



Synepuxent Observer SUMMER 2025

Commander's Message



James R. Best (JR)
Commander

Fellow Legionnaires and members of our Legion Family. As we usher in what promises to be another great Summer at Post 166, we look even further ahead to another happy and prosperous year for our Post. As I leave my position as your commander, I want to take a minute to thank everyone who helped me along the way. Our team at Post 166 is truly second to none. It takes a lot

of dedicated volunteers and employees to continue to make our Legion "The Friendliest place in Ocean City."

It is also a place where we continue to make improvements to make your visit pleasant. The latest of these are our new arcade game machines. Our house committee did an awesome job updating these gaming consoles for your entertainment. And while I'm mentioning games, remember Queen of Hearts Sunday.,

If you have the opportunity drop by on Sunday and take part in the Queen of Hearts drawing. It's lively and a ball of fun, and a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and reconnect with old. Who knows, as DJ Mikey says, you may just win some money.

In late June, we held our annual elections. Congratulations to our new officers and directors. I am certain they will do a great job in 2025/2026 supporting our members, our community, and veterans. I would be remiss if I didn't take the time to thank the members who served on the executive committee with me, and also on the house committee. They did a great job improving the post and helping to move us forward. I appreciated the support from

each and every one of them, and while I am hesitant to mention anyone by name, I believe it is important to recognize Tommy O and his house committee team. They have worked tirelessly maintaining our home. Thank you very much, gentlemen.

Additionally, I want to Thank Ed Pinto for getting this newsletter out every quarter. If you are like me, it is the most important publication in my mailbox and in my email box. Thank You Ed. Finally, I would like to again thank our volunteers and employees. I am amazed at the lengths to which they go in support of our members and veterans. You have my unending gratitude.

I also want to personally thank our Color Guard and their leader Mike Higdon. Always available and always professional could be their motto. Our Color Guard is outstanding in representing our Post, no matter the size of the event or the weather. Please thank them when you see them.

Finally, as I finish my year as commander of the best Post in Maryland and the United States, I want to remind everyone, that we are here for you. If you are in need or you know another veteran who may be in need, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are here for you.

Thank you for your support, friendship and comradery.

For God and Country,

James R. Best (JR), Commander





AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

From the Editor



Ed Pinto Editor

There's at least one thing more that is inevitable like death and taxes. And that is change. Change is coming to the newsletter, as this is my final issue as editor. I am moving on after five wonderful years of chronicling the Post's activities.

It has been my pleasure to have been of service to all the member of the Post and the Auxiliary. It has been my pleasure to have worked with so many of you who have contributed to the success of this publication. I am just one person and there is no way that I, as one person, could have captured all the stories and photographs that were published in our quarterly newsletter.

The success of the publication must go to those of you who made sure you contributed so your fellow Legion Family members would know and appreciate what your particular Legion Family contributed in service to members and the community.

There soon will be an announcement of a new editor. I know that whoever that will be will have your continued support to make our newsletter the outstanding publication that it is.

Thank you for being so helpful to me all these years.

Ed Pinto

Here's a Final Tip From The Outgoing Editor

Take care of your bartenders. Take care of your kitchen staff.

I'm sure you have noticed on busy days at the bar or in the kitchen how the staff seems to pick up its game the busier it gets. It would be easier on them to just simply slow down the crazier it gets, but that would mean waiting longer for your drinks and food.

They just don't do that, slow down. Instead they do their best to serve you promptly and so here's my little reminder.

Tipping is your way to say thanks for that extra effort that seems always to be there. So please, remember to tip both the bartenders and kitchen staff.

Ed Pinto, Editor

SCHOLARSHIPS



The American Legion Post #166 Scholarship Committee is proud to announce it has awarded 16 college scholarships exceeding \$17,000 for Spring of 2025/Fall of 2026. The scholarship applications were evaluated by three highly qualified volunteer Post#166 members who reviewed each one.

Along with a transcript of their grade point averages, applicants had to submit an essay outlining their major goals in pursuit of their degree at their university or college. Completion of community service while in school or at home also was taken into consideration.



Post 166 Color Guard Color presented the colors on Saturday, June 21, for the opening ceremonies of the Worcester County Relay for Life event in Snow Hill.



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

From the Post Resource Officer



Tom Ottenwaelder Resource Officer

Greetings, sunshine enthusiasts and heatwave heroes!

We welcomed the much-needed spring rains, but now I want my beach, boat and outside bars that make living in Ocean City so special. As we dive headfirst into the season of sunscreen and sandals, it's time to dust off those flip-flops, fire up the grill, and embrace the inevitable battle with the ice cream truck jingle.

The spring rain may have stopped us from hitting the beach, boat and tiki bars, but it hasn't slowed down your Post 166 Resource Officer Team one bit. Here are two new initiatives we started for the Spring and Summer of 2025:

- Scott Woodson has partnered with Diakonia to help local veterans facing housing instability move from their shelter into permanent housing. This moving includes items like furniture from the Diakonia thrift store, boxes of donated household goods, and boxes of food, all to help get the veteran get back on track. You can volunteer by watching our announcements or email Scott at alpost166.pso@gmail.com.
• We worked with the Associates of the Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) to provide laptops and one-on-one computer instruction to local veterans. The next series of computer classes will be in September. The AVVA is a great organization that is worth looking into anyone who wants to support our Vietnam-era veterans. Contact Marie Gillmore at opmarie@aol.com.

Don't forget about the regular work we do to support local veterans on a regular basis. Here are some of the things we are constantly working on:

- Providing free refurbished laptops for local veterans to use for VA claims, VA medical access and connect with loved ones.
• Assist veterans and their family members access VA benefits and entitlements.
• Assist local veterans with light housework and maintenance and respite care.

I mention all this not to be brag or boast about how awesome our Post Resource Officer Team is, but hey...we're pretty cool. My real intent is to solicit like-minded volunteer to help further our cause. Scott and I have been taking on increased responsibilities at the Post and could use someone to help carry this worthy mission forward. Please keep an eye out for volunteer solicitations online and send us an email at alpost166.pso@gmail.com if you're a Legionnaire who is interested in supporting our local veterans as the Post Resource Officer.

One final note as I wrap up two years as the Post Resource Officer I believe Synepuxent Post 166 is a community dedicated to ideas of Americanism, supporting veterans and their families, and maintaining a safe comfortable place for us to gather. So please get involved. Please volunteer. And if you can't, then please donate to support our facility and mission.

Now, back to summer. Whether you're plotting your escape to the nearest beach (OC or Assateague) or perfecting your "grilling masterpiece" (read: slightly charred burgers), summer is here to test our ability to simultaneously sweat and smile. We look forward to seeing you at the Post. Stay cool!

With gratitude and a grin,

Tom Ottenwaelder,

Post Resource Officer

New Slate of Post Officers Elected

Dave Carey has been elected Commander of Post 166 for the year 2025-2026. Carey headed a slate of new officers elected at the June 23 membership meeting. He and the other officers were sworn in immediately following the meeting. Also elected were:

Bob Thompson, First Vice Commander; Bob Paul, Second Vice Commander; Bruce Capecci, Adjutant; Tom Ottenwaelder, Judge Advocate; George Barstis, Finance Officer; and Bob Gilmore, Sgt.-at-Arms.

Executive Committee members elected were: Joe Kundrat, Paul Sichau, Tom Wengert, and Scott Woodson.



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Post 166 Helps Kick Off the OC Air Show

What's an Air Show in Ocean City without Post 166 taking its usual major role in kicking off the Performers Party the Friday before? Led again this year by Robert Smith who organized our role in the festivities, and anchored by our Color Guard and our Riders, the party was another stand-out entertainment for hundreds of patrons who filled the Ocean Downs Casino infield. If you were there you know what it looked like. If you were not able to make it, here's what you missed.



Joint Color Guard of Posts 67, 123, 166, and 231 getting ready to present the colors



Robert Smith greets the party goers



Presenting the Colors led by the Ocean City Pipes & Drums



Left to right, Brittany Nielsen, Robert Smith, Rob Lowe, and Pot 166 Ben Dawson who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Brittany and Rob, announcers for the Air Show, were emcees for the party.



Audience reciting the Pledge



Our Riders have arrived with the flags of all branches of our services.



Tom Falcone of the West Point Golden Knights lands at the Casino trailing an American Flag. Flags carried by the Golden Knights parachute team were presented to veterans selected for the honor



Robert Smith receives an American Flag from Golden Knight Anthony Rucker meant for Joan Mealy, wife of WW II veteran Col. John Mealy. John Mealy was unable to attend



Veteran Airman First Class John Kulp of Pokomoke City Post 93, receives one of the flags from Smith



Navy Blue Angels, featured performers in this year's air show, are introduced by their Commanding Officer, Cdr. Adam Bryan





AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

New Games at the Post

If you haven't been at the Post recently you're in for a surprise. The Post House Committee has upgraded all of the amusement equipment.

There's a new jukebox that connects to the Internet, so patrons can play whatever songs they want to hear on our sound system.

The broken dartboard has been replaced with a "Cactus Canyon" pinball machine. It's fun to play until you get three balls dropped, then it gets CRAZY fun,

You will also find a new billiard table playable for \$1 per game, six games for \$5, and \$7 for an hour of play.

Finally, one of the most popular golf games of all time has come to Post 166. Golden Tee is here so get ready to tee-off for some great fun.



Cactus Canyon



Golden Tee



POST EVERLASTING

- Frederick H. Bohn
- Stanley Cvajka
- Jere J. Haggerty
- Michael W. Keane
- Paul Neal
- William F. Russell
- Joseph F. Pasipanke Jr.
- Robert Semple
- John Snider
- James A. Taylor
- James E. Trummel
- Charles Waesche

POST OFFICERS

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Commander | Dave Carey |
| First Vice Commander | Bob Thomson |
| Second Vice | Bob Paul |
| Adjutant | Bruce Capecci |
| Judge Advocate | Tom Ottenwaelder |
| Finance Officer | George Barstis |
| Sgt-at-Arms | Bob Gilmore |
| Chaplain | TBD |
| Historian | TBD |
| Information Officer | TBD |



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Joe Kundrat • Paul Sichau • Tom Wengert
Scott Woodson



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

- Porter Alexander Army
- Elisabete Brandao Army
- Jonathon Cadwell Marine Corps
- Mark Chandler Army
- Matthew Cissel Navy
- Joseph Ascanis Army
- Craig Dolan Army
- Francis Filippelli Navy
- Keith Fumagalli Air Force
- Wayne Grossman Army
- Ryan Hadaway Navy
- Sabrina Hecht Marine Corps
- Dr Eric Homa Navy
- Robert Hudson Army
- Edward Kirner Navy
- Cody Landreth Coast Guard
- Hugh Larkin Army
- Robert Marceron Navy
- Robert Miles Coast Guard
- Raymond Miller Navy
- John Mingora Navy
- Basil Moncrief Navy
- James Neary Air Force
- Michelle Ortiz Marine Corps
- Frank Roessner Navy
- Gregory Russell Army
- Leith Speiden Navy
- Randy Swanger Navy
- Charles Waesche Army
- Ronald Wildgust Army
- Brandon Wilson Air Force



TRANSFERS

- Margie Behan Navy
- David Behler Navy
- Louis Capasso Navy
- John Carver Navy
- Michael Davis Air Force
- Ernest Deustachio Navy
- James Fletcher Army
- Gene Gibson Army
- Rick Haskett Marine Corps
- Victor Kareiva Army
- Lawrence Kruse Army
- Jim Mulligan Army
- George Myers Navy
- Charles Waesche Army

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Community Players of Salisbury presents

World War II
Heroes of the Eastern Shore



- Community Players' Theater, 5109 Nutters Cross Rd, Salisbury, May 16, 7:30 PM
- American Legion, 30880 West Post Office Rd, Princess Anne, May 17, 2 PM
- American Legion, 29511 Canvasback Dr, Easton, May 18, 2 PM
- American Legion, 2308 Philadelphia Ave, Ocean City, May 24, 2 PM
- American Legion, 1109 American Legion Rd, Salisbury, May 25, 2 PM
- VFW, 115 Sandy Hill Rd, Cambridge, May 26, 2 PM

Admission is free. Donations are accepted.
Seating is limited. For reservations call 443-235-3272.
The show is sponsored by Beach to Bay Heritage Area.

WW II Heroes of the Eastern Shore

Post 166 was treated to a special performance by the Salisbury Players Community Theatre in May. The cast regaled the audience, singing the popular songs of the early 1940s, reciting from letters and poems written by servicemen and women fighting overseas, with photographs of many of the men and women who saved the world from Nazi aggression. It was a free presentation of a kind not seen before in the Post.

Want to Look Smart in a Uniform Again?



Mike Higdon, Color Guard Captain

Join the Post Color Guard

Contact
Mike Higdon, Captain

mwhigdon@comcast.net

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



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



Donations

The Post 166 Family donated more than \$70,000 to veteran and community charity and civic groups in the three months ending in May 2025. Here is the list of who received the contributions:

POST 166	
4 Steps Therapeutic Riding Academy	\$2,000
American Legion Baseball	\$ 724
Believe in Tomorrow	\$1,000
Charlotte Hall	\$1,000
Christian Shelter Fund	\$1,000
DAV Salisbury	\$1,000
DE Boys & Girls Club of Rehobeth	\$3,000
Dove Pointe	\$1,000
Eagle Chapter, Air Force Security Assn.	\$2,000
Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery	\$1,000
Gold Star Worcester Co. Garden Club	\$1,000
Habit for Humanity	\$2,000
Jack Burbage Reg. Cancer Care Ctr.	\$1,000
Joan Jenkins Foundation	\$2,000
Life Crisis Center	\$2,500
National MS Society	\$ 500
National High School Printing	\$ 721
Ocean City Museum Society	\$3,000
Ocean City Recreation and Parks	\$1,000
Perry Point VA Medical Center	\$1,000
Ravens Roost	\$ 800
St. Paul By Sea Church	\$1,000
Tunnel to Towers Foundation	\$5,000
Worcester Co. Dept. of Rec. & Parks	\$1,000
Worcester Co. Child Advocacy Ctr.	\$2,000
Worcester Co. Developmental Ctr.	\$5,200
Worcester County G.O.L.D.	\$2,000
Worcester County Veterans Memorial	\$6,000
Wor. Co. Youth & Family Counseling	\$2,000
Wor-Wic Comm. College Foundation	\$1,000

AUXILIARY	
MS Society	\$ 500
Leatherneck Golf	\$1,000
McVets	\$ 500
RIDERS \$2,750	
American Legion Aux 166	\$1,000
Delaware Chapter B	\$ 500
FOP Lodge 16	\$ 500
National MS Society	\$ 500
Worcester County Veterans Memorial	\$ 250
SAL	
American Legion Auxiliary	\$ 500
Assateague Coastal Times	\$ 500
Believe in Tomorrow	\$1,000
Cultivation Club	\$ 750
Eastern Shore Region	\$ 100
FOP Lodge 16	\$ 500
Knights of Columbus	\$ 150
National MS Society	\$ 500
Post 166 Leathernecks	\$ 750
WCVMF/Flags for Heros	\$ 500
LEATHERNECKS	
American Legion Auxiliary	\$ 500
Gines Comfort Fund	\$ 350
Maj, Nathaniel Mitchell DAR	\$ 500
MS Society	\$ 500
NMS Society	\$ 500
Town of Ocean City	\$ 350

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!



AUXILIARY NEWS



Emily Nock
President

Auxiliary Leadership Passes to Marie Gilmore

As my term as your Auxiliary President comes to a close, I'm filled with immense gratitude and pride for all we've accomplished together. It's been an honor to serve alongside such a dedicated and passionate group of individuals.

When I look back at the past year, I'm truly amazed by our collective efforts. We raised thousands of dollars for veteran and local charities, making a tangible difference in the lives of many. From our tireless fundraising events to our generous donations, every contribution played a vital role. What's more, our unit has grown exponentially, becoming the largest in Maryland. This incredible growth is a testament to our welcoming spirit and the impactful work we do. Thank you for your unwavering support, your countless hours of volunteering, and your commitment to our mission.

I want to extend my warmest wishes to Marie and the incoming board. I have full confidence in their leadership and know they will continue to build upon our successes. I'm so excited to see the new initiatives they'll bring and the continued positive impact we'll have on our community.

While I may be stepping down as president, I'll still be very much involved, especially with fundraising efforts. You can count on me to be there, ready to roll up my sleeves and help us raise even more for our deserving causes.

Speaking of fundraising, get ready for something truly spectacular! Operation Glamouflage, a womanless beauty pageant, will be taking place on October 17. It's going to be an event you won't want to miss, filled with laughter, glamour (of a sort!), unforgettable entertainment, and, most importantly, opportunities to support our post and our veterans. We will be looking for both contestants and silent auction/raffle donations. Please reach out to me if you would like to be involved.

Book club will also continue throughout the summer, offering a wonderful chance to connect, share stories, and dive into great reads. I encourage everyone to join us. Even if you haven't read the book. This is always a fun time!

Thank you all again for an unforgettable year. It's been a privilege to lead such an extraordinary group, and I look forward to continuing to serve our community alongside you.

In the Spirit of Service and not Self

I hope to see you all up the post!

Emily F. Nock, President, Unit 166

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American Legion Auxiliary Unit 166 delivered home supplies for veterans being placed in housing by Diakonia. Stephanie Hellman, center, who works with the Diakonia veteran housing program, received the items with two of her staff members



Marie Gilmore, Incoming president of the Post 166 Auxiliary, was awarded with the Daughters of the American Revolution Medal of Honor at the May Auxiliary meeting. The award was in recognition of her dedication and volunteer work with veterans and the community. Marie also serves as President of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial and the Post 166 Chapter of the Associates of the Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA).



Coast Guard BM 1 Michael Rivero with a bouquet of flowers for his wife, presented by the Auxiliary on May 9, Military Spouse Appreciation day. The Auxiliary showed its appreciation to military spouses and their families by delivering cards and bouquets to Coast Guard station Ocean City

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



AUXILIARY JUNIORS



Jessie Parsons
Junior Advisor

Two Post 166 Auxiliary Juniors Honored by Department of Maryland.

Spring brought a lot of activity for our Juniors program but the biggest news that we have to share is that our very own Alyssa Frantz and Alexis Frantz were chosen to be the Juniors of the Year for the Department of Maryland Auxiliary meeting.

Their strong participation in our program, along with their other community and scholastic achievements, made them stand out to be chosen for this award. They will be presented with their awards at the Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City in July.

We had Six poppy poster entries from our Juniors to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maryland Poppy Poster contest, and two of our Junior members, Mia Hume and McKenna Birckhead-Thompson, placed second in their respective categories.

Our Juniors honored military children by setting a Military Child's Table at Post 166 in April and having a Military Child's Ceremony. Juniors also made "Welcome to Your New Home" cards to be given to veterans who are being moved into homes through the efforts of the local Diakonia program.

On May 8, Sharon Hilty, Rosie Garlitz and I, took Alyssa, Alexis, Jace, and Jayden Frantz to our Department of Maryland office in Baltimore for an event to

meet with the National American Legion Auxiliary President, Trish Ward. Nicole Birckhead-Thompson and McKenna Thompson met us there. Ms. Ward led an activity with the Juniors where they rolled and packaged pajamas for children for the Casey Cares program. Our Juniors received National President pins.

On Memorial Day, Brooklynn Paul, our Unit 166 Junior President, lead the pledge of allegiance for the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Day Ceremony.

We continue to be proud of the participation of the Juniors in our program. It has been my honor to watch them participate and grow in their confidence and service.

If you know of any female under 18 who is either the sister, daughter, or granddaughter of an active-duty soldier or a veteran, please consider having them check out our program. This program offers opportunities to make new friends, help our community and military members, and learn leadership skills. I am hoping to get the word out and have some new junior members join. Members are encouraged to bring friends to participate in our activities even if they cannot be official members.

Please contact me by email or phone at jessie_wolfe@hotmail.com or 443-235-4930 so I can tell you all about this great program.

Jessie Wolfe-Parsons,
Junior Advisor In Service,
Synepuxent Unit 166



Brooklynn Paul leading the pledge at the Veterans Memorial for the Memorial Day ceremony



Alexis Frantz, Jayden Frantz, Brooklynn Paul, Alyssa Frantz, Jace Frantz, and Mia Hume setting the Military Child's Table



Jessie Parsons, Department of Maryland AIA President Connie Johnson, Jace Frantz, McKenna Birckhead Thompson, Rosie Garlitz, Sharon Hilty, Alyssa Frantz, Alexis Frantz, Nicole Birckhead Thompson, Jayden Frantz, and Trish Ward, National ALA President at the May 8 event in Baltimore

McKenna Birckhead-Thompson's second place Poppy Poster



Mia Hume's second place Poppy Poster



SAL NEWS



Joe Verdura
SAL Commander

The past three months have been busy for our squadron. This column gives me a chance to bring you up to date on the support we provided the community during that period, starting with our monetary contributions. We donated to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Flags for Heros, the Assateague Coastal Trust, Ocean Pines Veterans Memorial 20th Anniversary, and community youth basketball.

In May we held our election of officers and your new leaders are: Bob Williams, Commander; Bob Krizansky, First Vice Commander; Matthew Lailk, Second Vice Commander; Carroll DelGavio, Adjutant; Ray Kudobeck, Finance Officer; Dale Christiansen, Chaplain; and George Pickeral, sergeant-at-arms. The Historian position remains open at this time if anyone is interested in taking the office.

We are halfway through the 2025 membership year. Just a reminder, by now everyone should have their 2025 membership card to get in the Post. If you have not paid your 2025 membership dues, your membership has expired, so please renew immediately.

Beginning July 1 we began renewals for the 2026 membership year. If you want to be an "Early Bird," send in your dues in the amount of \$35. Checks should be made payable to SAL Squadron #166. You can either drop your check off at the Post or mail it to SAL Squadron #166. P.O. Box 63, Ocean City, MD 21843. Even if you have not taken part in any of the SAL activities, your enrollment and payment of dues has contributed to the accomplishments of the Squadron.

Our membership continues to grow with new members joining and others transferring to Post 166. We are the largest SAL squadron in the state of Maryland. We encourage all SAL members to attend the meetings, but remember we do not meet in July and August. We will resume our meetings starting in September. Sons of the Legion meetings are held on the second Monday of the month. Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Drink specials are offered and a light fare is provided before the meeting. We hope to see you there.

As you all know by now, the Post is requiring membership cards be shown for admission. We are always looking for volunteers to help with monitor-

ing the door. If you can help out and work any of the door shifts, please sign up at the Post.

We are still getting returned envelopes and email addresses that fail to be delivered. Please let us know when your address, phone number or email changes. If you are unsure of what we currently have on file, or you are not receiving emails from the Post, send your information to SALpost166@outlook.com and we will make sure records are updated. If you do not want to renew your membership, call Tina at (301) 643-9447 or email her at SALpost166@outlook.com and let her know. She will take your name off the SAL mailing list.

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you at the Post.

God Bless America.

Submitted by *Ray Kudobeck*,
Finance Officer



FOLLOWING THE AIRSHOW
AT 10:00 WE WILL
CELEBRATE THE SERVICE
WITH A BIRTHDAY CAKE
AND A SPECIAL TOAST
TO THE SERVICE
HERE AT POST 166



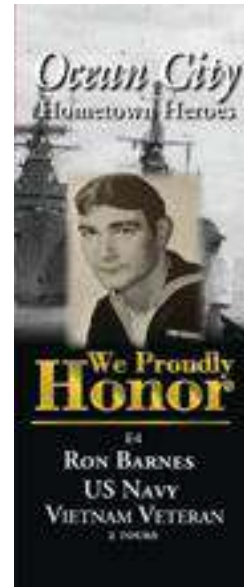
Post Celebrates 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Army

On June 14 Post 166 celebrated the 250th birthday of the U.S. Army with a special birthday cake and toast. Later this year two more service birthdays will be observed. The U.S. Navy and our Marine Corps will reach this significant milestone on October 13 and November 10.

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Synepuxent Post 166, Summer 2025

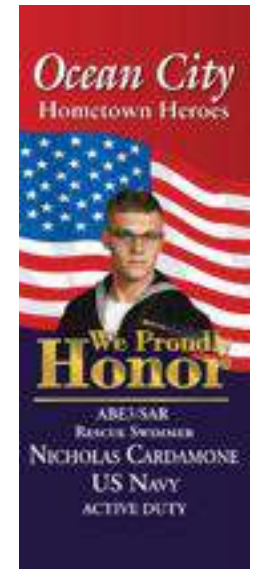
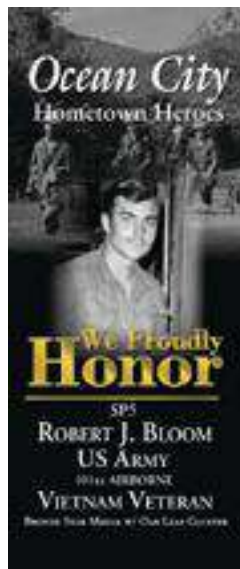
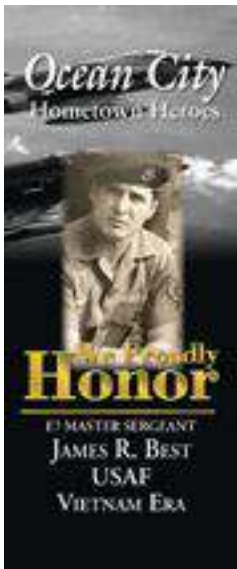


Hometown Heroes Banners Return to the Boardwalk

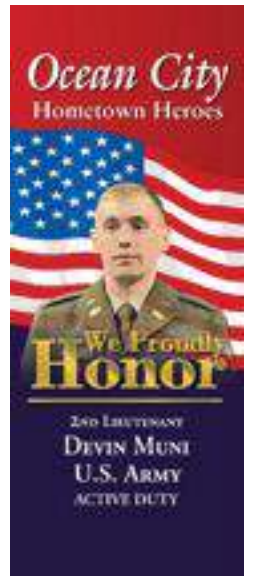
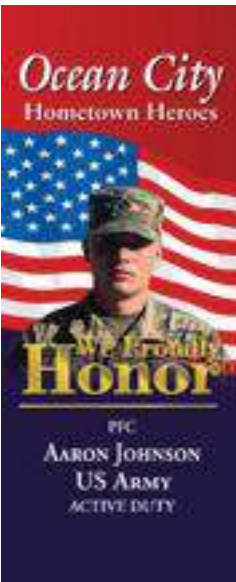
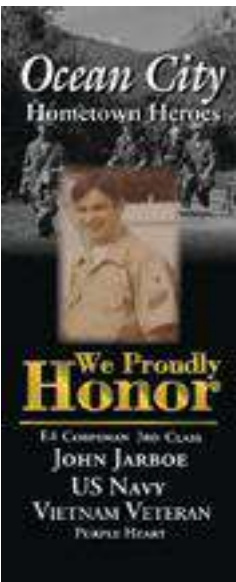
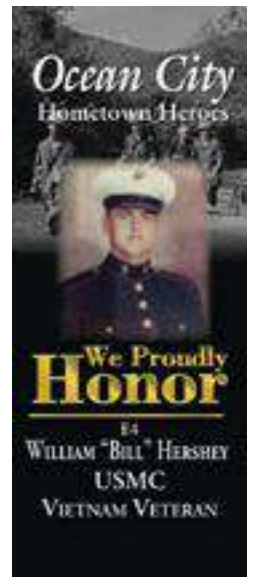
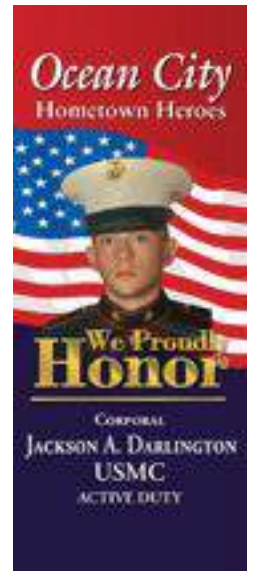
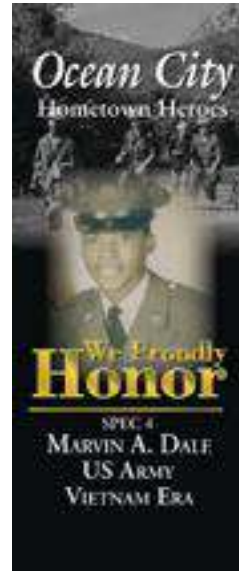
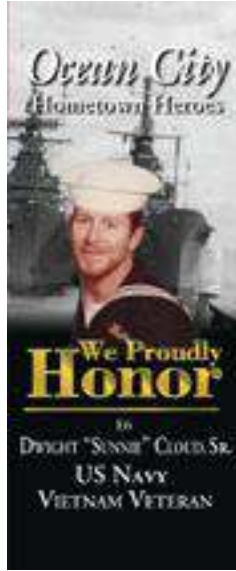
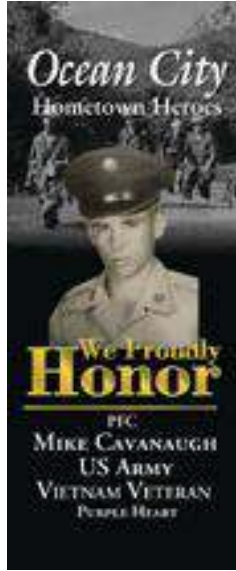
Once again, Post 166 is proud to support the Hometown Heroes Military Banner Program hosted by Ocean City Elks Lodge #2645. In this 12th year of the program, the Lodge is honoring 14 local active-duty service members serving around the world and 25 living veterans who served from post WW II through the Vietnam Era.

To date 439 honorees have had their banners flown from light poles along the iconic Ocean City Boardwalk from the Amusement Pier north to 4th Street. The banners are supported by local businesses, veteran groups, fraternal organizations, auxiliaries, POA's, and patriotic citizens who wish to show their appreciation for our Hometown Heroes. The Elk's thank our sponsors on behalf of our Honorees and families for their continued generous support of this program

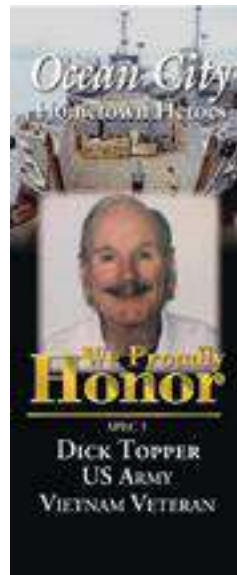
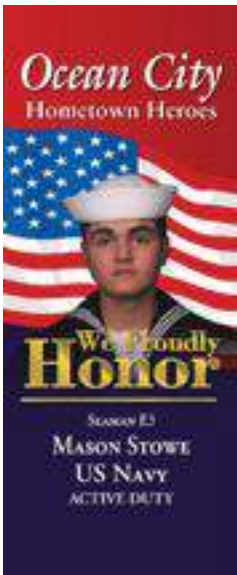
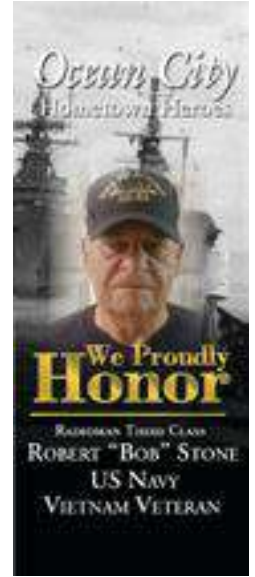
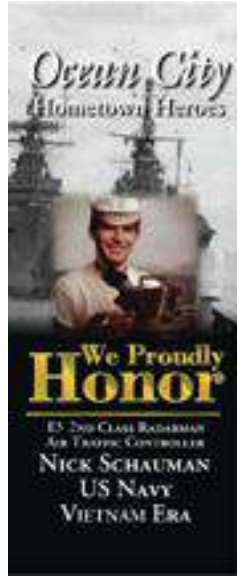
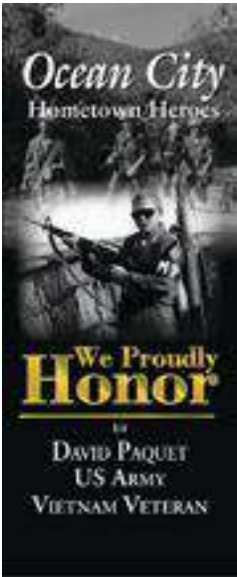
The banners usually fly from mid to late May until mid to late September, weather permitting. At the end of summer, they are taken down and cleaned before they are presented to the Honorees and families by the Elks at a banner presentation ceremony, this year scheduled for October 18, from 2-4 pm. The ceremony is at the Lodge at 137th Street and Synepuxent Avenue, in the Flaig/Wagner Banquet Hall. The presentation is open to the public. Guests are asked to use the double doors on the west side of the building and take the elevator to the 2nd floor.



Synepuxent Post 166, Summer 2025



Synepuxent Post 166, Summer 2025





George Kerchner, a Post 166 Hometown Hero



George Kerchner

One of the newest pavers at the Worcester County Memorial is dedicated to George Kerchner, an active member of Post 166 in the 1950s and a founder of the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department. Fittingly, it was installed at the Memorial on D-Day 2025 because George was better known for his heroic actions on D-Day, 1944.

George enlisted in the U S Army in 1942, assigned to the elite 2nd Ranger Battalion as a Lieutenant. He trained for six months in England, climbing seaside cliffs in anticipation of raiding climbing the cliffs at Pointe du Hoc, a well-fortified promontory jutting into the English Channel. His was one of the most remarkable stories that unfolded on D-Day

In fact, his mission was viewed by his commanding officer, Lt. Col. James E. Rudder, as near suicide when he "it can't be done, three old women with brooms could keep the Rangers from climbing that cliff." But climb that cliff he did.

At dawn on June 6, Lt. Kerchner entered his British-manned landing craft with other members of Company D of the 2nd Ranger Battalion. By the time he got to the rocky beach, he found himself in charge of D Company. Every senior officer had been killed or severely wounded.

And then they made that impossible climb up the sheer cliff face. When, Kerchner and his men reached the top they found the 155mm guns they were to destroy but for the next three days he and his 15 men were surrounded. They fought off German attacks until reinforcements arrived.

Around 100 of 225 Rangers at Normandy on June 6 were killed or wounded. Kerchner was later shot in the left shoulder during combat near the city of Saint-Lo. At the age of 92 he told a TV interviewer, "I didn't think I did anything that heroic." The Army disagreed. For his actions, George Kerchner was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest military decoration.



Kenneth Ingram Jr.
Director

Riders To Host Annual Crab Feast

Summer is here and the Post 166 Riders will once again be hosting the Annual Crab Feast at the Post. Tickets for the Thursday, July 17, feast can be purchased from any bartender or by emailing Lois Bars-tis at loisbarstis@comcast.net.

The cost this year has gone up slightly and tickets are \$70

per person. For that you will be treated to crabs, fried chicken, hush puppies, sweet corn, hot dogs, dessert, and beverages. We will have a 50/50 drawing and raffle for a Basket of Cheer. We will also have the drawing for the winners of our Gun Raffle and you do not need to be present to win.

We will reserve tables for groups of six or more. To reserve a table call me, Ken Ingram, ALR Director, at (301) 980-3401. I will call you back to confirm your table request with the number attending, and put your name on the reserve table list. We hope to see you all there.

Ocean City Air Show

Riders from our Post and our neighboring American Legions helped open the 2025 Ocean City Air Show by joining the opening ceremonies held at the Ocean Downs Casino and Racetrack June 13. A joint Color Guard from Posts 231, 123, 67, and of course Post 166, presented the Colors. Then our combined group of riders performed a ceremonial slow ride around the track displaying all six military service flags and our local American Legion post flags. This was followed by a spectacular parachute jump by the West Point Black Knights into the infield of the racetrack and a flag presentation to a local a WWII veteran.

10TH Gold Start Legacy Run

On Thursday, June 5, Riders from across the state participated in the Maryland Gold Star Legacy Run, a state version of the National Legacy Run that supports the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF), made their first overnight stop in Ocean City. For motorcycle riders, the rumble of 62 motorcycles converging on the Post was nothing short of breathtaking. Over the previous nine Legacy rides, the Maryland Legion Family has raised over 765,000 for the Legacy Fund.



Joe Gladden, co-chair for the ride, had contacted the ALR earlier requesting that we host a dinner buffet for the expected 90 riders at expected to be at our Post. The event was a tremendous success and a special thanks goes to David Heredia, Maryland State Director, American Legion Riders, for his encouraging support and comments about how the Legacy Run connects the ALR to our communities. Our own Post 166 Gold Star parents, Lynda and Joe Kundrat, shared a very moving memory of their son and how the VCF has had such a positive impact on their family and grandchildren.

I want to personally send a heartfelt thank you to Lois Barstis, Don Piarulli, Rob and Wendy Milewski, and Lois Ingram, for their help making this a memorable event for the Legacy Run riders. A Special thank you also goes to the kitchen staff, Jason Loop-er, Gidget Gunston, our Post Steward, and all the other Post Stewards who helped make this event successful.



Gold Star parents Lynda and Joe Kundrat were honored

Bike Week

The ALR will once again host a Bike Week Open House on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 12 to 4 p.m. There will be drawings for door prizes, 50/50 drawings, and a basket of cheer raffle. Those attending will be able to purchase 2025 ALR Post 166 Bike Week tees and hoodies. The drawing for the Fager's Island Weekend Get-Away raffle will be held on Sunday, Sept. 14, the last day of Bike Week. You do not need to be present to win. John Fager will attend and draw the winning ticket. Tickets are on sale at the Post, just ask any bartender, and also available at Fager's Island Hotel.

Kenneth Ingram Jr

Director American Legion Riders



The parking lot was filled with visiting riders



Inside they enjoyed plenty of food and drink and conversation

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

American Legion Post 166
2308 Philadelphia Ave. Ocean City Md.

JULY 17TH
4-7 P.M.

50/50 Raffle
Wagon of
Cheer

ANNUAL
**Crab
Feast**

TICKETS
AVAILABLE
At The Bar

ALL YOU CAN EAT

No Food
Leaves
Premises

(WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)
TICKETS: \$70 EACH

Steamed Crabs- Fried Chicken- Corn On The Cob
Hot Dogs - Dessert And Beverages

Proceeds Benefit Various Veteran Programs & Charities

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day was observed at the Post with a traditional service and keynote speech by retired Army Col. David Carey, Post First Vice Commander at the time and newly elected Commander of Post 166. Our scouts participated as usual, and three Gold Star mothers were honored with patriotic quilts from Quilters by the Sea Guld of Ocean Pines.

In an emotional speech, Dave recited the names of fallen comrades he had served with during his 29 year military career, served mostly in Army aviation. At one point in his speech, Commander Carey recalled his own harrowing moment.

On May 13, 2012, he was a passenger in a C-12 flying from Saudi Arabia to Kuwait that encountered severe turbulence on landing. An updraft caught the plane and it pitched up violently, and he said he

I knew just how close the plane was to tipping over and how close it was to an unsurvivable crash before the pilot regained contro

In that moment, he recalled having two thoughts.

“First, I was going to die the worst death an aviator could suffer, in the back of an airplane with no access to the flight controls. And second, I was going to die on Mother’s Day and my wife would never forgive me.”

After the solemn parts of the ceremony the Post as usual treated members and guests to light fare, along with a patriotic sheet cake and other desserts.

Second Vice Commander Bob Thompson organized the event with the help of First Vice Carey and House Committee Chair Tommy O.



Commander delivered the keynote address



Girls from Scout Troop 621 at the wreath dedicated to the fallen



The boys from Troop 261 and Scoutmaster James Smith did their part also at the ceremonies



Lynda Kundrat displays the patriotic quilt she received



After the solemn proceedings Carey, Ben Dawson, Tommy O, and George Barstis posed at the desert table waiting for the first slices



American Flag-themed cake was served along with other desserts



SCOUTS

Scouts Hike the Appalachian Trail, Observe Memorial Day and Retire Flags

In early May, the boys of Troop 261 hiked a portion of the Appalachian Trail through Maryland. The weather was not the best but the boys still had a good time.

On Memorial Day at the Veterans Memorial they helped to set up chairs and tents for speakers and attendees, and place American flags on pathways. They also handed out the programs. Then it was on to Post 166 for the Memorial Day Program held at the Legion.

Flag Day was next on their schedule and along with Cub Pack 261 they helped with the Flag Retirement ceremony.

On June 16 the boys held their end of year awards ceremony. Over the past year the scouts have earned their various ranks and numerous awards. The Troop Leadership is very proud of our youth and everything they have accomplished this year. They are off to Camp Powhatan this summer to take part in the challenging Mountain Man Program.



On the Appalachian Trail, (L-R) Mason, Parker, Jonathan, Bennett, Joshua, William, Matt, Victor, Reece, and Alex.

Joshua, Jonathan and Kasch handed out programs for the Memorial Day Program.



Jonathan, Gabe, Victor, William and Reece resting at a scenic spot



Kasch passing out gifts to Gold Star Families



Kasch and Jonathan driving holes for Flags lining the path at the Veterans Memorial



Front. Parker and Jonathan folding an American Flag to be retired. Rear. Alex, Reece, William, CJ, Thomas and Daniel



SCOUTS

New Eagle Scout Thanks Her Mother

Troop 621's Nicole Kiser earned her Eagle Scout rank, which was awarded to her by assistant Scoutmaster Nick Busko. Then it was time for Nicole to thank her mother for her support in helping Nicole achieve this pinnacle Scouting rank. She did that by presenting her mother, Heather Kiser, the troop's Scoutmaster, with the Mother's Eagle Scout pin.



Assistant Scoutmaster Nick Busko presents Life Scout Nicole Kiser her new rank of Eagle Scout.



New Eagle Scout Nicole Kiser presenting the Mother's Eagle Scout pin to her mother.

Cub Scout Pack 261

Cub Scout pack 261 has had a busy spring. Besides selling popcorn for a fund raiser, on April 27, the pack attended a Shorebirds game when the team held a Scout night. In early May the cubs helped out at the neon Car Show, a local fundraiser that the troop has run for several years that the cubs have been helping with for the past couple of years. They also were at the Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day, handing out American flags.

On Flag day the Pack along with Troop 261 conducted the annual Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Ocean Pines Veterans Memorial. Finally on June 15, the Pack held its end of year awards ceremony. Over the past year the cub scouts have earned their various ranks and numerous awards. The Pack Leadership is very proud of our youth and everything they have accomplished this year.



Judging from their smiles, C. J. Colon, Whitley Sisk and Cora Johnson must have had a successful fund raising day at Tractor Supply Co. in Berlin, selling popcorn to raise money for Pack activities



From left are Elliot, CJ, Owen, Tucker, Koralline, Emma, and Carter. Tritan was not pictured.



At the Neon Car Show



Thomas and CJ look on as Elliot Retires and Large American Flag.

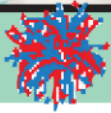


Cubs and Scouts and their leaders pose with a flag at the retirement ceremony



The awards ceremony

Quarterly Calendar Summer 2025



JUL.

Date Event

- 3 Happy Kat Bingo 1800hrs
- 4 4th of July
- 6 Queen of Hearts drawing 1600hrs
- 10 MD Detachment Marine Corps League 1100hrs
Happy Kat Bingo 1800hrs
- 13 Queen of Hearts drawing 1600hrs
- 14 Auxiliary Book Club, Windmill Creek Winery
- 15 Legion Week
Riders Pre-Crab Feast meeting
- 16 Legion Week
- 17 Legion Week
Riders Crab Feast 1600hrs-1900hrs
- 18 Legion Week
Local Vocals 1700hrs-1900hrs
- 19 Legion Week
- 20 Queen of Hearts drawing 1600hrs
- 21 House Committee Meeting 1030hrs
Executive Committee Meeting 1730hrs
- 22 Auxiliary Meeting
Social Hour 1800hrs, Meeting 1900hrs
- 23 SAL Meeting
Social Hour 1800hrs, Meeting 1900hrs
- 24 Happy Kat Bingo 1800hrs
- 25 Local Vocals 1700-1900hrs
- 27 Queen of Hearts drawing 1600hrs
- 28 Jack One Man Band 1600hrs
- 28 General Membership Meeting
Social Hour/Dinner 1800hrs, Meeting 1900hrs
- 29 Jack 1-Man Band 1600hrs
- 31 Happy Kat Bingo 1800hrs-2000hrs



AUG.

Date Event

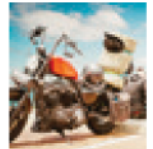
- 3 Queen of Hearts drawing 1600hrs
- 7 Happy Kat Bingo 1800hrs
- 10 Queen of Hearts drawing 1600hrs
- 11 Auxiliary Book Club
SAL Meeting
Social Hour 1800hrs, Meeting 1900hrs
- 14 MD Detachment Marine Corps League 1100hrs
- 15 Local Vocals 1700hrs-1900hrs
- 17 Queen of Hearts drawing 1600hrs
- 18 House Committee Meeting 1030hrs
Executive Committee Meeting 1730hrs
- 19 Auxiliary Meeting
Social Hour 1800hrs, Meeting 1900hrs
- 21 Jeepfest
Riders meeting
Social Hour 1800hrs, Meeting 1900hr
- 22 Jeepfest
- 23 Jeepfest
- 24 Jeepfest
Queen of Hearts drawing 1600hrs
- 25 General Membership Meeting
Social Hour 1800hrs, Meeting 1900hrs
- 28 Happy Kat Bingo 1600hrs
- 31 Queen of Hearts drawing, 1600hrs



SEP.

Date Event

- 1 AVVA Meeting 1630hrs, followed by Social Hour/ Dinner 1800hrs
VVA Meeting. Social Hour/ Dinner 1600hrs, Meeting 1900hrs
- 7 Queen of Hearts drawing, 1600hrs
- 8 Auxiliary Book Club
SAL Membership Meeting
Social Hour 1800hrs, Meeting 1900hrs
- 10 Bike Week
- 11 Bike Week
MD Detachment Marine Corps League 1100hrs
- 12 Bike Week
- 13 Bike Week
Riders Open Hours Noon-1600hrs
- 14 Bike Week
Queen of Hearts drawing 1600hrs
- 15 House Committee Meeting 1030hrs
Executive Committee Meeting, 1930hrs
- 16 American Legion 90th Birthday
Auxiliary Meeting
Social Hour 1800hrs, Meeting 1900hrs
- 18 Riders Meeting
Social Hour 1800hrs, Meeting 1900hrs
- 21 Queen of Hearts drawing 1600hrs
- 22 General Membership Meeting
Social Hour/Dinner 1800hrs, Meeting 1900hrs
- 25 Happy Kat Bingo 1800hrs
- 28 Queen of Hearts drawing 1600hrs



Synepuxent Post 166, Spring 2025

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American Legion

Synepuxent Post 166

Quarterly
July August September 2025
Volume 52 No. 3



James R. Best - Commander



Kenneth Ingram Jr. - Director



Emily 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

Hey you Internet surfers, we not only have a website at <http://www.alpost166.org>, we also have our own "Face Book" Page at <http://www.facebook.com/alpost166> and if you "Like" us you will receive news as it happens.

Look for some "Drink & Food Deals" coming over Face Book. Also, send us your email to receive an electronic copy of the Observer.

PHONE NUMBERS IMPORTANT TO VETERANS:

- Baltimore VA Medical Center 1-800-463-6295
- Charlotte Hall Veterans Home 1-800-522-8387
- Perry Point 1-800-949-1003
- Maryland Veteran's Cemetery 1-410-943-3420
- Pocomoke City VA Clinic 1-866-441-0287
- Elsmere VA Hospital 1-800-450-8262
- Cambridge VA Clinic 1-877-864-9611

ATTENTION POST #166 LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS

To make sure you are receiving your Synepuxent Observer by speedy email delivery, we need your email address.

If your newsletter is still coming by regular mail, we don't have it, so let's change that, Send your email address to airpinto166@gmail.com and we'll take care of the rest.

RENEW MEMBERSHIPS

at <http://www.legion.org/renew>

ALL Active Duty Members should submit their 8"x10" Photos to American Legion Post 166, P.O. Box 63, Ocean City, MD 21843 to replace the current Active Wall at Post 166 Contact Ed Pinto at airpinto166@gmail.com