

★ ★ ★ AMERICAN LEGION POST 166 ★ ★ ★



Commander's Message

With Covid still hanging around and playing havoc with many of our businesses here in Ocean City, we would like to thank everyone who trusted the procedures that were installed at our Post to keep everyone safe. We are not saying that some of our members haven't contacted COVID-19 but we can honestly say that they didn't get it here. We make sure that everyone that enters our Post wears a mask while walking around and sanitize their hands, as well as the tables and chairs that they are using before and after they leave.

I would like to welcome three new members to our staff here at the Post. If you haven't already met them let me introduce you to them. Our newest Bartender is Terry Miller, and our two new kitchen cooks are John Mell and Joann Korschak. Next time you see them welcome them aboard and make them feel like this is their home.

On a side note, I would like to say goodbye but hurry back to our Adjutant Tom DeVaux. For personal reasons he is leaving us and moving to Ohio to be closer to the wife's granddaughter, who has a serious illness. I have to say that Tom demonstrated his ability to take the Adjutant job above and beyond anything that anyone else has ever done. Tom had definitely made my job and a lot of other people's job here at the Post much easier. We will surely miss him and all that he has done and all his good ideas here at Post 166. If and when Tom decides to return to Ocean City, and I know he will, the Adjutant's job will be waiting for him. Good luck Tom and hurry back.

Things were pretty quiet here in the month of October, except for our Color Guard which had a

busy month. We at the Legion were just trying to stay safe, making sure that everyone wears their mask when they were walking around and sanitizing tables after they left. The Color Guard on the other hand was very busy. They started off the month of October with the presentation of Colors at the Giant Golf Open at the Bayside Golf Club in Selbyville. Then, on October 13 they took part in the videotaping two sequences, the presentation of the Colors and a 21-gun salute, which were then aired on Veterans Day. After the videotaping they assembled at the Berlin Nursing Home with other members from Post 166 to salute our oldest and one of our newest members Major John Andrews, who celebrated his 101st birthday on September 19. Our salute had to be postponed from September because of COVID-19 restrictions at the nursing home. Then on October 22 the Color Guard bid farewell to USMC veteran Melvin J. Odschoski at the Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin.

Things did pick up in November with a moving Veterans Day ceremony at the Post and we followed that with the Scouts having their flag burning ceremony over the Worcester County Veterans Memorial. We then had an enjoyable Thanksgiving Day meal for all our Veterans and their family and friends at the Post, with all the trimmings including dessert.

The first Saturday of December started with our Trim-a-Tree Party with Military Ornaments and the next day we packed boxes for our Support-the-Troops Program. Unfortunately, no Christmas parties were held this year by our Ladies Auxiliary,

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AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

FAREWELL TO SARGE AND ROSIE

Sarge and Rosie, who have done so much for this Post over so many years, have moved on to a new home in Cambridge. The Post, unable to hold a farewell dinner because of Covid, voted to have a flagpole erected at their new home as a parting gift. Here is just a little of what they have done over the years for the Post 166.

Sarge has been a member of the American Legion for 55 Years, 28 at Post 166 starting in 1993. He has held the following offices: two years as 2nd Vice Commander, six as Historian, 2 as Service Officer. He was Commander for 6 years. In addition, he has been Public Relations officer for several years and Editor of the Observer. In 2013 he was named Legionnaire of the Year.

There's more. The Post has baseball and the Riders because of Sarge. He organized many new Post programs, such as the Four Chaplains Service and First Responders Recognition, to name a few. He was instrumental in getting slot machines approved for non-profits and State legislative approval in 2012 to have a Veterans designation on Maryland driver licenses.

Rosie is well-known for her organizing of the boardwalk raffles for the Auxiliary, but did so much more. In over 20 years she served as President and chair of Auxiliary committees: Gold Star, legislation, Juniors, Past President's Parley, Community Service and National Security and



Sarge Garlitz

has received awards for her efforts from the Department and the community.

She is well-known for her fund-raising prowess, having held several major fund raisers for the post, and raising over \$20,000 for the post scholarship fund. She also designed the remembrance wall at the Post.

Rosie and Sarge leave the Post with heavy hearts. As she said recently, "Unit and Post 166 was my life for 20 years. I love all the girls young and not so young. I am very proud of our unit and always will be."



Last meeting of Synepuxent Unit #166 Junior Auxiliary Advisor Rosie Garlitz who retired on October 4, 2020.

L_R: ALA JR. Lindsay Birchhead-Morton, ALA JR. Saylor Amos, ALA JR. Kendahl Parsons, ALA SR. Marie Gilmore, ALA SR. & Unit #166 Junior Advisor Rosie Garlitz received roses and a Photo Bio of the Juniors from 2011 until 2020.

ALA SR. Jessie Parsons, ALA JR. Delaney McDaniel and ALA Unit #166 President Emily Nock.

American Legion Post 166 members Salute Major Andrews



Socially-distanced Major Andrews returns salute



American Legion Post 166 members Salute Major Andrews

Major John J. Andrews (U.S. Army, Ret.), a member of Post 166, celebrated his 101st birthday while residing at the Berlin Nursing Home September 16. The Post had hoped to celebrate with him in person but covid restrictions prevented any gathering at the facility. So the Post arranged to celebrate with Major Andrews outdoors on October 13. Members of the Honor Guard, the Executive Committee, and Marie Gilmore of the Auxiliary, saluted Major Andrews and sang Happy Birthday to him. Major Andrews was presented with his Legion Membership card on January 25, 2019, also at the Berlin Nursing Home, becoming the oldest member of the Post. He joined the US Army in 1938, served during WWII in North Africa, France, and Germany. He retired in 1961 with 23 years of service.



John Granite is the Post Legionnaire of the year for 2020. The U.S. Army veteran is a member of the Executive Committee and involved in most Post activities. Granite, an Army veteran, has served the American Legion for 54 years. He is a member of the Post's Executive Committee and is involved in most Post activities, from selling raffle tickets on the Boardwalk to chairing the Scholarship and House Committees. He also has been active on the American Legion Baseball Committee, Support the Troops program, the Veteran's Day program, the Four Chaplains Service, Memorial Day program, Donations Committee, Med Tran program, Veterans Outreach Programs, and the First Responders Award Program. Because of covid restrictions, Commander Tom Wengert presented the award to Granite in a private ceremony at his home.

ADJUTANT'S COMMENTS

Farewell Post 166 Comrades and Friends.

This is my final official correspondence as your Adjutant. Due to an unexpected family emergency my wife and I have to leave my happy place here in OC and move back to her home and family in Ohio. And I thought getting Covid was a kick in the jewels. We have sold our place here and have committed to a house in Ohio. Our plan is to depart on Monday, January 4.

I plan on retaining my membership with this Post and look forward to seeing your ugly mugs on visits back (often I hope). You guys have been awesome, and I treasure my time in your company. My parting request is for someone to step forward to assume the role of Adjutant for the Post. Your hard-working Commander, Tom Wengert, can't do it all!

Speaking of Commander Wengert let me add a very personal note of appreciation for what he does for the Post's members and all Veterans – THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU....

Finally, let me leave you with this from my

Vietnam experiences:

"We got to get out of this place, girl there's a better place for me and you".

Good Luck, Stay Safe, Stay Well

Tom DeVaux

Tom DeVaux,
Adjutant



Commander Wengert and Tom DeVaux exchange Covid elbows instead of handshakes just before Tom received a Plaque of Appreciation from the Post



HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

The House Committee has been active since the last newsletter came out

Most importantly has been what has been happening because of Covid. And that is, weekly sanitizing of the entire Post every Wednesday by Royal Plus, keeping us safe from the pandemic. The weekly cleaning has allowed us to keep the Post open for your enjoyment. Speaking of enjoyment, there are a couple of new developments – a new TV behind the front bar, a new bartender, Terry Miller, and two new cooks, John Mell and Joann Konschak. The kitchen also has been upgraded with two new fans to help with the environment.

After a vote by the membership, the Post once again began showing all football games on television, and other sports. While watching them you can order food and drink, and we are most proud of our two specials that we think are the best in Ocean City: Cheesesteak at \$7, and the pound of steamed shrimp (large, about 21-25 count), with a pitcher of domestic beer at \$15.

Now that we are in winter, kitchen hours are Monday to Thursday, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday to Sunday, noon to 7 p.m.

Charles Spaziani, *House Committee*

POST STEWARD UPDATE



Sam Wiley
Post 166 Steward

Following the Maryland state mandate the Post can be open at 50% capacity, but we must close every night by 10 pm. Last call is at 9:30 pm and everyone must exit the Post by 10 pm.

We are still encouraging our members to self-regulate their health and that of their families and guests. Please do not come to the Post if you are sick with a cold or flu symptoms, or if you have been around anyone who has been sick.

Still, no standing in the bar and lounge area. Everyone must be seated at the Post. Masks are a must at the Post while entering and moving around. Pool players and all game players must wear masks as well. No more than three people in the slot machine area at one time. Please use the hand sanitizer that is provided for your safety and please help us by bussing and wiping your tables when you are finished.

I did verify with the health department our 50% capacity and our ability to have gatherings, meetings, and other Post functions, and I was assured that we are compliant in every way. D.J. and live music entertainment has been suspended until regulations have been lifted to 75% capacity.

A big thank you to our cleaning crew and bartenders who continue to do a great job keeping tables and other areas wiped down and clean.

We all appreciate those members who help by wiping a few tables when it is needed. That is a big help! Thank you!

Again, I would like to thank Mark and Matt Odachowski for the weekly anti-covid-19 spraying of the Post. This is a very generous donation. These two gentlemen would do anything for anyone, but I know they have a special place in their hearts for our military and for our veterans. Please drop them a thank you note at Royal Plus, 9939 Jerry Mack Road, Ocean City, MD 21842

The Post calendar moving into 2021 is light compared to years past. Moving forward as we begin to schedule Post events, we can always use volunteers now more than ever. Because of covid-19 regulations we will need more help serving food and keeping tables sanitized. Please help when you can.

Thank you so much to all our amazing volunteers in 2020. So many of you stepped up when we needed you most. Thank you to all those who helped more recently with the holiday decorating at the Post. The Post looked so festive and cozy and to those who served our Legion family during the Thanksgiving and Christmas meal.

Like the officers of Post 166, I am here to serve you. Please reach out to me if there is anything I can do to help with a function, event, party, or if you have any special needs at the Post.

Stay safe and healthy in 2021. Happy New Year!

Sam Wiley

– Post 166 Steward

OPERATION WE CARE

Auxiliary, Juniors, SAL, Scouts Stuff Care Packages for our Troops

Sunday, Dec. 6, was Assembly Line Day in the Post's Grand Ballroom, as members of the Auxiliary, the Junior Auxiliary, and Scout Troop 621 gathered to stuff 125 Care Packages for servicemen and women overseas with Operation We Care. The packages were filled with toiletries, food, and a variety other items we take for granted every day at home. No two boxes were the same, but every box had a two-ounce package of Fishers Popcorn. Fishers is a major local sponsor of Operation We Care.

Jeff Merritt, founder of Operation We Care, said the boxes would be sent to six different locations, "five in the Middle East," and one he said he could not divulge. Merritt said that 12 percent of servicemen and women overseas "never receive anything from home, so getting these boxes is a huge morale boost.



L-R State Senator Mary Beth Carozza with Troop 621 Scouts Jenay Colon, Evelyn Walsh, Christina Esch, Emily Busko and Scout Leader Nick Busko.



Auxiliary Member Kirsten Brown puts finishing touches on a box before sealing



Bob Gilmore and Alexis Ondo add Fishers popcorn to their boxes



Jessie Wolfe-Parson's package is almost filled



Each box had a message on hand-made greeting cards, like these held by Kristy Johnson, Auxiliary member who coordinated the package wrapping with Operation We Care



Frances Yates finishing a package



Auxiliary member Eileen Salafia, center, and scout Jenay Colon



Rafe Parsons of the Sons of the American Legion takes some Fishers popcorn for his box



Auxiliary member Frances Yates with scouts from Troop 621 behind



Mother and Daughter, Kathy and Delaney McDaniel

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA NEWS



VVA Chapter #1091 OCMD News

First off, Thanks to the Post 166 family for giving so much support to our Chapter. We are at 106 VVA and 11 AVVA members. If you know of any Vietnam in-country or Vietnam-era Veterans, we would love to have them as members. Applications can be found near the Post sign-in book. Check dates for eligibility. \$50 gets you a life membership. We meet first Monday of the month, with a social hour at 5 pm and the meeting at 6 pm.

On Veterans Day, our chapter handed out Veterans comic books and flags to children on boardwalk. Seeing a child waving a U.S. Flag and smiling is a great thing to behold. The Post has set up a Kidz Corner table with coloring books, crayons and handheld U.S. Flags on it. If you see kids in the Post make sure they are aware of this

VVA 1091 Presents Donation to Worcester County Veterans Memorial



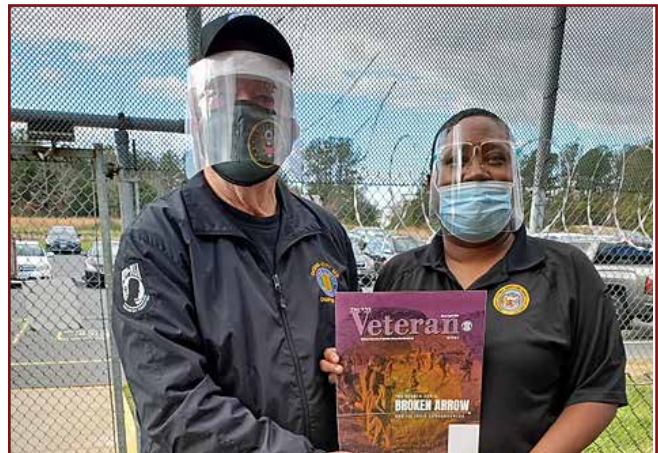
In October, Nelson Kelly, President of Ocean City Chapter 1091 of Vietnam Veterans of America, presented a grant for \$2000 from the Vietnam Veteran's State Council to Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore. The money will be used to support the WCVM's education program. More than 500 county school children visit and learn about the Veterans Memorial each year. The VVA state grant was requested by the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation. Once approved, the local VVA Chapter 1091 was asked to present the award.

new feature. Also, recently, together with 166 we showed a History of Ocean City video at the Post. It was really interesting. For example, did you know that Ocean City was originally named "The Ladies Resort to the Ocean"?

Finally, we will be having our seven-year Anniversary at the Post on January 1, kicking off our eighth year. We are going to kick 2020 in the butt and welcome 2021. Happy Days are here again (soon). Stop by to say Hi. Someone recently said to me - these are certainly some trying political times we are going through, aren't they? I replied You don't remember the 60's and 70's do you?

Side note -don't forget to close your foundation vents and disconnect hose for freeze protection. Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Incarcerated Veterans remembered by VVA 1091 and Post 166



Veterans Incarcerated is a major outreach program of the National VVA. Chapter 1091 has been involved with the program and Eastern Correctional Institute in Westover, MD for the past five years, supporting incarcerated vets in many ways. Every Christmas the chapter and Post 166 deliver Christmas cards to incarcerated veterans, many of whom do not receive any Christmas cheer from home. This year, thanks to VVA President Nelson Kelly and VVA member Bob Gilmore, more than 100 cards were delivered to the facility by Bob Smith, VVA member and Post 2nd Vice Commander, to be distributed by Virginia Johnson, an employee at ECI, and the Volunteer Coordinator for the prison. Also delivered for the veterans were copies of the VVA magazine *The Veteran*.

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Chaplain Dave Kline, 1st Detachment Marine Corps League, Delaware, places the Marine Corps ornament on the tree



Marie Gilmore with United We Stand ornament; Bob Gilmore with World War II ornament



David Allen with the SAL ornament



The Navy's ornament was hung by Glen Reely while Karin Sobczak waits to add to the tree



Nelson Kelly, President of the Ocean City Chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America, hangs Vietnam Veterans ornament



Jessie Parsons, Poppy ornament



The Army ornament was hung by Chuck Porter



Commander Tom Wengert before hanging the US Eagle ornament



Joe Verdura, SAL Commander



Shannon Hardester, who served 12 years in the Coast Guard, hangs the Coast Guard ornament



Don Pariulli prepares to hang the Air Force ornament



AUXILIARY NEWS

Message from Auxiliary President



Emily F. Nock

Happy New Year Auxiliary Members! I hope that everyone had a wonderful and safe time over the holidays. I know that this past year has been different and most of us are probably not sad to put 2020 behind us. However, I continue to be so proud of this unit and all that our members have done despite these challenging times. It is due to the dedication and selflessness of all of you that our unit has continued its strong legacy. Something that I am very happy to report led to us achieving First Place in all categories at the District Level!

Though we've had to alter our normal events for this time of year, we've still been active. In October, we once again delivered pumpkins filled with candy to the Ocean City Coast Guard Station. Something our local Coasties look forward to every year.

In November, members of the unit took part in the post's Veteran's Day celebrations and also raffled off a handmade wreath that our Alice Jones won! We collected canned goods for both Shepard's Crook and Sarah's Pantry. During American Education Week, our Education Chair Jessie Parsons did not let virtual school deter her. Appreciation gifts were hand delivered to the homes of at least one teacher per school in our area. The month ended with a record number of volunteers assisting in the holiday decorating of the Post.

In a normal December, we would have held three Christmas Parties. One for the clients of the Worcester County Developmental Center, one for the Veterans at the Berlin Nursing Home, and of course one for our members. Sadly, due to Covid, we were forced to cancel all three, but we didn't let that dim our Christmas Spirit any! We started the month with members taking part in the Post's traditional Trim-A-Tree party. This was followed by our unit partnering with Operation We Care for our Support the Troops project. We were able to pack and ship 125 care packages to our troops deployed overseas. A huge thank you to VA&R Chair Kristy Johnson for spearheading the project, all of our volunteers who came out that day, and also to Unit members Glenda Eichelberger, Kirsten Brown, and Fran Yates for handmaking

cards to go in each of the boxes. The unit was also able to fulfill the wishes of 11 veterans at the Berlin Nursing Home and partner with the VVA to provide for a local disabled veteran and his two children. We also delivered 85 Christmas Cards with special treats for the clients of the WCDC that were hand delivered by Santa to each of their homes.

While fundraising this year has been difficult, I was happy to see we had a great response to our 50/50 raffle. Thank you to all the took part in it. Post Commander Tom Wengert very graciously pulled the winning ticket at our December membership meeting. The winning ticket belonged to our Past Unit President Marie Gilmore. Congratulations Marie!

As of right now, we still plan to continue our in-person meetings every third Tuesday at the post. We will continue to monitor the current situation and any applicable government regulations. The safety of our members is always of our utmost concern. Please continue to follow our Facebook page and emails for upcoming events. And if you have an idea for a way to support our veterans, our community, or our Post, please reach out to me! Let's continue our Unit's great legacy and devotion to mutual helpfulness into the New Year and beyond.

I hope to see you all at the Post very soon!

In the Spirit of Service not Self,

Emily F. Nock
President



The Auxiliary joined with VVA 1091 to spread some Christmas cheer to an Ocean City Army veteran who needed some help. Gifts from the two groups were delivered to Mathew Fitzpatrick by Marie Gilmore, representing the Auxiliary, and Bob Gilmore from VVA. Fitzpatrick has two young boys, 9 and 6.



AUXILIARY NEWS

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP



Karen Thompson

As we end this very unusual year, I hope this newsletter finds everyone safe and healthy. We had a slow start to our 2021 renewal year; however, we were able to pick up the pace and as I write this newsletter, we are at 71% of our de-

partment goal. Along with the renewals we have had a spike in new members signing up 18 new members and four transfers to our unit for 2021! Several of these new members are local so I believe we will start to see some new faces at our monthly meetings, which are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. Check your email for meeting reminders, post information and volunteers' requests. If you are not receiving emails (please check you spam folder), let me know as soon as possible so we can get you added to our constant contact email list. In addition to emails, if you change any membership contact information directly with the department or on online,

please let me know as, unfortunately, we do not receive notifications of any electronic changes done directly with the department. The National Auxiliary Website address is www.legion-aux.org, and this website is highly informative for new and seasoned members alike! Please be sure to check it out and sign up for online ALA Academy Training courses. These courses are short, informative, and fun so be sure to visit the new upgraded website and the ALA Academy.

On November 29, our call for volunteers to decorate the post for Christmas was answered! We had the biggest turnout of volunteers to help with decorating that I have ever seen. I would like to personally give a big hug (after Covid of course) to all our members, friends, scout troop, and junior members who came out to help. The post looks great and was decorated in record time with the assistance of all our volunteers. Again, cannot thank you enough and looking forward to seeing you all again for our Valentines decorating party!

Karen Thompson

1st Vice President, Unit 166

JUNIORS CONTINUE TO ROCK!



Jessie Parsons

Our Juniors have remained busy in spite of these unprecedented times with COVID restrictions. On October 4, 2020, our beloved Juniors advisor, Rosie Gartz, held her last Juniors meeting at our Post. She was surprised with a

going away celebration. Rosie has been an incredible Juniors Advisor for Unit 166 and will be greatly missed. She spent more than a decade teaching our youth the values of patriotism and the mission of the American Legion Family. The Juniors presented her with an album of memories that chronicled her involvement with this program. I am stepping in as the new Juniors Advisor, with the help of Marie Gilmore and any other ALA member that wishes to help! We will do our best to stay the course with the foundation that Rosie has laid.

At our October 4 meeting, new Juniors offi-

cers for 2020-21 were elected as follows: President: Lindsay Birkhead-Morton; Vice President: Addison McDaniel; Chaplain: Saylor Amos; Historian: Kendahl Parsons; Sgt at Arms: Delaney McDaniel

Our Juniors collected canned goods to give to local food pantries; school supplies for our Give 10 Education Program; bags of candy for our annual candy drop off to the Coast Guard; and pajamas for the Casey Cares Cammies Jammies program.

On October 24, Kendahl Parsons participated in the Operation We Care packing boxes for the troops at the Salisbury American Legion, as part of the Juniors Project. Our Unit donated supplies for this event. Lindsay Birkhead-Morton participated in the same event held in Annapolis for Dept of MD Juniors.

On October 31 Kendahl Parsons and Delaney McDaniel joined some of our ALA members for the annual candy filled pumpkins drop off to our Ocean City Coast Guard.

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JUNIORS CONTINUE TO ROCK!

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Our Juniors made cards for Veterans Day that were taken to the Berlin Nursing Home to thank Veterans there for their service. Additional Cards made by the Juniors were passed out at the Veterans Day Program at our Post.

On November 14 Lindsay Birkhead-Morton, Delaney McDaniel, and Kendahl Parsons participated in the flag retirement ceremony at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial.

On December 6 Lindsay Birkhead-Morton, Delaney McDaniel, and Saylor Amos participated in Post 166 Operation We Care packing of boxes for the troops. Lindsay provided some

handmade cards to place in the boxes.

Our Juniors are not letting COVID get in the way of serving our veterans and community. I look forward to continuing to work with this program and these youth. If you know of any youth that meet membership qualifications and is interested in joining the program, please contact me at 443-235-4930. We would love to grow the program.

Happy Holidays! Juniors continue to ROCK!

Jessie Parsons,

Unit #166 Junior Advisor



Auxiliary President Emily Nock, Center, is with Junior Members Delaney McDaniel and Kendahl Parsons on the left, and Juniors Co-Chair Jessie Parsons and Aux Member Kirsten Brown.



Two Coasties received the candy for the station from, left to right, Aux Member Kirsten Brown and President Emily Nock, Juniors Co-Chair Jessie Parsons, and Juniors members Delaney McDaniel and Kendahl Parsons.



Kendahl Parsons, Rafe Parsons, Lindsay Birkhead-Morton, and Delaney McDaniel participated in the Flag Retirement ceremony in November



First State Detachment Donation



On Monday December 7, 2020, The First State Detachment 689 Marine Corps League made a formal presentation to The Semper Fi & America's Fund for \$10,000.00 at the Ocean City Mayor and Council meeting. Funds were raised at the First annual Semper Fi Bike Ride held on the Ocean City Maryland Boardwalk on Sunday October 18th. SSgt Ramirez and Sgt Enright, active duty Marines from the Salisbury Recruiting Office, volunteered and were on hand to receive the funds on behalf of the Semper Fi & America's Fund. Members of the Detachment and event producer's Brad Hoffman and Bob Broderick along with local media were in attendance to show their appreciation. Hoffman and Broderick presented a framed certificate to Ocean City's Mayor Meehan and the City Council for the Town's support for this first-year event.

The presentation included a video overview of the event and briefing for the council on plans for the 2021 event, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, October 17. Bags with event memorabilia were given to the City Clerk for the Mayor, the City Manager, and each member of the council. The Detachment is looking forward to next year and our continued partnership with the Semper Fi & America's Fund and the Town of Ocean City Maryland.

We are proud of our success from this first year event knowing that the funds raised will continue the mission for the Semper Fi and America's Fund to support Combat wounded, severely ill veterans and in support of their families.

Bob Broderick, Paymaster



First State Detachment Receives Toys for Tots Coast Tattoo Shop



First State Marines, Bob Broderick, Frank Del Piano and Jim Wright receive a trailer load of toys collected at the Right Coast Tattoo shop on Coastal Highway in Fenwick Island. Jeff Brown and Adam Weir, artists from Right Coast Tattoo, delivered the toys collected during a promotion the shop ran that matched the value of the donated toys dollar-for-dollar with Tattoo services. Past Commandant Jim Wright said he was impressed with the quality and value of the toys collected. Brown noted the generosity of the shop's clients, valuing the toys and bikes collected at more than \$4,000.

Senior Vice Commandant and Toys for Tots Chairman Rick Poundsberry expressed his gratitude to Jeff and Adam and the Detachment's appreciation for their resourcefulness for promoting Toys for Tots. He noted that their contribution supports "our Detachment Marines mission to ensure Children and Families in Worcester and Sussex Counties in need will have a Merry Christmas." COVID has had an adverse impact on collections, but First State Marines continued the tradition and commitment to the Toys for Tots program and remain committed to serving the communities they live in.



SAL NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Chuck Lathbury

With the winter season upon us and cold weather inevitable now is the time to remember to check on your elderly neighbors. I know with the pandemic that a lot of us are staying home in order to stay safe, but we must remember that staying home sometimes

means being alone for long periods of time so please, take a moment to give your neighbors and friends a call to make sure they are doing okay. A short conversation can mean a lot to someone who is need of human contact.

Just like the rest of our Legion family the Sons of the American Legion have not been able to hold annual functions that are not only essential to our program but also serve as annual fundraisers in order for us to continue to support our local programs and organizations. However, we were still able to donate to several local charities and participate in the annual adopt-a-family giving tree with Holy Savior Church. This year we purchased numerous gifts and delivered them to the church on Monday December 14. We would like to thank Tina Preziotti for her assistance in shopping and wrapping these gifts on behalf of the SAL.

This year the SAL fundraising raffle is an Offshore Fishing Trip on the charter boat The Wrecker, and a Micky Fins Gift Card. We have

extended our tickets sales in to 2021, so please remember to purchase your raffle tickets today. Tickets are available for purchase at the Post, or contact a SAL Officer and we will be sure to get some tickets out to you.

Please remember the Post is now open and following all recommended and required Covid-19 State Guidelines, so please stop in today for visit.

Chuck Lathbury

SAL Adjutant



Delivering Angel Tree gifts on Dec. 14th from left to right Church organizer Diane, SAL Member George Pickrell, Church Organizer Patty, SAL Adjutant Chuck Lathbury, ALA 1st Vice President Karen Thompson, SAL Treasurer Ray Kudibeck, SAL Commander Joe Verdura. Behind the camera...ALA Member & Bartender - Tina Preziotti, official SAL Angel Tree Shopper and Gift Wrapper!



Jam-Packed Post for the Army Navy Game



The great Hall was jam-packed with socially distanced tables for the Army Navy Football Game. Volunteer Lori Arillo and Steward Sam Wiley were busy throughout serving up free food that included chili and hot dogs.

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL



Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica Wall Coming to Ocean Pines

The Wall That Heals, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center, is coming to Veterans Memorial Park at Ocean Pines April 22 -25, 2021. The display will be open



24 hours a day and is free to the public. The Wall That Heals honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the 58,279 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

Veterans of America Chapter 1091 and American Legion Post 166 are sponsoring the exhibit's visit to Ocean Pines.

"The Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation is honored to have been selected as hosts for The Wall That Heals. We are looking forward to working with many Community Organizations and the citizens of Ocean Pines and surrounding areas to make this happen," said Marie Gilmore, President of Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation.

"The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is pleased to bring The Wall That Heals mobile exhibit to Ocean Pines to allow local veterans and their family members a chance to experience The Wall. We will work carefully with the host to provide a safe opportunity for the community to experience the healing and educational aspects of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial," said Jim Knotts, president and CEO of VVMF. "Hosting The Wall That Heals provides an opportunity to honor and remember all those who served and sacrificed in the Vietnam War and educate visitors on the continuing impact of the Vietnam War on America."

The Wall That Heals is transported from community to community in a 53-foot trailer. When parked, the trailer opens with exhibits built into its sides, allowing it to serve as a mobile Education Center telling the story of the Vietnam War,

The Wall, and the divisive era in American history.

The three-quarter scale Wall replica is 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. Visitors will experience The Wall rising above them as they walk towards

the apex, a key feature of the design of The Wall in D.C. Visitors are able to do name rubbings of individual service member's names on The Wall.

The mobile Education Center exhibit includes: digital photo displays of "Hometown Heroes" - service members whose names are on The Wall that list their home of record within the area of a visit; digital photo displays of Vietnam veterans from the local area honored through VVMF's In Memory program that honors veterans who returned home from Vietnam and later died as a result of their service; video displays that teach about the history and impact of The Wall; educational exhibits told through items representative of those left at The Wall in D.C.; a replica of the In Memory plaque; a map of Vietnam and a chronological overview of the Vietnam War. The exhibits tell the story of the Vietnam War, The Wall and the era surrounding the conflict, and are designed to put American experiences in Vietnam in a historical and cultural context.

Since its debut in 1996, the exhibit has been on display in nearly 700 U.S. communities in addition to an April 1999 tour of the Four Provinces of Ireland and a visit to Canada in 2005. The Wall That Heals is a program of VVMF, the nonprofit organization that built the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. in 1982. The Wall That Heals is the only traveling exhibit affiliated with The Wall in Washington, D.C. and includes the largest Wall replica that travels the country. Two VVMF staff members lead volunteers on site, educate visitors and students, and ensure the reflective atmosphere of The Wall. More information can be found at: www.thewallthatheals.org.

Synepuxent Post 166, Winter 2021

Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial and the Post



Master of Ceremonies
Bob Smith,
Second Vice Commander

The Covid Pandemic caused the Veterans Day ceremony at the Worcester County War Memorial, and at Post 166 to be curtailed. The Memorial ceremonies were done virtually, videotaped, and then shown at the 1 p.m. ceremony at the Post. Our Color Guard, which participated in the War Memorial ceremonies, had their ceremonial Presentation of the Colors, videotaped earlier, the footage then being added to the video of the ceremonies. At the Post, a smaller-than-usual crowd attended but the ceremony went off without a hitch, emceed by 2nd Vice Commander Bob Smith. If you weren't able to be there, here are some photographs to show you what it looked like.



Audience stands watching color guard video at Veterans Memorial



Chaplain Ben Dawson invocation Tom Wengert in background



Johann Nykvist plays Taps as the Color Guard renders honors by firing a salute outside the Post



Glen Reely after posting the colors



Scouts Kasch Johnson Ben Busco after presenting wreath at MIA table



State Senator
Mary Beth Carozza



Bob Broderick of
First State Detachment



Manny Perez showing clothing worn when active duty



Chuck Lathbury representing SAL



Marie Gilmore on behalf of Worcester County Veterans Memorial



Sgt-at-Arms Bob Gilmore explaining the symbolism of the MIA Table setting



MIA Table



LEGION RIDERS NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Karen Thompson

DESPITE COVID WE STILL MADE DONATIONS

As we all continue to adjust and live with the changes the COVID-19 Pandemic has required us to make, the American Legion Riders are hoping that all Post members are staying safe and well. Please remember that if you need assistance during this hectic time do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Although the Pandemic has limited our fundraising functions this past season the AL Riders were still able to donate to our local scouts troop, Coastal Bays and Trust, and just recently donated

\$500 of Christmas Gifts to local needy families of the Holy Savior Church.

The AL Riders currently are selling Pullover Hoodies, Facemasks (pullover neck gaiters), and Gun Raffle Tickets as fundraisers so we may continue assisting these local charities and organizations. Please stop in the Post or contact an AL Riders officer if you are interested in purchasing ALR Merchandise or Gun Raffle Tickets!

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Karen Thompson

Secretary

Chapter #166, ALR

Post Scouts Honor Our Flag in Retirement Ceremony

Worn out American Flags must be retired in a manner proscribed by law and tradition. In our area Scout units sponsored by our Post 166, render the honors and conduct the ceremonial burning of the flags. This was last done on November 16 at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial, with help from the Ocean Pines Fire Department, which dug the fire pit, lit the flames, and stood by for safety. Our Junior Auxiliary also participated. The flags had been deposited at the Post throughout the year.



With Ocean Pines South Pond in the background, Bruce Travers, Bear Den Leader of Pack 261 is with Johnny Malinowski of Boy Scout Troop 261 at the fire pit used to burn retired American Flags.



(L to R) While Peter Gunther, Pack 261, and Joe Coleman, Pack 261 Cub Master, look on, Ben Busko of Troop 261 salutes after placing a flag in the fire. Bruce Travers, Bear Den Leader of Pack 261 stands by.



David Banach of Pack 261 holds his folded American Flag. Behind him a table of flags to be folded and retired.



(L to R): Cub Master of Pack 261, Joe Coleman (L), and Bruce Traver, Bear Den Leader of Pack 261 (R), look on as Chase Triplett, Pack 261, salutes the flag he has just placed in the fire pit.



Paige Gibson of Pack 261 prepares to consign her flag to the fire, with Joe Coleman, Pack 261 Cub Master in the background left, and Bruce Travers, Pack 261 Bear Den Leader watching.



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Post 166 Color Guard Continues Tradition, Delivers more than 170 Sweatshirts to Hospitalized Vets

For more than a dozen years, every November around Thanksgiving the Color Guard of Ocean City American Legion Post 166 has been delivering warm clothing and socks to veterans hospitalized at the Perry Point, Maryland, VA Hospital. Covid didn't prevent the delivery this year, although it curtailed how it was carried out. Usually, several members of the Color Guard drive to Perry Point and make the presentations in person to hospitalized veterans. This year they were allowed only to drop off the packages for the hospital to distribute. As a result, only Johan Nykvist (L) and Color Guard Captain Glen Reely (R), driven by Post Member Tom Bussard, center filled an SUV with boxes containing 177 heavy, winter hooded sweatshirts, and made

the 5-hour round trip from Ocean City to Perry Point to deliver the goods.



We Can All be Proud of our Post Color Guard

The Color Guard was active in the Fall. Among other things, they helped the 1st Detachment Marines kick off their Bike rally on the Boardwalk, video taped the presentation of the colors for the virtual Worcester County Memorial Veterans Day ceremony, presented the colors at our own Post Veterans Day ceremony, helped salute Major John Andrews on his 101st birthday at the Berlin Nursing Home, continued the tradition

of delivering warm clothing to the Perry Point, MD VA hospital. They also helped say farewell to USMC veteran Melvin J. Odschoski and as a result, his sons, who own the Royal Plus companies in West Ocean City, offered covid sanitizing services gratis to the Post and are disinfecting the building once a week, every Wednesday. We should all give thanks we have such an active and vibrant Color Guard.

Delaware Marines Thank Ocean City American Legion Honor Guard

The First State Detachment 686 of the Marine Corps League presented a Certificate of Appreciation in November to the Ocean City American Legion Post 166 Color Guard, thanking the ceremonial unit for its sponsorship and Presentation of the Colors that opened the Semper Fi Bike Ride on the Ocean City Boardwalk. Proceeds from the October event held benefited the Semper Fi Fund



that supports combat wounded, critically ill and catastrophically injured members of the U.S. Armed Forces, and their families.

Color Guard members Johan Nyqvist and Glen Reely, left, and Manny Perez, far right, received the recognition from Detachment members Paymaster Bob Broderick, Detachment Commandant Marty

Kwesko, and Chaplain Dave Kline, at a recent Post membership meeting.



SERVICE OFFICER



Scott LaGross

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

As I mentioned in my first newsletter comments, I'm excited to be your new Service Officer. I currently offer standard availability on Wednesdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. However, you have to make an appointment in order for me to assist you. My role is to serve as the intermediary between the service member and the Maryland Department Service Officers, who actually represent your claims to the Veterans Administration.

For most claim services, I need a copy of your DD214, your medical/service records and a "Power of Attorney" appointing the American Legion Department of Maryland Service Officers to represent you in VA claims. I'm still learning the ropes, but I've been working hard to assist any and all veterans who request my services. This is a great time of year to take stock of where

your VA claim stands as regards how you feel medically. Many of us have service-connected ailments which did not substantially impair our abilities to live a normal life when initially assessed. Over time, however, these ailments and injuries can worsen and have more serious impacts on our lives. When that is the case, I can help you submit a claim for review and increase of your VA Disability compensation.

Finally, I'd like to add that the VA has a wide variety of programs to help veterans who are struggling after leaving the service. If you know of a veteran who needs help, either give him my contact information, or advise me of his needs and contact info and I'll take it from there. Here's my telephone number and email address: 410-991-8742, ucrider@gmail.com

Wishing you a very happy and healthy holiday season. God Bless you and God Bless the USA.

Scott LaCoss
Service Officer

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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

Winter Greetings Comrades! By the time you receive this writing, we have celebrated Christmas and welcomed in the New Year, 2021. Unfortunately, this Covid Virus kept many of us from celebrating the holidays with those we love most. 2020 has not been a good year for any of us, some worse than others. Now, with the scientific breakthrough we have a ray of light at the end of the tunnel. I, for one am ready to take the vaccine when made available to us old folks. The Post Commander and Steward have implemented restrictions mandated by the Governor to help fight the spread of this virus and now, the ball is in our court to follow these safety restrictions. We have to do this together.

On the bright side of the coin, many exciting activities are planned for the Post in 2021. The Wall That Heals will be coming to Memorial Park in April, thanks to the hard work and dedication of Marie Gilmore and The Worcester Veterans Memorial Committee. Putting this project together was no easy task. The committee will be



Commander's Message

Continued from page 1

VVA chapter 1091, or any of our programs because of COVID-19 restrictions that limited all gatherings to 10 people. The New Year's Eve plan is to toast with champagne every hour from 6 pm until we close at 10 pm. There was no New Year's Eve party this year at our Legion.

In closing, even though this column will be read after the holidays because of the printing schedule, I would like to again wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please be safe and look after our elderly and our Veterans and hope to see everyone again next year.

May God Bless You and May God Bless America.

Tom Wengert,
Commander

asking for volunteers to assist with this massive undertaking. Please be ready and willing to step forward and lend a helping hand, especially all of us Vietnam Veterans, I, for one am looking forward to this several-day event.

This past year we have seen many of our Comrades transferred to Post Everlasting. Please continue to keep their loved ones lifted up in your Prayers. Their names will be posted in this bulletin. Also, don't forget our Comrades on sick call. If you know of member who is ill or injured, please let me know so I can send a card, make a phone call or a hospital visit when appropriate. Also, don't forget our shut-in Comrades. We all have been a bit lonely this past year but nothing like what many of our older members go through. A phone call, a visit or ride to the Post can make a lonely person's day.

Although 2020 has been a rough year, we all have much to be Thankful for. I look forward to the day when all restrictions are lifted and we, our town and Country, will be back to some sort of normal. I hope your Christmas Season was Blessed and 2021 will be healthy and prosperous for us all.

GOD Bless and stay safe,

— *Ben*
Chaplain

POST EVERLASTING REPORT

The following members transferred
to Post Everlasting

Kenneth R. Cartwright
Fred G. Lynn
Joseph Sarisky
Henry Hungerford



Quarterly Calendar WINTER 2021



JAN

Date	Event
3rd	Junior Aux 166 2 pm
5th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1 pm
11th	SAL Meeting 7 pm Social Hour 6 pm
12th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1 pm
18th	Post Executive Committee Meeting 5:30 pm
19th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1 pm
19th	Auxiliary Meeting 7pm Social Hour 6 pm
21st	Riders Meeting 7pm Social Hour 6 pm
25th	Post Membership Meeting 7 pm. Social 6 pm. Speaker 7 pm
26th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1 pm
27th	1st State Detachment Marine Corps League Meeting Noon
31st	TET Offensive #53 Veterans Memorial. Noon. Get-together to follow at Post 166



The Queen of Hearts drawing is every Sunday at 4:30 pm. Winners in October, November, and December included: October, Brenda Bowen, \$18,000 jackpot by picking #17; November, Sue Fury (\$50), Sharon Moores (\$50), Frank Lipscomb (\$100), Jim Caloway (\$50), and Buddy Jones (\$50); December Christine Celeste (\$100) and Mike Taylor (\$50).



FEB

Date	Event
1st	VVA Chapter 1091 Meeting 6 pm. Social Hour 5 pm
2nd	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1 pm
7th	Four Chaplains Service 2 pm. Junior Aux 166 to follow
7th	Super Bowl 6 pm. Tailgate early with food/drink specials
8th	SAL Meeting 7 pm. Social 6 pm
9th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1 pm
13th	Valentine's Day Sweetheart Steak & Shrimp dinner 5 pm to 8 pm. Music 7 pm to 10 pm
15th	Post Executive Committee Meeting 6 pm
16th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1 pm
16th	Aux 166 Meeting 6 pm. Social Hour 5 pm
18th	Riders Meeting 7 pm. Social Hour 6 pm
22nd	Post Membership Meeting 7 pm. Social 6 pm. Speaker 6:30 pm
23rd	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1 pm
24th	1st State Detachment Marine Corps League Meeting Noon



MAR

Date	Event
1st	VVA Chapter 1091 Meeting 6 pm. Social Hour w/food 5 pm
2nd	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1 pm
7th	Junior Aux 166 Meeting 2 pm
8th	SAL Meeting 7 pm. Social Hour 6 pm
9th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1 pm
13th	St. Patty's Day Party 2 pm w/cornd beef & cabbage
15th	Post Executive Committee Meeting 5:30 pm
16th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1 pm
16th	Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm. Social Hour 6 pm
18th	Riders Meeting 7 pm. Social Hour 6 pm
22nd	Post Membership Meeting 7 pm. Social 6 pm. Speaker 6:30 pm
24th	1st State Detachment Marine Corps League Meeting Noon
29th	Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day 1 pm-4 pm at Post



Synepuxent Post 166, Winter 2021

Postmaster—Send Address Changes to:

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Tom Wengert - Commander

George Pickrell - Director

Emily F. Nock - President

Joe Verdura - Commander



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

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

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

Anyone who wants to receive the Observer by email please email the post at:

alpost166@comcast.net and request it with a current email address.

The hard copy of the Observer will be mailed unless you request otherwise.

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



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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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