APPRECIATED\*\*\*

\_\_\_ I can help but only from home, making phone calls, paperwork, computer work, etc.

If you require accommodations in order to participate, how can we make volunteering accessible for you: \_\_\_\_\_





## AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

Happy Spring Everyone!!! I am happy to share we have met our department goal for membership for 2022. We have a total of 59 new members, along with 10 transfers. I am thankful for all our renewals and to our many members who brought new members to us. Thank you. We are enjoying seeing so many members at our regular meetings held on the third Tuesday of each month, with a social hour at 6 p.m. serving light fare and our meeting starting at 7 p.m. All are welcome so please plan to join us.

I would also like to share the American Legion Auxiliary Website address [www.legion-aux.org](http://www.legion-aux.org). This website is full of information for our members. The ALA Academy Training Courses are

informative and easy to follow. If you have any questions or need help, please feel free to reach out to me.

We are always looking for volunteers so please make sure we have your correct email. If you are not on the Constant Contact list, please let me or Karen Thompson know so we may add you. Also, as a friendly reminder please check your spam/junk folder, too.

I would like to thank everyone for being so welcoming and I am enjoying getting to know y'all!!

*Kirsten Brown*

First Vice President

## AUXILIARY JUNIORS



Jessie Parsons

Happy Spring from the Juniors! Our ALA Juniors have remained active over the past few months. After enjoying the Christmas Holiday, they had a very productive January meeting. As is our tradition, we made Survival Treat Bags for Soldiers. These bags are

filled with various candy, with each piece representing what it means to be a soldier. Our own Post 166 veterans were able to enjoy these gifts of gratitude from our Juniors. We also packed another Birthday/Taste of Home box for one of our local active military members. Cameron Muir (son of ALA member Alicia Muir) received a box in Nevada where he is stationed with the Air Force. We received a thank you picture from him enjoying the box that contained our Post 166 Newsletter, local papers, treats, and our Survival Treat Bags.

February saw our Juniors participating in the Four Chaplains Ceremony, always a very moving ceremony that honors those brave men. We also made Valentine's Day Cards for the Veterans in local Nursing Homes. March brought our Juniors together to make Easter cheer bottles for distribution to Veterans in local Nursing Homes.

We are worked on filling a Cheer box for a local young Army wife living at Fort Knox, whose husband just deployed to Poland. Our thoughts and prayers are with her. We are hoping her Taste of Home box will offer comfort and cheer. Our Juniors made a card for her, and we have gathered local newspapers, our latest Post Newsletter, and Dolles taffy and popcorn.

Our Department of Maryland ALA Juniors Chair, Starr Purnell, invited our juniors' unit to participate in her Talk Tuesday program on March 8. This was a zoom meeting where the Juniors and their families from across Maryland

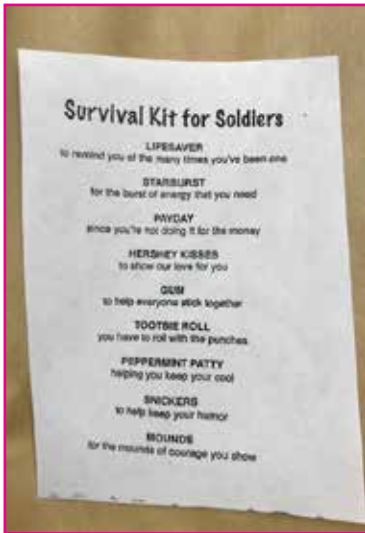
*Continued on page 13*



Delaney McDaniel with a Survival Treat Kit for Soldiers the Juniors put together for our soldiers.



# AUXILIARY JUNIORS



Here's a list of what the Survival Treat Bags for Soldiers contained

Continued from page 12 could attend to get updates and see each other. Lots of great information was shared!

Our Juniors really looked forward to attending the National Juniors Meeting scheduled for March 26 in Baltimore. Four of our Junior members registered and several of our ALA members were planning to attend the ALA Nation-

al Meeting being held in Baltimore at the same time. What a great time to meet others from the Eastern Division and to share ideas.

Finally, our Juniors continue to collect pajamas for the Casey Cares Program as well as Metals for Miracles/Dimes to support this program that helps chronically ill children and their families. Our Juniors have donated items for the Juniors Service Project for Homeless Care Kits. Our Unit 166 Juniors continue to have their projects highlighted on the National Juniors Facebook page. We can't wait to share all that we learn at the National Meeting in March!

Faithfully in Service,  
*Jessie Parsons,*  
Junior Advisor



Cameron Muir, US Air Force, (son of ALA member, Alicia Muir) receiving the Taste of Home/Birthday Box that was sent to him by the Juniors



Delaney McDaniel; Kendahl Parsons; Saylor Amos; Sophia Hume; Mia Hume making Valentines Day Cards for Veterans.



Sophia and Mia Hume, Kendahl Parsons and Addison McDaniel of the Juniors...making Easter cheer bottles for Veterans.

Join Us at  
The Legion for **GOOD FRYDAY**

# FISH FRY

*Brought to you by the American Legion Auxiliary*

**APRIL 15TH, 2022 • 12PM 'TIL ITS ALL GONE!**

**\$15.00**  
per  
person



- ✓ 4 Pieces Fried Shrimp
- ✓ 4 Pieces Fried Oysters
- ✓ 1 Piece Fried Flounder
- ✓ Hushpuppies
- ✓ Fries
- ✓ Coleslaw
- ✓ Dessert Included





# SAL NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Joe Verdura

Finally, spring is here and aren't we all glad it is. No more snow and soon the warm weather will be upon us. The Sons were busy in February and March, with the Valentine's day dinner and the Bull and Oyster Roast in March. For Valentine's Day, we sold out at 215 tickets. This issue of the

newsletter went to press before we could provide you with results of ticket sales for the Bull and Oyster roast.

We also have a raffle on-going, for a ride on the Topsy Tiki party bar cruise for 12 people. An hour and a half ride up the bay and back, with all drinks included. Tickets are on sale at the bar for \$5 each or five for \$20.

Our membership is healthy, but I'm still not

seeing any new faces at our meetings that we hold on the second Monday of every month. Happy hour is 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. If you attend the meeting the Sons will buy you your first two drinks. So come on down to the meetings and see what we do!

With all the things we do around the Post, we are always looking for volunteers and definitely can always use more input. Here's looking forward to seeing you this spring and summer so we can have a good year.

## Flags for Heroes to Fly Again



## Memorial Day Program Set for May 30

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial will be holding its annual Memorial Day program Monday, May 30 at 11 a.m.

Our Master of Ceremonies will be Bob Broderick, First State Detachment, Marine Corps League. Our guest speaker is Commander Joseph Parker, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Join us for a solemn, uplifting ceremony, filled with patriotic music, honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice defending our freedoms.

Marie Gilmore,  
President,

Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation

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

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial once again joins the Ocean City/Berlin Rotary Club in honoring our heroes. Flags for Heroes is a display of hundreds of flags, positioned along Route 589 (Racetrack Road) in Memorial Park in Ocean Pines. The flags will fly from Armed Forces Day, May 21 through July 4.

Each flag honors a hero, defined as someone who has made a difference in your life. The hero may be a member of the armed services, a teacher, doctor, loved one, first responder or friend. Anyone you wish to honor. Each flag will have a medallion attached with the hero's name and yours as the sponsor. The medallions are yours to take and keep. Each flag sponsorship is \$50. The sponsorship form is available on our website, [www.OPVets.org](http://www.OPVets.org). You may also contact Marie Gilmore at [OPMarie@aol.com](mailto:OPMarie@aol.com) or 410 726 2881.

**Email: [alpost166@comcast.net](mailto:alpost166@comcast.net) 15**



# LEGION RIDERS NEWS & ACTIVITIES

## Riders Spring 2022 Newsletter

Here's hoping everyone had a good holiday season and is looking forward to warmer weather. Your Legion Riders are working hard with upcoming events to include a ride or two and lots of good food. We'll be looking for volunteers and riders soon. Check your email and the Riders Facebook page. To find the Riders' page open Facebook and search for Post 166 Riders and our page comes up.

It is with great sorrow that we note the passing of John Granite. He was a charter member of the Riders, a proud member of the American Legion, and overall, just a great person. We wish Poppy our sincere condolences and if there is anything she ever needs, the Riders will be there.

On December 17, the ALR helped escort the "Wreaths Across America" truck. The escort ride and the earlier donation to help put wreaths on veteran's graves was an honor for everybody involved. Looking forward to the next event!

The Riders helped support the Legion's St.

Paddy's Celebration on March 12. It was a great time. Thank you, Little Joe, for the great Corned Beef!

### 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. A membership letter will be mailed out soon. If you have any suggestions on where we could mail the letters, such as other American Legion Posts, let me know!

### Look for the following events in 2022!

- **The annual Crab Feast will be July 14.**
- **Bike Week 2020 Open House will be September 17.**
- **Charter Fishing Trip Raffle will be held during the Bike Week Open House on September 17. Tickets are on sale now!**



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). Come by and see what it's about.

**Scott Brown**



Scott Brown and George Pickrell in the kitchen with Little Joe Verdura helping during the St. Paddy's Day Party.



Riders Pat Sharkey, George Pickrell, and Ken Ingram helped escort the Wreaths



# 1ST STATE DETACHMENT MARINES

## First State Marines at Seaside Boat Show



Bob Broderick

First State Marines set up shop and showed our flag at the Seaside Boat Show in February. The show was packed with boating enthusiasts and our Marines took advantage of their presence to sell raffle tickets for the "Cheetah Electric Bike."

Sales exceeded expectations. You can see the bike on display in the lounge at the post. The winner will be announced and awarded the bike on October 16 at the Third Annual Semper Fi Bike Ride at the Ocean City Inlet parking lot. The Town of Ocean City will again be the title sponsor for the Semper Fi Bike Ride. Brad Hoffman has again committed his company, Live Wire Media, to provide production services at no charge, guaranteeing a successful event. Registration for this year's event will be live on the Detachment web site at [www.firststatemarines.org](http://www.firststatemarines.org) shortly. Individuals, families with children, and teams are invited to sign up and join The Town of Ocean City and First State Marines for a fun day this Fall to raise funds for this worthy charity.

We had a special guest at our booth. Governor Hogan surprised us when he visited the booth to express his appreciation for the Marines contributions and ongoing commitment to

community service.

Planning has started for the 16th annual Frank Conlin Memorial Golf Tournament on Thursday June 9 at the Ocean City Golf and Yacht Club. Last year's Tournament raised \$5,500 for the Semper Fi & America's Fund. The Semper Fi & America's Fund provides relief to combat wounded and critical ill veterans and their families and will again be the recipient for funds raised at this year's tournament. Trophies will be awarded to the winning foursome in three flights, Semper Fi, Eagle Globe & Anchor, and Iwo Jima. Hole 17 is a par three hole where a car will be awarded to the first golfer to make a hole in one. Brochures with instructions to sign up a team are available at the post for anyone that would like to join us for this year's event.

*Bob Broderick*

MCL Member



39th Annual



OC SEASIDE BOAT SHOW

February 18,19,20 2022



Manning our booth were, (L-R) Jack White, John Sushinsky, Jim Wright



With Gov. Hogan are (L-R) Jack White, John Sushinsky, Jim Wright and Chuck Schaub



# AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

## Take Us Out To The Ballgame and Buffet

That's exactly what Junior members of the ALA Department of Maryland are intending. Mark your calendar, better yet buy your tickets early for the special event, July 10 as our very own Delmarva Shorebirds take on the Salem Red Sox. The special event is being held to honor our servicemen and women and veterans. Tickets are \$30 a person and come with an All-You-Can-Eat buffet. The gate opens at 4 p.m. for the 5:05 game. All participants will be seated in a special section behind first base. To buy tickets send a check for \$30 per person made out to the ALA Dept. of Maryland. Mail to American Legion, Dept. of Maryland, 1588 Sulphur Spring Road, Suite 105, Baltimore MD 21227. Questions? Call 443-235-3112 or email [sapcmjustice@comcast.net](mailto:sapcmjustice@comcast.net).



**HERE'S HOW TO GET YOUR COPY OF THE SYNEPUXENT OBSERVER FAST!**



By default, the Synepuxent Observer is now being delivered electronically to your computer, tablet, or phone. Every Post member for whom we have an email address is receiving the newsletter electronically instead of having to wait for a printed copy, which often is delayed. Not only do you get the newsletter quicker, the Post saves money on printing and postage. If you are still receiving the newsletter in the mail it means we don't have your email address on file. Send it to the editor at [airpinto166@gmail.com](mailto:airpinto166@gmail.com) and we'll get you on the fast-track delivery list.

**THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT!**



## Queen of Hearts

### Queen of Hearts Recently Hit Twice

Not exactly the \$100,000 jackpot hit months ago, but \$18,500 and \$10,000 also is not exactly something to sneeze at. Those were the winnings two lucky players from Ocean Pines and Delaware took home in recent Queen of Hearts drawings. The winning cards were #25 and #6.

As our stalwart Queen of Hearts ticket sellers, Buddy Jones and Chuck Porter, like to say, "you gotta play to win because the Post keeps giving money away!"



# AMERICAN LEGION SCOUTING NEWS

## No Winter Worries for Troop 261, and Adventure Ahead Lies Ahead

Scout Troop 261, sponsored by Post 166, didn't let winter doldrums set in. The Scouts remained active. Alex Piela worked on his Eagle Scout Project, the troop held a court of honor and set up a booth at the Ocean City Boat Show and were visited by Governor Hogan, and then they went skiing also.

They also planned, with Troop 621, a trip to scouting's highest adventure reservation for August. Philmont Scout Reservation in Cimarron, New Mexico will host both troops and their newest Eagle Scouts, Emery Busko, Gabe Bradley, and Kurt Leinemann. Life Scout Johnny Malinowski and Second Class Scouts Colton Grevey and Benjamin Busko also will be among a group of approximately 15 leaders and Scout's making the trip.

Scoutmaster Nick Busko and Maggie Simpkins will be among the adult leaders chaperoning

the group as it travels by horse approximately 60 miles and hikes by foot 20 plus miles during a week on Philmont Scout reservation's rugged terrain in the Sangre de Christo Mountains. Orientation for the trip began in the fall. To prepare for the trip, the Scouts, have hiked with full packs through Henson Scout Reservation, learned roping skills, practices mandatory horsemanship and saddle skills, and attended sessions to give them an understanding of dangers of camping in the wild, including protection from the New Mexican local bear population

As Scouts we would like to thank American Legion Post 166 for its support of Scouting in Ocean City and Berlin by sponsoring Pack and Troop 261 for more than 70 years, and now troop 621, our newest sponsored troop of girls.



Alex Piela, standing second from left, with scouts from Troop 261, 621, and 2172, who helped him with his Eagle Scout project, installation of a Wayside Shrine on the southeast corner of the parking lot at Holy Savior Church at the intersection of Philadelphia Avenue and 17th Street in OC



Chase Ponton is on the slopes with his mom, Tammy McGabe, Troop 261 Treasurer



Troop 261 held a Court of Honor in December.



Colt Grevey mans the Troop 261 table at the Ocean City Boat Show in February



Troop 261 took advantage of the snow for a ski trip



Visiting the Boat Show, Gov. Hogan stopped by the Troop 261 table and posed with Johnny Malinowski and Alex Piela



# AMERICAN LEGION SCOUTING NEWS

## Blue and Gold and Arrow of Light Crossover Event

Cub Pack 261 held a Blue and Gold and Arrow of Light Crossover event March 6. Here are a few photos from that ceremony. In a Crossover Ceremony, Scouts from the Arrow of Light den move from the Cub Scouts to the Scout Troop. The Blue and Gold dens receive their earned awards the at the same ceremony



Scouts crossing over to Troop 261 were (L-R) Owen Gibson, Leo Mastromanolis, Brodie Sherry, Nash Kalzlowski, Mason Bradshaw, Ben Sbriglia, William Coleman



Pack 261 AOL's and their parents and Troop 261 Scout Master James Smith and three Scouts. Left to right : Jonathan Smith, Chase Ponton, Kasch Johnson



Cub Master Joe Coleman during the AOL ceremony



Kristi Grande, Webelos Den Leader with her den. Summer Grande, Maddie Kuzma and Brantley Curtis



Jonathan Smith, Chase Ponton from troop 261 and Brody Sherry pack 261

# Synepuxent Post 166, Spring 2022

## Pinewood Derby Held Again at the Post

Once a year the main hall at the Post is turned into a car racetrack for the annual Pinewood Derby held by Pack 261. For the Pinewood Derby the cub scouts, with the help of their

parents, fashion a race car out of a block of wood, and then race them on a track set up at the Post. Here's a little of what this year's event looked like.



Here's what it looked like, trackside

Adult and Sibling Winners Maggie Simpkins (AOL den leader), Bella Sbriglia, Girls Troop 621 (Maggie's daughter), Lola Mastromanolis (sibling), Kristi Grande (Webelos den leader) and Chris Grande (Tiger and Wolf den leader and Assistant Cub Master)



Scott LaCoss

## SERVICE OFFICER

### If You Need a Helping Hand, Here's How to Get It

If you know a veteran who needs assistance in submitting VA claims, or in securing additional VA support services, please refer them to me. I can be reached via phone and email (below). Rather

than offer a standard time window to service the needs of our Veterans, I have found it more effective to work directly with each individual to carve out time that works mutually. Remember, this time of year can be particularly difficult for veterans suffering from unseen ailments, particularly depression and PTSD, so please watch out for each other.

than offer a standard time window to service the needs of our Veterans, I have found it more effective to work directly with each individual to

*Scott LaCoss*

Post 166 Service Officer

ucrider@gmail.com

410-991-8742



### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nelson Kelly	(302) 236-4171	lnelsonkelly11@comcast.net
Phil Ludlam	(410) 390-2190	ludlamsrl@aol.com
Harry Rey	(410) 294-4552	tazzzzz43@comcast.net
Charles Spaziani	(610) 329-5816	cspaz@comcast.net
Bo Spicer	(410) 422-9447	gspicer8805@comcast.net



OFFICE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
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1st Vice Commander	Pat Sharkey	(202) 497-1559	pgksharkey@yahoo.com
2nd Vice Commander	Bob Paul	(443) 523-4113	bpaul621951@gmail.com
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Finance Officer	George Barstis	(301) 529-2263	gbarstis@lkc.com
Historian	Ed Pinto	(703) 901-5544	airpinto293@gmail.com
Chaplain	Ben Dawson	(410) 603-2205	bendawson@beachin.net
Sgt-at-Arms	Bob Gilmore	(410) 726-5690	opbobgil@aol.com

# 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 from the Chaplains corner of Post 166. Time to get out of the winter clothes and back into shorts and tees. Like most of you, I'm sure, winter puts me in a deep funk. Since I can't sleep through it, I do what I can to get through it physically and emotionally unchallenged. Here I am, almost back to normal. These past three months have been a bit challenging for many of our folks at the post with many comrades and/or family members going to Post Everlasting and more on sick call. It's part of the never ending life cycle as sad as it may be. Just coming to the post and sharing some quality time with likeminded people is a "lift me up" any time of the year. One thing for sure, there is rarely a time that the post doesn't have activities to bring us together. We are truly fortunate to have earned the right to membership in such a great organization.

We all have so much to be thankful for but too often take what we have for granted. I pray for

the people of Ukraine who want nothing more than to live in peace but are being slaughtered by a madman's regime. We all need to lift up that country and its people in our prayers. By the time this article reaches you, many more will have perished. They need help and if it comes, hopefully it won't be too late.

I continue to pray for the families of our members who have been transferred to Post Everlasting and members and families on sick call. I hope you all join me.

Life keeps getting shorter for all of us, so let's do the best we can with what we have left.

I hope to see you all around the post this year.

GOD BLESS,

— Ben Dawson  
Chaplain

## POST EVERLASTING REPORT

The following members transferred to Post Everlasting

- ★ Michael Andrews
- Frank W. Culler
- John G. Granite
- John J. Shipley
- Robert L. Walker



### Pavers

Post 166 is well represented at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial. Recently four new pavers were installed for the Post, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders



# Quarterly

# Calendar Spring 2022



APRIL	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>3rd</b>	Junior Auxiliary Post 166 Meeting 1300hrs
<b>4th</b>	VVA Chapter 1091 Meeting 1800hr Social 1700hrs
<b>5th</b>	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
<b>9th</b>	Vol. Dinner 1800hrs Social 1700hrs
<b>11th</b>	SAL Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
<b>12th</b>	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
<b>15th</b>	GOOD FRIDAY FISH FRY 12 PM-8 PM.
<b>17th</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Post Opens Noon
<b>18th</b>	Executive Committee Meeting 1730hrs
<b>19th</b>	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
<b>19th</b>	Auxiliary Membership Meeting 1100hrs Followed by Lunch
<b>20th</b>	Riders Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
<b>25th</b>	Post Membership Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
<b>26th</b>	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
<b>27th</b>	1st State Detachment Marine Corps League Meeting Noon

MAY	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>1st</b>	Junior Auxiliary Post 166 Meeting 1300hrs
<b>2nd</b>	VVA Chapter 1091 Meeting 1800hrs Social 1700hrs
<b>3rd</b>	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
<b>9th</b>	SAL Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
<b>10th</b>	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
<b>16th</b>	Executive Committee Meeting 1730hrs
<b>17th</b>	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
<b>17th</b>	Aux. Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
<b>19th</b>	Riders Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
<b>21st</b>	Scouts Spaghetti Dinner AL Post 166 4-8 PM
<b>23rd</b>	Post Membership Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
<b>24th</b>	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
<b>25th</b>	1st State Detachment Marine Corps League Meeting Noon
<b>30th</b>	Memorial Day Service on the Beach at Dunes Manor 0800hrs
<b>30th</b>	Memorial Day Service WCVM 1100hrs
<b>30th</b>	Memorial Day Service At Post 166 1300hrs
<b>31st</b>	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs

JUNE	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>5th</b>	Junior Auxiliary Post 166 Meeting 1300hrs
<b>6th</b>	VVA Chapter 1091 Meeting 1800hrs Social 1700hrs
<b>7th</b>	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
<b>11-12th</b>	OC Air Show Post 166-Free Parking Only
<b>12th</b>	9th Annual Honor a Vet Program & Reception at the Casino@ Ocean Downs 1900hrs
<b>13th</b>	SAL Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
<b>14th</b>	Annual Flag Day Program At Post 1400hrs
<b>14th</b>	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
<b>16th</b>	Riders Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
<b>20th</b>	Executive Committee Meeting 1730hrs
<b>21st</b>	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs
<b>21st</b>	Aux. Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
<b>22nd</b>	1st State Detachment Marine Corps League Meeting Noon
<b>27th</b>	Post Mem. Elections 1400-1800hrs Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs

# Synepuxent Post 166, Spring 2022

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## American Legion

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Volume 49 No. 2



Tom Wengert - Commander

George Pickrell - Director

Karen Thompson - 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

### 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](mailto: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 [airpinto293@gmail.com](mailto:airpinto293@gmail.com)



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

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.

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