



Synepuxent Observer
Fall 2007
Ocean City, Maryland

American Legion Riders at Synepuxent Post 166

The American Legion Riders are members of the American Legion who are also motorcycle enthusiasts. They can be found participating in parades, partaking in motorcycling events, and supporting the communities in which they live, work, and play. Members of the ALR come from the Legion, the Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion. The American Legion Riders were formed...

...to participate in parades and other ceremonies that are in keeping with the Aims and Purposes of the American Legion.

...to promote motorcycle safety programs and to provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share the same interest.

...to use our Association to promote and support programs of the American Legion.

The American Legion Riders is *not* a M/C, and does not practice M/C rules or regulations. The American Legion Riders is family-oriented, just as is its parent organization: the American Legion.

The membership of the American Legion Riders is a very diverse

group, so are the programs that they are involved in. By allowing each American Legion Rider Chapter to give their members the ability to manage their program at the Post level, the program has been allowed to grow. Today there exist Legion Rider programs in several states, and many more starting.

The types of things that these groups are doing are far too many to mention in this article, but here are a few examples:

1. Participation in the annual POW/MIA Rally held each Memorial weekend in Washington D.C. known as "Rolling Thunder".
2. Sponsoring or participating in local Charity events.
3. Raising money for such organizations as local VA Hospitals, Battered Women and Children's Center, Varied Children and Youth programs, a School for Blind Children, Veterans Relief, Needy families and many, many others.



4. Sponsoring or participating in motorcycle "Runs" to benefit numerous charities, including charities for underprivileged children and medical research, just to name a few.

5. Participation in memorial ceremonies and community parades.

Motorcyclist can be a very dedicated group of people. When you combine this with the fact that they are legionnaires, you create a win/win situation.

The American Legion Riders Post 166 is starting to shape up. There are about 10 members and we are hoping more will join. The Director is John Granite, Assistant Director Bo Spicer, Secretary is Kitty Leggett, Treasurer is Joe Salafia and the Run Coordinator/Sgt. at Arms is Tony Gough. Other members include Poppy Granite, John Creamer, Bob Tipton SAL 166, Tom Henman, Post 123 Berlin, Md. Albert Murdoch, Post 28, Dagsboro, Delaware. It is the goal of ALR Post 166 is to support the American Legion and its programs.



Are you ready for some Football?

Join us every Sunday during Football Season, watch your favorite team and enjoy the snacks and fellowship in our lounge, 6 televisions—no waiting!

Commander's Message

The first three months have gone real fast and the summer season is coming to an end. Post #166 has been the place to go in OC. The friendly atmosphere is the norm here and the word has been spread through out the land. Thanks to our members and staff for maintaining this standard.

We all have to salute Nancy Rummel and Jim Mills for their dedication to the bike raffle. They have kept this major fund raiser up and running since May. It is good members like this that make things happen. Many thanks to the ticket sellers who have fared the elements all summer selling tickets. You are the best. We will not forget Bo Spicer who gave the bike a wash and wax job every week. He does not go with the bike when it

is won.

Of course our volunteers are at the top of the chart for their ever lasting efforts to keep the operation of the Post second to none. Our Adjutant Bill Wolf has taken the wheel and led us through this these summer months.

Along with making things happen: Rosie doing her cleaning around the compound, Paula McGrath lends a hand on short notice, Murph Bryant in the kitchen, Kate Gray and her granddaughter Abigail working unnoticed is noticed by many. Then there is Bruce McIntire ready to do what ever is asked of him to make things work and Glen and Jean Reely. It don't get any better than this.

During the Conventions this summer a big thanks to Rudy

Zerner, Bill Price (SAL), and Paul Miller (SAL) for their daily volunteer work.

The unsung hero for my first few months as Commander is Charlie Rummel. He has the Boy Scout program looking good, he is working on new members daily, sells tickets, works bingo and is an all around outstanding legionnaire. As I travel around the Shore and State as the County Commander "there's Charlie". Thanks Charlie.

Do not forget to ask our elected official why Worcester County Clubs do not have SLOT MACHINES like the other Counties on the Shore. Half of what is taken in is given to charities. This will help the American Legion support many programs that are limited now. Sarge Garlitz, Commander

FIRST SGTS BRIEFING

I must say that our year in office started out with a bang as the bookkeeper quit just before convention. Needless to say your's truly was kept quite busy doing the bookkeepers job as well as trying to learn the Adjutants job and functioning as the House Committee Chairman. Now that we have hired Nancy Miller to fill the bookkeepers position, I can

just drop back to doing the Adjutants and House Committee Chairman's job.

I am helped quite a bit by our Steward Ken Gray in the house Committee spot, he takes up a lot of work that one of the committee would have to contend with. He can be credited with helping the Post become the friendliest place in town and his idea of serving food during the week in the summer really

brought in the out-of-towners (also some of us in -towners). Look for daily food and drink specials and the steamed shrimp on Fridays. Our Hall rentals are up and are making money for the Post. If you know of any Weddings being planned, mention our beautiful renovated hall as being perfect for the reception. .

Attend the meetings, see what's going on and VOLUNTEER to help. Bill Wolf, Adjutant

Heroes to Hometowns

"Heroes to Hometowns" is a transition program for severely injured service members returning home from OEF/OIF. The "Heroes to Hometowns" establishes a support network and coordinates resources for severely injured service members returning home.

Heroes to Hometowns can provide:

- A Welcome Home celebration
- Temporary Financial Assistance
- Pro-Bono Financial Planning
- Housing Assistance
- Home and Vehicle Adaptation
- Government Claims Assistance
- Transportation to hospital visits
- Entertainment options
- Childcare
- Counseling
- Family Support

Heroes to Hometowns is designed to welcome home Service Members who, because of injuries sustained, can no longer serve in the military.

The American public's strong support for our troops is especially evident in their willingness to help Service members who are severely injured in the war, and their ever-supportive families, as they transition from the hospital environment and return to civilian life. Heroes to Hometowns is a program that focuses on reintegration back home, with networks established at the national and state levels to better identify the extraordinary needs of returning families before they return home and to work with local communities to

coordinate government and non-government resources necessary for long term success.

State Heroes to Hometowns Committees are the link among the military Services and Veteran's Affairs case workers at the military and VA hospitals, the severely injured member, their families, and their local community. Support has included:

- help with paying the bills
- finding suitable homes and adapting as needed
- adapting vehicles
- transportation to medical appointments
- finding jobs and providing educational assistance
- child care support
- arranging welcome home celebrations
- help working through bureaucracy and obtaining government benefits and entitlements
- sports and recreation opportunities
- holiday dinners

The American Legion, Department of Maryland has started a HEROES to HOMETOWN PROGRAM. This program provides assistance to the families of the Wounded Troops during their stay at area medical facilities. Synepuxent Post 166 has contributed \$592.00 so far this year to the program and is looking for some members that would like to start a "Hero Transition Team". Please notify the Adjutant if interested. For more information go to <http://www.legion.org> and "click on" Heroes to Hometowns under the "Veterans" menu.



Dear Sarge,

As Commander, I'm sure that you are aware of the lovely basket of flowers that the Color Guard sent in honor of Esther's passing. My family and I are indeed grateful for this expression of love and compassion.

Fondly,

Elmer Muth

Stephen Decatur NJROTC News

The Stephen Decatur NJROTC Air Rifle Team of Matthew Bertino, Travis Bush, Elizabeth Rodden and Jacob Terlizzi along with alternate member John Valentine, traveled to Bowling Green, KY in early July to compete in the Daisy Invitational Air Rifle Championship and the USA Shooting/Jr Olympics Air Rifle Championships.

The Daisy Championship is open to any team and the Decatur team used that competition to "tune up" for the USA shooting match. Stephen Decatur NJROTC won the right to compete in the Jr. Olympics match by winning the state championship earlier in the spring. State championship rifle teams from all over the United States traveled to compete against each other. The best junior air rifle shooters in the country were in Bowling Green! Over 130 shooters and 17 teams participated in this competition.



Liz Rodden (122), Travis Bush, John Valentine, Jake Terlizzi, Matt Bertino

The air rifle competition is contested over 2 days. There is both a team competition with the scores for all four team members added together and an individual competition. Each day the shooters fire 60 shots at three different targets. The shooters shoot at two targets in the prone position, two in kneeling and two in the standing position. After the 2nd day, scores are added up and the team competition is complete. Stephen Decatur NJROTC team placed 5th in the sporter division. The individual competition is a little different. There is one additional step to determine the individual winner. The individual scores from both days are added up and the highest eight shooters compete against each other in a 10 shot finals competition to determine the ranking of those top eight. When all the shots were fired and scores added up, Stephen Decatur's Matthew Bertino emerged in 5th place, and Jacob Terlizzi placed 33rd! Over 130 shooters and 17 teams participated. in this

competition.



2007 Jr Olympics - Travis Bush, CDR Chris Deming, Liz Rodden, Jake Terlizzi, Matt Bertino

As a result of Matthew Bertino's 5th place finish at this national competition, he completed qualifying for the Junior Air Rifle Distinguished Shooter Badge. He is only the 3rd junior shooter in Maryland and the 1st from Stephen Decatur to earn this high shooting honor.

"First established in 1881, the Distinguished Rifleman and Distinguished Pistol shot badge is often the highest honor awarded to many rifle and pistol shooters. In 1963 the program was expanded to include the International Distinguished badge, arguably the toughest distinguished badge to earn, and again in **2001 the Junior Distinguished badge was added.** The CMP (civilian marksmanship program) is proud to recognize all the shooters who have earn this distinction." In August, the air rifle team was back on the road, traveling this time to Ft. Benning, GA to attend the Army Junior Air Rifle Championships. The team this trip consisted of Matthew Bertino, Travis Bush, Jacob Terlizzi, and first year shooters Dean Bush and Garrett Allbritton. The Stephen Decatur NJROTC team qualified for this championship by winning the State postal qualify-ing match earlier in the year.

This competition was similar to the Jr. Olympics in that it is held over two days. The only difference is that the top eight shooters shoot a 10 shot final EACH day and the total for both days are added up to find out the winners. Again, when all the shots were fired and scores added up, Stephen Decatur's Matthew Bertino emerged with a bronze medal in 3rd place!! Jacob Terlizzi shot an excellent competition and placed 10th! (Editors Note: Synepuxent Post 166 supports the NJROTC program at Stephen Decatur along with Boggs-Disharoon Post 123 in Berlin)

NICK DROCELLA WINS SCHOLARSHIP



Nick Drocella

Nicklaus "Nick" Drocella won this year, The Al Harmon Memorial Scholarship Award. This scholarship is given each year by Synepuxent Post

Valuable Defense Player, Outstanding Midfielder, All Bayside Conference team, and received the Coaches Award.

At Stephen Decatur he was a Honor Roll student, a member of Minds in Motion and the WeExel programs. Nick was also a volunteer in the OC area. His volunteer work included working with the following: The OC Elks, Maryland Shore Classic Soccer tournament, the OC Recreation Department, Winter fest of Lights, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Light the Night Event. He also spent time working with the St. Patrick's Day Parade along with the Berlin and Ocean Christmas Parades.

Coastal Carolina University in Conway, South Carolina was his college of choice. He is attending there and his major is Marine Science. Post #166 wishes Nick, a member of the Squadron # 166 Sons of the American Legion, the best.

#166 American Legion in memorial to Al Harmon. Mr. Harmon joined the OCFD in 1939 and was active for 43 years. He was the Ocean City Fireman who set the standards that has made our volunteer fireman "the best in the land".

Nick is the son of Steve and Tracy Drocella of Bishopville and graduated this past spring from Stephen Decatur High School. While at Stephen Decatur he played Lacrosse for 2 years and Soccer for 4 years. He was Captain of the Seahawks soccer team, the Most Valuable Player, Most

Color Guard Report

Under the leadership of Captain Elmer G. Muth, the Color Guard has expanded its ranks by adding a new transfer member to our Honor Guard, bringing our membership total to 15 dedicated members. Please welcome Earl Hewitt to our Post and to our Color Guard.

The Color Guard Presented and retired COLORS at a special program held at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial on September 18, 2007. The program was organized and sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution- (DAR) Coordinated by Kathy Muncie. The program was held during Constitution Week and 50 elementary students participated in a program to commemorate the feature our Constitution. The following members of the American Legion Color Guard participated in this program The Color Guard also held a practice session on Wednesday, September 12, in preparation for this special and significant program.

Elmer G. Muth Al Ferguson
Eric Nilsson Warren Disbrow

Vic Beard John Sauer
Bo Spicer Nate Pearson

FUNERAL SERVICES:

ROBERT YOUNG

The Honor Guard provided a Veterans Funeral Service at St .Peter's Lutheran Church .

RAY MCLAUGHLIN:

The Honor Guard provided a Veterans Funeral service at Holy Savior Catholic Church on Saturday, September 15, 2007.

POST EVERLASTING:

We offer our condolences and sympathy to the families of our recently deceased members of Post 166 - American Legion. Continue to keep the families of these deceased Veterans in your prayers

Robert Young...Ray McLaughlin....Chet Yates
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**Legion Officers of Post 166,
2007-2008**

Commander.....Sarge Garlitz
1st Vice CmdrBo Spicer
2nd Vice Cmdr.....Carrie DuPue
3rd Vice Cmdr.....Frank Hoover
Adjutant.....Bill Wolf
Historian.....Eric Nilsson
Chaplain.....Vacant
Judge Advocate.....John Hyle
Finance Officer.....Terry Daly
Service Officer.....Jim McGrath
Sgt-at-Arms.....Paul Taylor
Executive Committee:
Frank Holloway, Bruce McIntire, Martin
Price, Charles Rummel, Rudy Zerner

Notice

Due to the Vacancy in the Chaplains office, there will be a special election at the first regularly convened meeting in October. At that time nominations will be requested from the floor and the election will proceed. Currently there is one nominee for the position; Warren Disbrow who has been appointed Acting Chaplain until after the election. Please consider running for the office. Bill Wolf, Adjutant

ITEMS FOR THE TROOPS

There will be a box at the Post for personal items for our troops, These will be sent in the Christmas packages. Needed items: socks,

razors, sun glasses, chap stick, soap, deodorant, phone cards, sealed food items and what other items you feel the troops would welcome.

**APPLE/PUMPKIN FESTIVAL
NOV 17TH**

Post #166 will hold an Apple/Pumpkin Festival on Nov 17th starting at 1100hrs till 1700hrs. It will also be an inside flea market with treasures that were found in our attic. To make the flea market a huge one, tables will be available for rental for \$15.00 each.

Craft tables will be set up to include: a Christmas table, a Patriotic table, apple/pumpkin motif items, baked goods, fall flowers (mums & poinsettias), pumpkins and apples. Raffles and several types of auctions will be held.

The kitchen will be open and the high light will be Steve Drocella and Rosie Garlitz' oyster fritters. Side items such as soups, sandwiches and apple/pumpkin desserts will be available.

Carrie Dupue and Rosie Garlitz will co-chair this fund raiser which is to benefit the Al Harmon/Post #166 Memorial Scholarship fund. Mr. Harmon spent 43 years with the Ocean City Fire Department. His planning and his training ideas were to make the OCFD the 'BEST OF THE BEST', it has happened. A steering committee of Ed & Delores Price, Jim & Paula McGrath, Steve Drocella (SAL) and Paul Miller (SAL).

Anyone wanting to bake or donate apple and pumpkin desserts should sign up on the donation list that will be posted on the board.

Stewards Report Summer 2007

The American Legion Post #166 had a very successful summer. With the Kitchen being open, we have brought in some needed business. This Fall the Post will be open on Sundays for Football season So please stop in and watch your team. We will have beer and food specials. For the fall and winter months the Post will have lunch specials Monday though

Friday. Soup, sandwich, or something special. But you will have to come in to see what our special is. Also on Friday we will start our Happy Hour Shrimp.



FAVORABLE

The Post has received many notes, calls and emails from out of the area visitors who have spent some quality time with us this summer. During the convention many positive statements were received from convention attendees. The following are some of the visitors who made a response:
Jim Regan, Toms River, NJ
Art Koshak, Parks Falls, WI

William James, Ft Washington, PA
Vic Ryan, Cumberland, MD
Walt Porter, Cumberland
Sonny Frank, Upper Marlboro, Md
Robert Patterson, Saddle Brook, NJ
George Harvey, Dearborn, MI
Paul PK Keller, Essex., MD
Kim Heinle, Tuckerton, NJ
Andy Jackson, Tuckerton, NJ

GUEST SPEAKER PROGRAM

Elmer Muth and Nate Pearson , Co-chairmen for the American Legion Guest speaker program are pleased to announce the Speakers scheduled for October , November and December. Make it a special point to mark your calendars to attend these interesting meetings.

October 22, 2007..... "THE WORCESTER COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL At Ocean Pines" .

Description ; cost to operate – financial needs – number of brick Paver memorials. Utilization data. Speakers: Roseann Bridgman & Sharyn O'Hare.

November 26,2007... "OCEAN CITY LIFE SAVING MUSEUM"

The history of Life Saving in along the East Coast. Speaker : Mr. Robert Stevens ,

December 10, 2007. "THE WORCESTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT"

The mission of the department. Personnel level and duties. The cost of operations. Crime in Worcester County . Speaker: Mr. Charles Martin , Sheriff , Worcester County

Service Officer Update

Upon request, DOD will provide military funeral honors consisting of folding and presentation of the United States flag and the playing of "Taps". A funeral honors detail consists of two or more uniformed members of the armed forces, with at least one member from the deceased's branch of service.

Family members should inform their funeral directors if they wan military funeral honors. DOD maintains a toll-free number(1-877-MIL-HONR) for use by funeral directors only to request honors. VA can help arrange honors for burials at VA national cemeteries. Veterans' service organizations or volunteer groups may help provide honors. For more information, visit

<http://www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil/> or contact me 410-289-4316.

Semper Fi,

Jim McGrath

Post #166 Service Officer

American Legion—Synepuxent Post 166 Quarterly Calendar—Fall 2007

OCTOBER

Every Thursday, Bingo at the Post
7:00 PM Doors open 5:30 PM

1st—7:00 PM EXCOMM Meeting
8th—7:00 PM Membership Meeting
22nd—7:00 PM Membership Meeting



NOVEMBER

Every Thursday, Bingo at the Post
7:00 PM Doors open 5:30 PM

4th—10:00 AM Clean the attic out
5th—7:00 PM EXCOMM Meeting
11th—11:00 AM Veterans Day program
12th—7:00 PM Membership Meeting
17th—11:00 AM to 5:00 PM the Apple/
Pumpkin Festival and Flea Market to
benefit the AL Harman memorial Schol-
arship Fund
25th—10:00 AM Decorate the Hall for
Christmas
26—7:00 PM Membership Meeting

DECEMBER

Every Thursday, Bingo at the Post
7:00 PM Doors open 5:30 PM

2nd—1:00 PM to 5:00 PM Trim—A—
Tree Party
3rd—7:00 PM EXCOMM
9th—1:00 PM SESD Christmas Party
at Sharptown-Columbia Post #269
10th—7:00 PM Membership Meeting
24th—1:00 PM to 5:00 PM Christmas
Eve Social (no membership meeting)
January 1, 2008 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Bring your leftover New Years Eve
snacks get together.

