



Commander's Message

As I was thinking about my column for our fall newsletter, I began wondering just where summer had gone. Three months earlier, writing for the summer newsletter, my thoughts were about what summer was going to bring. Now summer is over, and what a season it was.

What it brought were two major awards to members of the Post 166 Auxiliary. Kathy McDaniel, daughter of Bob and Marie Gilmore, won the Chrystal Apple Award as the ALA Educator of the Year from the Department of Maryland. Also, Saylor Amos, Auxiliary Unit 166 Junior of the Year, won the ALA Junior of the Year award from the Department of Maryland. Congratulations to Kathy and Saylor for a job well done. Your Post also won a number of awards at the Department Convention.

It was truly my pleasure to have visitors and friends from all over visit our Post and fraternize with legionnaires from around the state. Everyone who has visited this summer has complemented us for the new bar and the furniture in the bar and lounge area. It really makes us feel good to know that visitors recognize that we are really trying to make this Post the best on the East Coast.

As usual, the Department Convention was held in Ocean city in July, bringing friends from around the state. Starting on Monday with the Southern Maryland District Fish Fry and ending

Friday with the closing of the Convention, I know for sure that all had a good time at the Legion. The Riders did another fantastic job with their annual crab feast. They had great volunteers, great crabs, delicious corn and fantastic fried chicken. Of course, also, all the draft beer you could drink.

I would like to personally thank our kitchen staff

for making our kitchen one of the best in Ocean City. Let's begin with new Chef Tommy O'Meara. Not only is he a great leader with a positive attitude, he also knows how to put out some terrific food that we all enjoy. His team consists of Chris David, Chris Wilgus, Sierra Harkness, and food runner Kendall Parsons. With that said, I would also like to thank our cleaning crew, led by Steve Monteith and Soulav Vilamonh, for a job well done keeping this place clean.

August started rather quietly with families realizing how much money they can save by having lunch and dinner here. Our kitchen outshines any restaurant in Ocean city in quality, quantity, and price. All of our food specials and menu items are freshly made daily. If you haven't tried Tommy's cooking, you should stop by. I promise you that you won't go anywhere else.

September had its famous Bike Week and what a week it was. We haven't seen so many bikers in

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Tom was there when Scott Brown, Kendall Parsons and DJ Mikey pulled the winning ticket for the Riders fishing charter raffle



Ed Pinto

It's been a heck of a three months for the American Legion Post 166 Family, and you'll see why in this issue of the Synepuxent Observer, in words and photographs. Here's just a short summary of what went on and what you'll read about and see in the following

pages of this Fall issue.

In June, our Scout Troop 621 ventured West for an adventure-filled week that culminated at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. I've included a few photos of the once-in-a-lifetime adventure experienced by our scouts but be sure to see the entire story in this newsletter written by Troop 261 Historian Megan Kiser.

July brought the Maryland Department Convention to Ocean City, and that meant hundreds and hundreds of visitors to the Post for Convention Week, and the Riders Crab Feast. It also meant that Post 166 was recognized as an outstanding Maryland Post once again, garnering a half dozen awards. And that doesn't include our Auxiliary Family, and our Junior Auxiliary. Turn the pages and you'll soon be reading about Kathy McDaniel, chosen as winner of the Chrystal Apple Award as Educator of the Year, and about



Tina, Sherrie, Pam and Robin with John proclaiming they Survived Bike Week

From the Editor:

Saylor Amos, named Maryland Junior of the Year.

August was momentous. The membership voted to expand our building with construction of a roof-top patio/bar. September saw the return of Bike Week and boy, what a week that was. Especially for our bartender. They took a celebratory picture after it was all over.

Ed Pinto,

Editor



Feeding, saddling, and leading the pack horses on a daily basis was an important part of the learning and team-building process at Philmont. Bella Sbriglia and Ben Busko carry the bail followed by Megan Kiser to help spread the hay for the horses.



Gathered together and getting ready to hike to the top of Baldy Mountain, shown in the background Simpkins.



The Philmont crew had to do a lot of team-building activities, such as this one where the heaviest people stood on one side then the rest slowly made their way over to the other side without, using only three pieces of wood



Riding horses through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

New Officers for 2022-2023

A new slate of officers for the year 2022-2023 was installed in July, sworn in at the Post by Southeastern Shore District Commander Barbara Wharton.

Returning as Commander of the Post was Tom Wengert. Other officers sworn in were J.R. Best, First Vice Commander; Bob Paul, Second Vice



Commander; John Busard, Adjutant; George Barstis, Finance Officer; Jack Hyle, Judge Advocate; Ben Dawson, Chaplain; Bob Gilmore, Sgt-at-Arms; Chuck Beatty, Service Officer; and Ed Pinto, Historian.

The new Executive Board consists of Bob Broderick, Phil Ludlam, Nelson Kelly, Harry Rey, and Charles Spaziani.

Post 166 Receives Awards at Convention



Post Commander Tom Wengert (L) and outgoing SAL Commander Joe Verdura

Post 166 was recognized at the State Convention in July for outstanding efforts in a number of areas for Posts with a membership of 751-1000, with our Scout Troops and SAL unit singled out.

We won the George Harrison Award for Best Website and Electronic Newsletter, the John Sloan Award for Best Newsletter, the Lemual Stevens Award for Best Consolidated Report, and the William Randolph Hearst Award for Excellence in Americanism Program.

Our Scout program was cited as the best, with George Harmon Award, and our SAL Unit received the Robert W. Neal Trophy for the Best SAL Program.

Commander's Message *Continued*

Ocean City and the Legion in a long, long time. They really know how to have a good time and I believe everyone enjoyed their time this week. I would like to personally thank Tina, Pam, Sherri, Robin, and John, and our new bar manager, Gidget. They worked hard all week and did a fantastic job making sure everyone was taken care of with food and drink orders.

Looking ahead I would like to wish everyone

a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Be safe in your travels and remember take care of a Veteran. He or she has paved the way for all of us to enjoy our freedom daily.

May God Bless You and May God Bless America.

Tom Wengert,

Commander, Post #166



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

POST STEWARD UPDATE



Sam Wiley
Post 166 Steward

I'm hoping everyone enjoyed their summer. It's always great to see our summer family and friends visiting us. I know I always start my messages off pretty much the same, but I can't really talk about anything more without thanking our hard-working staff first. From the cleaning crew to the kitchen crew, and

bartenders thank you all so much for your hard work, flexibility, and cooperation this busy summer season.

As the Post steward, you make me and our Post look so good and I'm proud to be part the team. I've gotten so many nice compliments about our Post from visiting members, from the cleanliness, to how great the food is, to how much fun folks have sitting at the bar with one of our great bartenders. From our officers, staff, and managers know we are working hard every day to make Post 166 a great one to belong to, and visit. Again, we can't do what we do here without our fantastic pool of volunteers. Marty and Penny do a terrific job finding volunteers to help us when we need help the most. If you would like to volunteer, please reach out to our volunteer coordinator, or call me at the Post.

As you might have heard the Post will be doing some construction soon. Please follow us on Facebook and Constant Contact for information and changes affecting your visitation to the Post. Please respect all signs posted for your safety. If parking is affected in any way you can always find parking in the Days Inn parking lot next to the Post lot. Days Inn has given us permission to park in their lot. Please park there as well for busy events, or Queen of Hearts Sundays.

As we move forward into the Fall months some things to look forward to include Football Sundays. Expect heavier crowds on Sunday when the Ravens play, combined with our Queen of Hearts crowd. We have invited Raven Roost 44 to join us on Football Sundays. Look for football food specials.

We will be having a Halloween Dance this year. More details to follow.

The Veterans Day program will be Friday,

November 11 in the main hall. Please join us in honoring all our nations veterans.

Thanksgiving dinner will be served again on Thanksgiving Day this year from 1 pm until 6 pm. This dinner is free to members of the American Legion. Donations will be accepted for guests.

Christmas decorating will take place right after Thanksgiving. We can always use volunteers to help make the Post feel cozy for the holiday season. Please help us if you can.

NAVY BEATS ARMY game is Dec. 10. Join us for a fun day of football and food.

The Post will be open Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please check as our normal hours of operation may be modified.

REMINDER:

Please help us by cleaning your table when you are done. This really helps us out when we are busy.

Please do not throw away our black plastic food baskets. Put them in the tub on the cart by the kid's table. If you move tables and chairs when you come in with a group, we ask that you return them to their original setting when you leave.

Have a great Fall everyone...enjoy the warm weather as long as you can!

Best regards,
Sam Wiley

- Post 166 Steward

NEW MEMBERS

Samuel Dixon	USMC
Albert Wuadby	USN
Timothy Ramia	USA
Ruth Vernet	USN
James Bees	USA
Holly Diggins	USN
Ray Chapman	USA
William Hoover	USMC
Emil Shott	USA
Alan Olsen	USA

TRANSFERS

George Purring	USN
Scott Whalen	USA
Kyle DeJesus	USMC
Richard Schuman	USMC
William Porter, Jr	USN



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Roof-Top Patio/Bar Planning Underway



A bulk mailing was sent to all 900 plus members of the Post announcing the proposal to construct a roof-top bar/patio, and urging them to attend the August meeting and vote.



Planning session underway at the Post with contractors who will construct the roof-top patio/bar

The membership of Post 166, at its August meeting, approved a major construction project, the construction of a roof-top bar/patio and planning for the project is underway. Among the reasons the Post is undertaking the project is to enhance member experience while visiting and relaxing at the Post by providing an outdoor venue, and to alleviate crowding during the tourist season.

The facility will be 40 feet by 60 feet, with a fully stocked bar and facilities. It would be accessible by stairs from the outside of the building, and an elevator.

Detailed information about the project is on the Post website at www.alpost166.org, under the Synepuxent Post Information button on the top left menu. Then click on Roof-top Patio Project.

From the Adjutant



John Bussard
Adjutant

We are actively processing the 2023 membership renewals. Thank you, those who have responded by now.

At the end of the June 2022 registration cycle membership was 886, which was 27 members short of our goal of 915. Our goal for 2023 is 895 members. The September 14 membership reregistration goal was

50 percent, which we have already exceeded. On or about October 7 the next renewal notice will be sent out to those who have not been registered by September 14. If you are interested in Early Bird status your registration must be received by October 20. The Legion registration cutoff dates are October 21, November 11 and December 9. These dates coincide with the timing of the mailing of re-

newal notices for those who have not been registered for the 2023 Legion year by that date.

Again, I would like to remind our members that they can maintain their own membership data on MyLegion.org. You may also renew your membership there as well, or on the website shown on the dues renewal notice you will receive.

As many of you are aware, the Post is subject to IRS 501 (C) 19 rules, which require that we maintain a copy of each member's DD214. You may order a DD214 through the Maryland Legion website at MdLegion.org. Select the "Membership" button on the menu bar, then select "Requesting DD214," and then select "Start Request." Now follow the instructions for completing the application. You will need your Social Security or Service Number and some personal ID information.

John Bussard,
Adjutant



AUXILIARY NEWS

Busy Summer So Thank You Volunteers



Karen Thompson

With another summer come and gone I hope everyone was able to make some great new memories, new friendships, and was able to enjoy some relaxing beach time. The summer was very busy at Post 166, and I want to thank everyone who stepped up and volunteered their time to help all those events, celebrations, and ceremonies, be successful. A big thank you with all our appreciation goes out to our hardworking Event Coordinator Marti. A lot of planning and coordinating goes into scheduling and hosting these events and the key to their success is having volunteers when and where they are needed. Last year when we asked for someone to take on this challenge Marti stepped up and volunteered, probably regretting she did immediately. In the end, it looks like she has mastered it. Thank you, Marti we all appreciate you.

The American Legion Auxiliary has many different programs that are all developed to help or assist our veterans, veterans' families, and ALA members. One of those awesome programs available to our members is the AEF Grant (Auxiliary Emergency Fund Grant). This program was developed in 1969 and created with a bequest from the estate of Auxiliary member Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wisconsin. It is a national grant assistance program that provides up to \$2,400 in temporary emergency assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have endured a significant financial setback as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis. Members who want to learn more about the grant, or apply for it, should visit <https://www.legion-aux.org/aeef> for the basic qualification criteria and online application.

Some of the Department of Maryland Certificates awarded to Unit 166 at our annual convention this past June is as follows:

Children & Youth Welfare

(Unit Raising the Largest Amount)

Education *(Most Outstanding Work)*

Winner of the Crystal Apple Award

(Teacher of the Year)

Junior Activities *(Unit with Junior Group Winning Best All Around Activities)*

Greatest Number of New Members for the Administrative Year

Thank you to all committee chairpersons for your hard work and dedication, which makes us all winners. We do have several open committees that are looking for a chairperson and in addition to these open committee seats we also are looking for someone to fill the position of Historian as well as members to join the Color Guard. If you are interested in assisting or even chairing an open committee seat, contact me via email at alabeach166@gmail.com.

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month, starting with a social hour at 6 pm with the meeting at 7 pm. Join us for food, fun, and friendship while working together to achieve one goal.

Karen Thompson

ALA Unit 166 President



Delaney and Addison McDaniel; Kendahl Parsons; Lindsay Birkhead-Morton; McKenna Birkhead-Thompson at the Dept of MD Junior Graduation Ceremony



Jessie Parsons, Kendahl Parsons, Rosie Garlitz, Lindsay Birkhead-Morton; Brigadier General Janeen Birkhead



AUXILIARY NEWS



Kirsten Brown

Goal Met, Award Made

I am happy to share that we have more than exceeded the membership goal of 425 members, and 22 Junior members for the year 2021-2022. We made Goal Plus and won the Department of Maryland award for the highest number of new members. I would like to thank every one of our members. Without our members this achievement would not be possible.

I would also like to share we are processing all members electronically, and we are excited by this because it will speed up the administrative work for new and current members. Our membership renewal is going well, so thank you to all of our early birds!

We greatly appreciate your continued support whether you have taken part in the activities of our unit, or you have by your enrollment, and payment of dues contributed to the success of the Auxiliary.

Kirsten Brown

First Vice President

Hometown Heroes *By Pat Riordan* ELKS LODGE #2645

The Ocean City Elks Club will be hosting our 9th Annual Hometown Heroes Military Banner Presentation Ceremony on Saturday, October 22 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Ocean City Elks Lodge upstairs in our Flaig-Wagner Banquet Hall.

This event is open to the public. It has been well attended in the past and the Elks are expecting another capacity this year. Guests are asked to use the double door entrance on the west side of the lodge and take the elevator to the second floor.

On behalf of our 2022 honorees and their families, I would like to pass along the sincere appreciation to all of our sponsors. Their continuous support and generous contributions over the past nine years has allowed our program to honor 320 of our local, living veterans of WW II, the Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam/Vietnam Era Veterans, and Active-Duty members of the United States Military currently serving around the world. Each of the banners have flown along the Ocean City Boardwalk for a full summer season, beginning with our first year in 2014. We would not be able to make this happen without your continued support. THANK YOU!





AUXILIARY JUNIORS

Summer Meeting Break but Juniors Still Active



Jessie Parsons

Our Juniors were on break from formal meetings over the summer but that didn't mean they were idle.

Addison and Delaney McDaniel attended the ALA Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City in July, where they were on hand to see

their mother, Kathy McDaniel, win the Crystal Apple Award for teacher of the year.

On July 31, a special graduation ceremony was held at the Cambridge Post to honor Department of Maryland ALA juniors graduating from high school and moving up to become ALA senior members. Kendahl Parsons and Lindsay Birkhead-Morton were honored from Unit 166. Kendahl is attending Salisbury University, studying English and creative writing. Lindsay enrolled in Howard University to study Journalism. We are proud of both and the years of service with Unit 166 Juniors. Addison and Delaney and McKenna Birkhead-Thompson of Unit 166 Juniors also were in attendance. Certificates of Awards were presented to Unit 166 for its service work for 2021-22. First place certificates were received for Americanism, Children and Youth, Chaplain, Community Service, National Security, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Oral Report, and Best All Around Juniors Activities. Unit 166 Juniors won the Greenbelt Award for Best Junior Activities in Maryland.

Our first meeting of the new year was held at Post 166 on September 11. We were excited to have seven junior members in attendance. We welcomed Brooklynn Paul and Alyssa Frantz, two new members, to their first meeting. McKenna Birkhead-Thompson was able to participate by facetime. Also in person were Sophia and Mia Hume, Delaney McDaniel, and Saylor Amos. Saylor was presented with her Junior Unit Member of the Year and Junior Department of Maryland Member of the Year Awards. We are so proud of her and all her accomplishments!

During our September meeting we made cards to distribute to Gold Star Mothers, collected school supplies for the Give 10 to Education

drive, and collected candy for jack-o-lanterns for the Coast Guard for the upcoming Make a Difference Day in October. Nominations for Junior Unit officers were discussed, and officer installation will occur during our October meeting.

The Dept of Maryland Junior Fall Conference will occur on October 23 at the Post in Reisterstown. A few of our Juniors plan to attend. Delaney McDaniel is Department of Maryland Honorary Junior Chaplain.

Our Junior members are back to school and involved all types of activities. They continue to find time to serve our veterans and community. We have a busy year of events and projects planned.

A big thank you goes to Kirsten Brown and Marie Gilmore. They are on hand for every meeting and event with our Juniors and the program continues to be successful because of their dedication and mentoring.

Please reach out to me if you know of any youth who is eligible and would like to join the Juniors program. We are highly active and offer opportunities for service and leadership. It has been an honor to watch these young ladies grow and learn over the years. They are our future leaders.

Jessie Parsons,
ALA Unit 166 Juniors Advisor



McKenna Birkhead-Thompson with the big grin in the foreground left shown joining the Juniors meeting

1ST STATE DETACHMENT MARINES



MCL Annual October Bike Ride, Walk or Run!



Bob Broderick

It's been a busy summer for the First State Detachment, beginning in June with our 16th annual golf outing, and supporting our Marine recruiters with the Fitness Challenge at the Jellyfish Festival. In July we were at the Jolly Rogers Amusement Park on 29th Street in Ocean

City to celebrate Christmas in July for the Toys for Tots program, and in August at the Ocean City Convention Center for Jeep Week. In September First State Marines volunteered to help the Bethany Fenwick Chamber of Commerce at the Bethany Beach Arts Festival. It was a non-stop summer for us, that also included providing a Color Guard and Honor Guard for deceased veterans. First State Marines accumulated 1,345 volunteer hours of community service in Worcester and Sussex Counties.

But that wasn't all. While this was going on we were planning and promoting the October 16 Semper Fi Bike Ride, Walk or Run and the Cheetah Bike Raffle that will benefit the

Semper-Fi & America's Fund and the Believe in Tomorrow Children's Foundation. And our all-important Marine Corps Birthday Ball celebration in November.

The First State Detachment has been around since 1989 supporting veterans and charities in the Ocean City area and lower Sussex County Delaware. This year, as the newly elected Commandant, I couldn't be prouder of the support and work of First State Detachment Marines. This group of men and women honor me with their commitment to community service.

If you haven't signed up yet, there's still time to register for the October Bike Ride, Walk or Run on Ocean City's iconic Boardwalk. If you don't have a bike you can rent one or join us for the run or walk, your choice. Registration can be found on our website at www.firststatemarines.org/bike-ride.html. Come on down and join us. It's fun and for worthy causes. You might even win the electric bike we are raffling off.

Bob Broderick
MCL Commander



First State Detachment Commandant Bob Broderick and Frank Del Piano, Commandant, Department of Delaware, Marine Corps League, present a \$10,000 raised at the 16th Annual Frank Conlon Golf Tournament to Marine Corps Major Chuck Jedlicka and Command Sgt. Major Adrian Lopez, who accepted the funds on behalf of the Semper Fi & America's Fund.



Posing on the Boardwalk where, on Sunday, October 16, the First State Detachment of the Marine Corps League will hold its Third Annual charity Bike Ride, are, L-R: Brad Hoffman and Brian Morrison from the Believe in Tomorrow Children's Foundation, and Bob Broderick and Norge Bermudez of the United States Marine Corps.

1ST STATE DETACHMENT MARINES



Here are a few photos from Christmas in July at the Jolly Rogers Amusement Park



Just a few of the toys collected at Christmas in July



Here were the Elves who were helping out that day, and Santa, too



The Color Guard at Jolly Rogers



Staff and Marines at attention and saluting as the colors were presented opening the Christmas in July Program.



FSD Commandant Bob Broderick and Toys for Tots Coordinator Sharon Ruest present Certificate of Appreciation to Sean Harmon of FishTails Restaurant and Bar for hosting the Jolly Roger Event



Former FSD Commandant Fred Wise shakes hands with Santa at Christmas in July

Kathy McDaniel is Named Educator of the Year



Kathy with her twin daughters Delaney and Addison, and her mother, Marie Gilmore

Kathy McDaniel, ALA Unit 166 member and daughter of Marie and Bob Gilmore was awarded with the Crystal Apple Award from the Department of Maryland ALA for Educator of the Year. She was presented with this award at the ALA Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City in July. Her twin daughters, Delaney and Addison, her mother, and ALA Unit 166 members were on hand to see her receive this award.

Kathy, a math teacher at Stephen Decatur Middle School, was nominated for the award by Unit 166.

Kathy earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Salisbury University in May 2001 and earned her Masters of Middle School Mathematics from Salisbury University in May 2005.

She began teaching at Pocomoke Middle School in 2001, where in 2011 she was named Teacher of the Year. In 2013 she accepted a position as a math teacher at Stephen Decatur Middle School. At Stephen Decatur she is active as a Positive Behavioral Intervention Coach (PBIS). PBIS Maryland is a collaborative effort between the Maryland State Department of Education, Shepard Pratt Health System, the Johns Hopkins University, Center for Prevention of Youth Violence, and the 24 Local Maryland School Systems. Kathy also has served as the Students Against Drunk Drivers (SADD) advisor and as a member of the School Improvement Team (SIT).

Kathy is known as a caring teacher. She helps her students in many ways other than just as a



Kathy is presented the Crystal Apple award at American Legion Auxiliary Convention in Ocean City July 14.

teacher. She quietly organizes “adoptions for Christmas” for students with families that have financial difficulties and worried constantly about her students during the previous school year that was mostly virtual.

Lynn Barton, Principal at Stephen Decatur Middle school, described Kathy as a an outstanding math teacher. “She did an excellent job of transitioning to Distance Learning during our COVID shut down because of her knowledge and use of technology... She establishes great relationships with her students and works hard to improve their math skills as well as their confidence as learners,” said Barton.

Kathy is also seen as a friendly face at the Community Center of Ocean Pines, where she has worked part time at the main desk assisting community members with their questions and needs.

If it is not enough that she teaches full time and has a second job, she can often be seen volunteering with daughters and parents at Post 166, helping with the Juniors Program and helps with other projects, such as packing boxes for the troops. With her family, she is an active volunteer for the Worcester County Veterans Memorial.

Kathy is a teacher superstar in our eyes. She goes above and beyond for her students to make education a fun and safe place to land when they need extra support.

By Jesse Parsons
ALA Unit 166 Juniors Advisor

SAYLOR AMOS Wins Junior of the Year



Jessie Parsons with Junior of the Year Saylor Amos

Saylor Amos is the winner of the Unit 166 Junior of the Year award as well as the ALA Department of Maryland Junior of the Year Award. Saylor has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Juniors Unit 166 for many years. She not only volunteers many hours for the Post and other community programs, but also has a job and maintains a 3.89 GPA in school.

This year she was elected as Honorary Junior Vice President for the Unit 166 Juniors program and at meeting she can be seen teaching new members about the program. With her bubbly personality she is always making new members and guests feel comfortable.

This past year, Saylor participated in making cards for a Gold Star mothers and for Veteran's Day. She attended a flag retirement ceremony; delivered Jack O'Lanterns filled with candy to the Coast Guard Station in Ocean City for Make a Difference Day; made cards for teachers for American Education week; made Soldier Survival Treat bags for our Post veterans; made Valentine's Day Cards for Veterans in a local nursing home; participated in the Four Chaplains Ceremony; participated in the Military Kids Table Ceremony, and attended

the National Juniors Mission Meeting in Baltimore in March 2022.

Her volunteerism does not stop with veterans. Saylor volunteers with the Hotel Motel Restaurant Association in Ocean City, the Ocean City Downtown Association, and at the Cricket Center, which is a program to assist abused children. She also has special interests in the Arts and participates in the Stephen Decatur High School theatre program as well as the Ocean Pines Players Theatre group.

In addition, she is a talented musician who is a member of the Stephen Decatur High School Band and a member of the All

Shore Band. She plays piano, alto saxophone, baritone saxophone, tenor saxophone, bassoon, and ukulele. If that wasn't enough, she's now learning to play flute.

Academically, she is a member of the National English Honor Society and is a school finalist for the Oratorical (Optimist Club) speech contest. Saylor studies French in school and went to the French Woods Festival for performing art camp. In addition, she is taking private lessons to learn Japanese.

On weekends in the Summer and off-season Saylor can be found working at Shenanigans on the Boardwalk in Ocean City.

I cannot say enough about Saylor's commitment to the Juniors Program and her commitment to academics and performing arts. She is certainly a well-rounded person with an incredible work ethic. It has been an honor to watch her grow into such a dynamic young woman over the past several years who is willing to take on challenges and leadership roles. We cannot wait to see what the future holds for her.

By Jesse Parsons
ALA Unit 166 Juniors Advisor

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



Here's hoping everyone had a great summer. Remember, look twice, save a life. Your Legion Riders are working hard with upcoming events to include a ride or two and lots of good food. We're always looking for volunteers and riders. Check your email and the Riders Facebook page at ALR Post #166 Riders: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/220651638019064>.

American Legion Riders Crab Feast

On 14 July 2022, the Riders hosted the annual crab feast to welcome the Legionnaires from across the state. Hoopers Crab House provided the crabs, which were delicious. Everyone raved

about them. Thank you to all our Rider volunteers who helped out. The feast brought in over \$3,000 to the post that will be used to help the Ocean City community.



You have to pay to eat. Here's Lois and Marie making sure at the door



Peter serving some delicious crabs to a table

How's this for a crab?



Gilmore brothers serving the beer



The crowd loves it



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Open House for Ocean City Bike Week

On 17 September, the Riders hosted an open house in support of the Ocean City Bike Week. Folks from up and down the eastern shore and beyond came in for some great food and camaraderie. DJ Mikey provided the music, and the Riders had some great giveaways. A great way to celebrate the end of summer and reminisce.



George and Ken helping serve the delicious chow!
Much better than any chow hall I've been to!



A great crowd turned out for the open house



Sherry and Ray, working the bar, keeping everybody happy



Mina and Ron keeping the party going



Alicia, Kirsten, and Adele making the raffle magic happen



Bonnie working the Legion merchandise table



Wendy and Lois helping sell Legion merchandise.
Our Legion Riders Bike Week shirts almost sold out.



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

ALR Membership Drive

We are actively looking for new riders to add to the group. If you know any motorcycle riders, please reach out, so we can grow and better support the community. We have other events in the planning stage so keep an eye out. Also, if you

have any suggestions, let us know. We meet the third Thursday every month (except December and August). Come by and see what it's about.

Scott Brown



American Legion Riders Post #166 Gun Raffle



*Drawing will be held on
"Superbowl Sunday,"
February 12th, 2023.*

Beretta A300 Ultima
12 Gauge Shotgun



Franchi Momentum
6.5 Creedmoor
Bolt Action Rifle



Tickets are \$5.00 each
or 5 for \$20.00

First winner can select
their choice.

Riders Rifle Raffle

Time to get your tickets. See the bartender for your chance to win! Two rifles are being given away, a Beretta A300 Ultima 12-gauge shotgun and a Franchi Momentum 6.4 Creedmoor bolt action rifle. Two drawings will be held. The first winner receives their choice of rifle. The second winner receives the other rifle. The drawing will be on Super Bowl Sunday, February 12, 2023.





SAL NEWS & ACTIVITIES

I hope everyone has had a relaxing and rejuvenating summer break. I would like to first introduce myself, as your new Commander. I am excited to continue to lead SAL Unit 166, with the support of our former SAL Commander, Joe Verdura and our Post Commander, Tom Wengert.

My vision for the SAL is simple: community, duty, honor.

I am eager to have meetings resume this Fall with all of you in attendance. As a reminder the Son's meetings are on the second Monday of each month from 7 pm to 8 pm, with a happy hour from 6 pm to 7 pm. Happy hour will be \$1 drinks, with a limit of three.

We have many things to discuss at our upcoming meetings. These include the 2023 Charter Fishing Raffle, the upcoming Fall Bull and Oyster Roast, Valentine's Sweetheart Dinner, and other Legion-wide volunteer opportunities. These events are only possible with the support of all members. I look forward to connecting with all of you to make them a success.

Regarding our membership cards, after a long delay and paper shortages, National was

finally able to get them to us at the end of August. A three-member team of myself, First Vice Bob Williams, and Adjutant Kevin Matthews, are working hard to process the backlog of membership cards and updates. They will be processed in a timely manner and sent out to all members as time allows. All members who have their dues paid in full and current will have their membership cards before the end of October.

Many events are coming up at the Post this fall that we would like to make you aware of. In addition to our Fall Bull and Oyster Roast, there will be a Halloween Party in October, and in November the commemoration of Veterans Day, where our veterans will share their thoughts about the conflicts in which they have served. In the beginning of December the Post family, including the SAL, will gather to decorate the Post Christmas Tree.

In closing, coming up there are many opportunities at the Post to be a part of. I cannot wait to see all of you and meet those of you who I have not had the pleasure yet of meeting. There is a reason we are the friendliest Post in Maryland and that is because of YOU.

Joe Paul
SAL Commander

From the VVA

I hope everyone is enjoying Fall weather. It sure was a hot Summer. Our VVA 1091 membership is up to 112. If you served in Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or any duty station between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975 you are eligible to join. We are a Congressionally Chartered 501c19 Veterans Service Organization. A one-time payment of \$50 gets you a lifetime membership. We also have an Associates of Vietnam Veterans support group available. No military service required. Membership applications for both are near the bulletin board in the Post's social quarters. We would love to have you as a member. We meet the first Monday of the month at the Post. Social gathering is at 5 pm and the meeting starts at 6. For information call us at 410 213 5228. Our website is www.vvachapter1091.org and our address is P.O. Box 1343 Ocean City, MD 21843. You can also reach us by email at oceancityvva@gmail.com.

Nelson Kelly
President



This Summer our SAL unit raffled off a free ride for the lucky winner and friends and family. It seems fitting that Buddy Jones, who has helped sell Queen of Hearts tickets for so long, had his ticket picked. Here he is on the left, receiving his certificate for the free ride from Ray Kudobeck, financial officer for the SAL. Thanks, Tina Preziotti for taking the picture!



AMERICAN LEGION SCOUTING NEWS

Adventure and Learning Out West for Troop 261



Mounted and lined up as the trip ended. The scouts took one last picture to remember the horses and the fun. From left to right, Heather Kiser, Nicole Kiser, Megan Kiser, Cristina Esch, Krystle Givens, Gabe Bradley, Maggie Simpkins, Johnny Malinowski, Penny Lavezzo, Kurt Leinemann, Ben Busko, Joerg Leinemann, Colt Grevey, Emery Busko, and Bella Sbriglia. The photo was taken by Nick Busko

Troop 621 had a big outdoor summer. From June 26 to July 2, ten scouts went to Rodney Scout Reservation for resident camp. The scouts fought the summer heat and torrential downpours to earn many merit badges such as swimming, nature, rifle, camping, cooking and water sports during the week. The boys of Troop 261 were there too.

In August, Troop 621 and Troop 261 joined forces for a high-adventure trip of a lifetime -- to Philmont Scout ranch for a seven-day horseback riding cavalcade. On August 10, our crew of 16 departed BWI Airport to fly to Denver, Colorado, where we spent several days visiting sites like the U.S. Air Force Academy and Garden of the Gods Nature park. We spent a night at the NRA Whittington Center to shoot clays and on August 13, we traveled to Philmont Scout Reservation in Cimarron, New Mexico, to meet our horses, our wrangler Maggie Turney, and horsemen Alex Hauser. We had an amazing trip riding across the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of New Mexico.

Our biggest day was Thursday, August 18. That day we hiked 19.2 miles to summit Baldy Mountain. We woke up in camp Miranda at 4:30 am at an elevation of 7,200 feet and took a three-mile hike up to Baldy Town at the base of the mountain. From there, we hiked another 5 miles over trails and a 40-degree incline of rocky terrain to the summit at 12,441 feet. By 12:30 pm, everyone had made it up to the top to see the amazing view all around us. After a well-deserved rest, we headed down the north side of Baldy where we could see the mountains of northern Colorado 300 miles away.

The hike down was great, taking us through woods, 17 switchbacks, and a mile-long mountain stream to a well-deserved break at French Henry camp. We tried to find a faster route to get

back to camp because we were all tired, but we got a little confused, went the wrong way, then decided it was best to hike back up to Baldy Town. It was a long hike back up, but we made it. Everyone was tired but we couldn't stop there because it was almost dark, and we had to get back to Miranda. We were all hungry and tired, but we hiked on. Around 8 pm we saw the lights of Miranda. The camp staff helped us celebrate with food, blankets, and porch-side stories of woe and wonder. It was a long hard day, but looking back on it now we realize just how much fun we had.

Besides the long days, we had a wonderful end to our trip with gymkhana, a fun rodeo-style race that really made us focus on team effort. We would like to thank Post 166 for supporting our troops these many years, without which this learning adventure would not have been possible.

By Megan Kiser,
First Class Scout
Troop 621 Historian



Posing at the entrance to Rodney's summer from left to right are Nick Busko, Sarah Carpenter, Heather Kiser, Brooke McCowen, Helena Udinski, Naomi Ulrich, Bailey Hermann, Bella Sbriglia, Jenaya Colon, Penny Lavezzo, Nicole Kiser, Ollie Gill, and Maggie Simpkins.



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Pack 261

Pack 261 spent a day in June at the Tri County Day Camp at Shad Landing. Here are a few photos of their activities.



Jonathan Smith, Troop 261 and CJ Colon, Pack 261



Dianna and Thomas Nazari



Kim Timmons, Pack 261 Committee member, with the Kindergarten, Clownfish.



Jonathan Smith and Kasch Johnson, Troop 261 camp volunteers with Koraline Kelly, Pack 261



CJ Colon



Koraline Kelly





AMERICAN LEGION SCOUTING NEWS

Troop 261

The boys of Troop 261 joined other scouts from neighboring states at Camp Rodney this summer. Rodney Scout Reservation is located on over 900 acres of rolling upland woodlands at the head of the Chesapeake Bay near the town of North East, Maryland. It has over a mile of prime Chesapeake Bay waterfront. That's where scouts from Troop 261 camped for a week, made a lot

of new friends, and worked on merit badges and played water sports.

The scouts also volunteered for the Strawberry Festival in Pittsville where they helped vendors set up tables, carry heavy items, assisted in events, and helped break down at the end of the day. They also set up a table with information about Scouting.



At Camp Rodney, back left: Alex Nazari, Reece Solomon, Brice Gill, Scout Master James Smith, Jonathan Smith, Assistant Scout Master Kenny Nichols, SPL Chase Ponton, Johnny Malinowski, Parker Gill, Assistant Scout Master Joe Coleman. Second row: Committee Member Jamie Triplett, Kasch Johnson, Ben Busko, Chase Triplett, Bennett Brown, Colt Grevey, Alex Pace. Front row: Committee Member Gabe Bradley and William Coleman.



At the Strawberry, back row: Scout Master James Smith, Senator Mary Beth Carozza, Jonathan Smith, Mason Foxwell. In front are Alex Nazari, Chase Triplett, Kasch Johnson



All the boys again lined up for a group photo at Camp Rodney



Post 166 Offers Education Scholarships

Your American Legion Post 166 offers a wonderful opportunity to the children and grandchildren of current Legion members in good standing at Post 166.

High School Seniors and current undergraduate college students may apply for financial assistance on our Post 166 website (www.alpost166.org) by clicking on the Post Programs button on the left side, and then Scholarships.

Consideration is given to applicants that ex-

hibit a history of maintaining efforts of successful achievement in academics as well as participating in community service throughout their High School and College careers.

Scholarship awards for the 2022-2023 semester year have gone to 17 undergraduate students.

Bob Gilmore

Post 166 Scholarship Committee

Football Sunday

The Post is packing it in on Football Sunday, improving the big-screen TV and adding 50 inch TVs along the sides of both walls. The food is even in the same room.



Football fans pack the mail hall for a Ravens game on Football Sunday



Auxiliary Junior Brooklyn Paul serves up a large portion of fries to a fan from the food table in the main hall that offered a variety of appetizing choices

It takes a lot of effort



It takes more than the Post chef to make our tasty cheesesteak sandwiches. It starts with cutting the meat thinly by none other than House Committee chairman Charles Spaziani. The meat is then packed into individual servings by SAL and Post honorary Master Chef Little Joe Verdura. Bon appetite.





AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



Chuck Beattie

NEW SERVICE OFFICER

I would like to thank Post Commander Tom Wengert for appointing me as Service Officer for Post 166. I come to you with more than four years of experience working as the Assistant Department Service Officer for the VFW in

by calling my cell phone at 815-596-3176 (11 am 2 pm Tuesday thru Friday only).

Chuck Beattie

Post 166 Service Officer

Pennsylvania. I've only been here a short while, but numerous members of the Post have already made appointments to have questions answered about claims and have started the claim process.

With the passing of the PACT ACT and the Camp Lejeune Water Act, numerous questions are being fielded to me. I will get the answers as quickly as possible for the veterans and their families. In the meantime, the best message I can give to all veterans and families is "DO NOT SIGN WITH ANY LAW FIRM." There are numerous service officers in the veteran community that will file your claim for free. Once you sign with a law firm, no Service Officer can assist you further in your claim.

If you have any questions, you can contact me via email at charles.j.beattie62@gmail.com, or

Queen of Hearts hit on Oct. 25 for \$60,000



Queen of Hearts

Who says 13 is an unlucky number? That's where the Queen was found Sunday, and for Bev McLoskey of Edgewater she was worth \$60,000. Bev and her veteran hubby are members of Post 226 in Edgewater.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bob Broderick	(410) 353-0033	bobb@mamarketinginc.com
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Phil Ludlam	(410) 390-2190	ludlamsrl@aol.com
Harry Rey	(410) 2944552	tazzzzzz43@comcast.net
Charles Spaziani	(610) 329-5816	cspaz@comcast.net



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2nd Vice Commander	Bob Paul	(443) 523-4113	bpaul621951@gmail.com
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Service Officer	Chuck Beattie	(814) 596-3176	charles.j.beattie62@gmail.com
Finance Officer	George Barstis	(301) 529-2263	gbarstis@lkc.com
Historian	Ed Pinto	(703) 901-5544	airpinto293@gmail.com
Chaplain	Ben Dawson	(410) 603-2205	bendawson@beachin.net
Sgt-at-Arms	Bob Gilmore	(410) 726-5690	opbobgil@aol.com

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



Ben Dawson

Heavenly Father,
We thank you that we live in a country
where we are free to choose.
We also thank you that there are those who would
choose to leave their families behind
and give their lives to fight for freedom.
For those who are wounded in battle,
we ask for strength and wisdom to carry on.

Amen

Greetings Comrades and Welcome to Fall 2022

It seems that all my messages start by hoping you all had a good or great previous season. I know for certain that the previous season was not as good or great for some as we would have liked it to be. Many have had to face difficult roads: the passing and grieving for a loved one, sickness and injury, financial difficulties, and the list goes on. But we all will hopefully see a brighter tomorrow. It is said that yesterday is dead and gone and tomorrow never comes. No truer words were ever spoken. I guess what I'm hearing from that saying is that we should all make the best of what we have today.

It has been a difficult time around the world, with the commemoration of the 21st anniversary of 9/11, the continuing war in the Ukraine, the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, China continuing to chip away at the world, and our many problems here on our home front. The entire world, especially the USA is in need of much prayer.

The Post, as usual, has had another banner quarter, with member participation on the up-swing. If you haven't been to the post recently, please stop in and say hello to old friends and comrades. We miss you! If you need transportation to our meetings, give the post a call and we'll do our best to get you here.

Our Post Everlasting Rolls continue to grow and the older we get the greater the numbers. One of my toughest jobs as Chaplain is sending out letters and cards of condolence to next of kin. Sick Call is another duty that doesn't get the attention it should. I can't send a card or visit a comrade who is under the weather unless I know about it. Please let me know when you hear of a comrade or family member who is on sick call. I can use all the help I can get.

As always, I get a particularly good feeling when I come to the post and am greeted kindly by our members. Seems like I have more friends than ever the older I get. We all need a friend and a little sunshine in our lives. I hope to see your friendly face the next time I come to the post.

GOD BLESS,

— Ben Dawson
Chaplain

POST EVERLASTING REPORT

The following members
transferred to
Post Everlasting

- Jimmy L. Shepherd
- Richard C. Ruth
- John Andrews
- John W. Johnson
- Curtis Smith
- Carroll W. Wagner
- Leo J. Bateman
- William G. Wilkins II
- Warren Dinbrow
- Eric Nilsson
- Hershel L. Rose





Quarterly Calendar Fall 2022



OCT

Date	Event
3rd	VVA Chapter 1091 Mtg 1800hrs Social 1700hrs
4th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
10th	SAL Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
11th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
16th	Jr Auxiliary 166 Meeting 1300hrs
17th	Post House Committee Meeting 1600hrs
17th	Post Executive Board Meeting 1730hrs
18th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
18th	Auxiliary Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
20th-23rd	Sunfest
20th	Riders Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
24th	Post Membership Mtg 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
25th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
26th	1st State Detachment Marine Corps League Meeting Noon
28th	Halloween Party Costume Judging 1900-2300hrs



NOV

Date	Event
1st	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
7th	VVA Chapter 1091 Mtg 1800hrs Social 1700hrs
8th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
9th	Life-Line Screening 0800hrs-1730hrs
11th	Veterans Day Service At WCVM 1100hrs At Post 166 1330hrs
12th	SAL Annual Fall Bull & Oyster Roast 1600hrs-1900hrs
13th	Jr Auxiliary 166 Meeting 12 Noon
14th	SAL Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
15th	Auxiliary Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
17th	Riders Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
21st	Post House Committee Meeting 1600hrs
22nd	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
23rd	1st State Detachment Marine Corps League Meeting 12 Noon
24th	Thanksgiving Post Open Turkey Dinner Served 1400hrs-1700hrs



28th	Post Membership Mtg 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
29th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs



DEC

Date	Event
3rd	Trim a Tree Party 1300hr Prepare items to be Boxed for the Troops
4th	Junior Auxiliary 166 Meeting 1300hrs
5th	VVA Chapter 1091 Mtg 1800hrs Social 1700hrs
6th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
7th	Pearl Harbor Day
12th	SAL Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
13th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
17th	SAL Annual Christmas Party 1300hrs-1500hrs
18th	Riders Annual Christmas Party 1700hrs-2000hrs
19th	Post House Committee Meeting 1600hrs
19th	Post Executive Board Meeting 1730hrs
20th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
20th	Auxiliary Meeting & Christmas Party 1900hrs
25th	MERRY CHRISTMAS Post Opens at 1500hrs
26th	NO MEMBERSHIP MTG
27th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
28th	1st State Detachment Marine Corps League Meeting 12 Noon
31st	New Years Eve Party 2000hrs (BRING A DISH)
1st	New Years Day "Bring Your Leftover Snacks" 1300hrs

Synepuxent Post 166, Fall 2022

Postmaster—Send Address Changes to:

Synepuxent Observer

P.O. Box 63

Ocean City, MD 21843-0063

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Ed Pinto, Editor
airpinto166@gmail.com

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Tom Wengert - Commander

George Pickrell - Director

Karen Thompson - President

Joe Verdura - Commander



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

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

PHONE NUMBERS IMPORTANT TO VETERANS:

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

ATTENTION POST #166 LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS

To make sure you are receiving your Synepuxent Observer by speedy email delivery, we need your email address. If your newsletter is still coming by regular mail, we don't have it, so let's change that, Send your email address to airpinto166@gmail.com 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



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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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