



## Commander's Message

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season with family and friends. I would like to thank all the volunteers who took time to decorate our Legion. Thank you Lori Arillo for decorating our Christmas tree in the game room; as usual it looks great. Also, a great thanks to Bob Paul for organizing the tree trimming and hanging of the military ornaments on the tree by members of the individual branches of service.

If you haven't already noticed, our Steward Sam Wiley has moved on to bigger and better things. Gidget Gunson has replaced Sam, with a new assistant, John Karahasan. We also have two new bartenders in Buddy Groff and Dawn Adkins, and two new kitchen staff, John Taylor and Jeff (Peaches) Emm.

The end of the year was really busy, starting with October Endless Summer Cruisin' weekend. Then it was on to Oceans Calling, which unfortunately had to be canceled because of the bad weather that weekend. We felt sorry for those who had purchased tickets for the three-day event but many celebrated at the Legion with our Rockin' DJ Mikey. Sunfest weekend closed out October. Sunfest goers may have walked the Boardwalk during the day, but many ended up at our Post drinking and eating and having a great time. I can't begin to tell you how many compliments we receive about how our Legion is extremely clean and friendly. Our thanks must go to Steve Monteith, who does a fantastic job each and every day, making sure that the restrooms are filled with paper and our lounge and bar areas are kept clean.

Then came November and Bob Paul put on a fantastic Veterans Day program. He had speak-

ers from every branch of service relating stories about their time in the military. The next day the Sons held another of their fabulous Bull and Oyster roasts. The hall was packed and if you went home hungry it was your own fault. The oysters were cold and salty, the beef, turkey, and ham were cooked to perfection. The very next day

our Junior Auxiliary was recognized by the Department as being the best in the state of Maryland and on the East Coast. Thank you Jesse Parsons and Kirsten Brown for your hard work in shaping these young ladies to be the best. Again, this year, with the help from our kitchen staff led by Tommy O'Meara, John Taylor and Jeff Emm, we treated many families to Thanksgiving dinner -- a full-course meal with all the fixings and dessert. Compliments to our kitchen staff were never ending.



Tom Wengert  
Commander

Then it was on to December and the Bob Paul scripted Trim-a-Tree Party, where we decorated the tree with old and new military decorations. The very next day Jeff Merritt and Operation We Care, where boxes were packed for deployed troops. Volunteers from our Scout troops, the Junior Auxiliary, and many others showed up to pack just shy of 100 boxes to be shipped to our servicemen and women around the world.

To bring everyone up to date on our rooftop addition, progress has been slow, but we are going to make it happen. If everything goes as planned we will open somewhere around the Fourth of July. This will be a sight to see when it is fully completed.

*Continued on page 2*



# AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



Ed Pinto

Watch out, 2023. You will have high bar to jump to do better than 2022. What a year that has been. Especially the second part that begin with approval by the Post membership for a major construction project that will give us an outdoor, roof-top patio and bar. Look for it on or

about July 4. When you factor this new look into the equation of what our Post offers to members -- the great food created by Chef Tom and his team -- the low prices, the fantastic bar and bar staff, the programs and camaraderie and friendship -- can there be any doubt that we are the go-to place to be in Ocean City?

And then came the last quarter of the year and the events and observances to honor veterans and programs to make the Holiday Season just a little warmer for our serving men and women and less fortunate community members. Don't forget the plain old-fashioned fun, either, starting with Halloween and ending with the Pot-luck New Year's Eve dinner at the Post.

Commander Tom's column on the cover page of this issue provides a great summary of just what went on, and recognizes by name the hard-working volunteers and leaders of the Post who made it all happen. You'll find out more, much more, about what happened throughout

## Commander's Message

Continued from page 1

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has made 2022 a success. Remember this is your Post and without your help we cannot do what we did. We need volunteers so if you have some spare time and can help at any event please contact our Stewards Gidget or John and give them your name and number so when we do need volunteers they have someone to call. Be safe and I hope to see you in the coming year.

May God Bless You and May God Bless America.

*Tom Wengert,*

Commander, Post #166

## From the Editor:

this newsletter, in pictures and words.

You'll also find inside two new features. A list of donations we made to community causes in the three months September through November, and the names of new and transferred members to our Post, which keeps on growing. What a fantastic number of transfers, and how about those dollars we gave away thanks to you? We'll keep you informed about this information in future issues so you know just how important your Post is to the local community.

So, I say again, 2023, you had better be on your toes because it will be a challenge to live up to the Old Man Year who just left us.

*Ed Pinto,*

Editor

## Auxiliary Sponsoring Putt for a Cause



Here's a great start to the 2023 line up. Let's all get behind it. It happens right as the year gets underway so don't let a wintry January keep you inside. Get out and putt and then come to the Post for the after party at 4 p.m.



**Putting for a Cause**  
STOP SOLDIER SUICIDE !!

**FUN! FUN! FUN!**  
TEAMS OF FOUR  
PLAY 9 HOLES OF MINI GOLF  
IN 9 DIFFERENT PUBS IN O.C.  
PRIZES!!  
1st, 2nd, 3rd Place team low score  
Best themed team  
Vote for best hole made by Pub  
**JANUARY 21, 2023**  
\$25.00 PER PERSON

TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM OR FOR INFO:  
VISIT US ON FACEBOOK: ALA SYNEPUXENT UNIT 166 or  
CONTACT EMILY AT 443 497 6894

**AFTER PARTY AT 4 PM**  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 166  
24TH STREET & PHILADELPHIA AVE.  
FOOD MUSIC by DJ MIKEY PRIZES  
AWARDED  
REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 10 A.M.  
SPONSORED BY AL AUXILIARY UNIT 166



## AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

### POST STEWARD UPDATE



Gidget Gunson  
Post 166 Steward

I guess I should introduce myself for those of you who I haven't met yet. My name is Gidget Gunson and I am the new Post Steward. I came from Post 66 in Bowie, Maryland, where I was the Bar/Facilities Manager. I am really happy to now be a part of Post 166, and would like to thank everyone that I have gotten a chance to

meet for the warm welcome you have extended to me. Our reputation is as The Friendliest Place in Town, and that's exactly what it has been for me since I arrived. I am excited to be here, and look forward to helping make Post 166 the go-to place to meet friends, enjoy good food, and relax.

I would also like to introduce the new Assis-

tant Steward, John Karahasan. You've known him as one of our always smiling busy bar tenders, and now he has taken on new responsibilities. We both look forward to an awesome New Year. I for one can't wait for the new upstairs patio/bar. It is going to be a great new addition to the Post. To get updates about the upstairs deck please go to our website, where you will find the plans.

Here's hoping I get a chance to see you around the Post. Stop by, say hi and get yourself an awesome drink from our fabulous bartenders or some outstanding food from our great Chef Tom and his kitchen staff.

Best regards,

*Gidget Gunson*

– Post 166 Steward

### From the Adjutant

#### Post 166 Rates High in Membership Renewals



John Bussard  
Adjutant

We are doing well as a Post in the District and in the Region regarding our membership renewals. Our Post is in Region 1, which is number one in the state in membership renewals. In our Region we are in District 2, which is number two in the region in membership renewals. Post 166 is number two in membership renewals in our

category of Posts with 751 to 1000 members (there are only three posts in this category).

By the January membership goal percentage, we will likely have reached our goal of 80 percent of registrations. We have been very successful in registering new members and transferring members from other posts, as well as having many of our current members renewing.

All of that is good news. The bad news is that we are lagging in membership retention because not enough current members are renewing their membership. Last year our retention rate, at the end of

the registration cycle in June, was 89.3 percent. You may recall that we missed our goal by 27 members last year. As of mid-December, our retention rate was at 67.4 percent, so our current members are slow in registering. There are 95 expired members on our roster from 2020 who have not renewed their membership. There are 288 active members on the roster who have not renewed their membership and if they did not renew by December 31, 2022, their membership automatically became delinquent, and will expire at the end of January. As of mid-December, we needed 219 members to reach the 895 Department goal.

Also, on December 31 the Post door key card for members who did not renew for 2023 was deactivated.

Reminder, on the membership statement, in the upper left-hand corner, there is in red lettering, a URL link which you may use to reregister online. The link is **LEGION.ORG/RENEW**.

*John Bussard*

Adjutant



## “Breaking the Colors” and Why it Should Be Avoided

It's a tradition in the American Legion and the Auxiliary that “Breaking the Colors” is not permitted. It's not a violation of the United States Flag Code to

do so, but Breaking the Colors has been frowned upon for decades in the American Legion. The origin of the tradition seems to be lost in time, but not the observance, which has been memorialized in a poem by Nolle Deas, Past Commander of the Florida Department 1973-1974.

By tradition at the Legion and Auxiliary one does not enter the space between the American flag, POW/MIA flag, a state flag and the flags or banner of the Legion Family posted on each side of the podium at meetings. This is a custom of preserving the Hallowed Ground between the flags. It's there to show honor and respect to fallen veterans.

When approaching the podium, the approach should be around the American Flag or banner, stopping to salute if wearing an authorized Legion cap. If a person is not wearing an authorized cover the person should stop and place their hand over their heart instead. Exiting from behind the podium should be around the flag or flags on the opposite side of the American

# HALLOWED GROUND

Flag, with a hand salute or hand over the heart.

In no instance should an individual reach through the Hallowed Ground to accept something that is

being handed to him or her from the podium. The respectful way to receive an item from the podium is to go behind the flags as described above.

How did Past Commander Deas of Florida honor this tradition? He wrote a poem explaining it. That poem explaining why you don't walk through the hallowed ground between the colors follows:

*Between these flags that proudly fly  
Let no man dare to stand  
For here our fallen Comrades lie  
We call it Hallowed Ground*

*A symbol, yes, but mark it well;  
Here let us humbly pause  
In memory of the lad who fell  
In fighting for our sacred cause.*

*On sea or land these buddies died.  
Some lie beneath a foreign sod  
In graves caressed by winds and tide.  
In spots unknown to all but God.*

*And so, this place is Hallowed Ground.  
And it shall be forever blest  
As though it were a grassy mound  
Beneath which gallant heroes rest.  
Be ever watchful.*

*Of those flags which signify  
That we should guard this spot with care  
Where our departed comrades lie.  
And, if a man should dare to tread  
This spot where lie our gallant brave,  
He desecrates those noble dead  
As though he walked upon his grave.*

Nolle Deas, Past Commander  
Florida Department 1973-1974



The Hallowed Ground is that space to the right of the American Flag, to the left of the Post Flag, and the space directly over the MIA chair. It is breached by walking through it or reaching over the chair to receive something from the podium



## NEW MEMBERS AND TRANSFERS

### New Members to Post 166 September-November 2022

Post 166 continues to grow. Between September and November 2022, another 26 veterans joined our post. Their names and service affiliation if provided, are below. Say hello when you see any of new comrades.

Mark Bradley.....	Navy	James Johnasen.....	Air Force
Ray Chapman		Heath Kral	
Charles Diehlman.....	Navy	Michael Mullikin.....	Marines
Samuel Dixon.....	Marines	Alan Olsen.....	Army
Thomas Farron.....	Army	Gretchen Radke.....	Army
Timothy Golden.....	Marines	Robert Radke.....	Army.
Robert Grossman.....	Army	William Scheivert.....	Army
John Hayes.....	Army	Jonathan Shomann	
Jeffrey Heavner.....	Navy	Emil Shott.....	Army
Dennis Howe.....	Army	Ronald Smith.....	Army
		Vincent Smith.....	Army
		Derek Swartz	
		Ruth Vernet.....	Army
		Michael Wilkins.....	Army
		Charles Winchester.....	Marines
		Christopher Wood.....	Army

### Transfers to Post 166 September-November 2022

Post 166 is a go-to Post in Maryland and that's evidenced by the number of transfers we get. For the three months September-November 23 new members transferred in from other posts. Here's a list of their names and service affiliations. If you should happen to run into any of these veterans, say hello to welcome them to the Friendliest Place in Ocean City.

Gerald Barron.....	Army	Mahlon Turner.....	Army
Joseph Crispo.....	Army	James Vornlocker.....	Army
Bruce D'Aloisio.....	Army	Scott Whalen.....	Army
Kyle DeJesus.....	Marines	Fred Womer.....	Army
William Docca.....	Air Force		
James Ferguson.....	Army		
Harold Gladwin.....	Navy		
Everett Green.....	Army		
Charles Hansen.....	Marines		
Frank Heidel.....	Army		
Anthony Herlihy.....	Army		
Dennis Kroger.....	Navy		
Jeffrey Lathbury.....	Coast Guard		
Charles Macola.....	Navy		
Clifford Martin.....	Army		
William Porter.....	Navy		
Richard Schuman.....	Marines		
Jerry Tomco.....	Navy		
Anthony Turner.....	Marines		





# DONATIONS

## Post 166 Donations September to November 2022

Post 166 has a generous charitable donation program thanks to members and guests who avail themselves of the slots and games of chance at the Post. Here's a list of contributions for the three months ending November 2022. The total came to \$60,175. As a member you should be proud of how you are helping to support so many community needs.

American Legion Aux 166	\$1,000	National Child Safety Council	\$2,000
American Legion Emergency Fund	\$2,000	Ocean City Art League	\$1,000
Assateague Coastal Trust	\$3,500	Ocean City Downtown Assn.	\$1,500
Atlantic General Hospital	\$3,400	Ocean City Recreation & Parks	\$450
Atlantic United Methodist Church	\$1,000	Showell PTA	\$1,000
Believe in Tomorrow	\$2,000	St. Paul's By the Sea	\$2,000
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	\$1,500	St. Peter's Lutheran Church	\$2,000
Bless Our Children	\$2,000	Surfers Helping Children with Autism	\$2,000
Brian Heller Scholarship	\$2,000	Wicomico County JROTC	\$2,000
Cedar Chapel School	\$2,000	Worcester Cty Commission on Aging	\$780
Coastal Hospice	\$2,000	Worcester Cty Veterans Memorial	\$2,000
Coastal Lacrosse Academy	\$2,000	Worcester Technical School	\$1,000
Community Church of Ocean Pines	\$2,000	Wreaths Across America	\$1,000
Community Foundation/Eastern Shore	\$5,000		
Cricket Center	\$2,500		
Diakonia	\$1,000		
Eagle Chapter Air Force Security Assn.	\$2,000		
East Sussex Moose Lodge	\$2,000		
Elks	\$520		
Heroes to Hometown	\$2,000		
M & D Shore 2024	\$1,000		

help wanted

THE ADJUTANT IS LOOKING FOR A COMPUTER SOFTWARE (MICROSOFT OFFICE) SAVVY VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH PROCESSING THE POST MEMBERSHIP RECORDS. IF YOU'RE THAT PERSON CONTACT THE ADJUTANT, JOHN BUSSARD, AT HIS EMAIL [ADJUTANT166@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ADJUTANT166@GMAIL.COM).

YOU MUST BE A LEGION MEMBER.



# AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



Karen Thompson with the ALA ornament



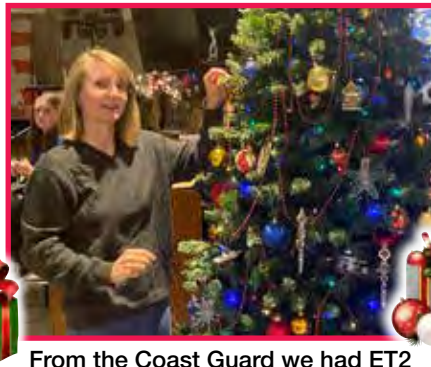
SAL Adjutant Kevin Matthews and wife Penny, adding an ornament



Chuck Porter displays the Army ornament



Color Guard Captain Glen Reely took his turn decorating



From the Coast Guard we had ET2 Kirsten Brown, daughter of Rider Scott Brown



Harry Rey deciding where to place the Navy ornament



U.S. Air Force ornament has to fly high and that's what Mary and Michael Higdon are doing



Bonnie Strawbridge hanging the U.S. Space Force decoration



Auxiliary Juniors helped out, with Brooklynn Paul and Advisor Jesse Parsons



Higher, Tom, Higher



Not quite as high as Tom's but Joan got as high as she could



The Tree Trimming Crew



# AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

## Halloween and Thanksgiving

*Great Time, Great Costumes, Great Food*

Before Christmas, before New Year's Eve there was Halloween and Thanksgiving, and the Post didn't let the holidays slip by unnoticed. Post 166 held a great Halloween party. And as usual, the Post filled stomachs galore with a tasty Thanksgiving fare, free for all who showed up. Here are some of the photos from those events...



Joann and Commander Tom Wengert



Visiting Legionnaires from Texas joined in the fun



Marot, Edward, and Lisa Sisas



DJ Mikey and wife Bea



Visitors from Pennsylvania came dressed for the party



And the Winner of the Best Costume was... Mark White-neck and wife Tonya Marie, visiting from Pennsylvania Pen Argyl Post 502

# AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

## Thanksgiving

Post 166 again had a full house for the annual Thanksgiving dinner, and a great turnout by our volunteers to make it rousing success once again. Here's a glimpse of what went on.



Bartender John manned the busy front bar throughout the day



Santa even showed up, in civvies, for our Thanksgiving Feast, and ordered from the bar



The bar was full, as were the plates!



Football was on the game room TV, with food on the tables



Thanksgiving or not, here's Buddy at his station selling Queen of Hearts tickets



In the kitchen, Chef Tom carving the turkey after he cooked it



Auxiliary members Debbie Sauer and Gladys Warthen enjoyed the dinner where they also sold Queen of Hearts tickets in the main dining room



Our servers were volunteers, as usual: Helen McWilliams, Al Schiavo, Gladys Warthen, Linda Smith, Ralph Brumbley, Carl Carpenter, Jackie Carpenter

# Synepuxent Post 166, Winter 2023

## Operation We Care is a Family Affair

The annual tradition of packing Care boxes for our troops overseas was held at the Post in December, and again was a rousing success, with 100 boxes of goodies, toiletries and other items troops serving on active duty often crave. So many helped. ALA Juniors, our Scouts, the entire Post family, including Auxiliary, Sons, Riders, and students from Stephen Decatur High School Connections Program and JROTC.



Sophia Hume, Brooklyn Paul, Emily Busko, and McKenna Birkhead-Thompson



We love our Scouts!



Starr Purnell, Kathy McDaniel, Bob Gilmore, and Marie Gilmore



Penny Matthews, Alicia Muir, Kirsten Brown, and Jessie Parsons



Post 2nd Vice Commander Bob Paul, foreground center, joins the packing



Our American Legion Family volunteers at the box packing for our troops



Loading a truckload of boxes



Our Juniors Crew packing boxes for the troops. Starr Purnell, Delaney McDaniel, Saylor Amos, Brooklyn Paul, Kirsten Brown, Addison McDaniel, Jessie Parsons, McKenna Birkhead-Thompson



# AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

## Large Turnout At the Post for Veterans Day 2022

Post 166's observance of Veterans Day 2022 filled the main hall, with Post Adjutant John Bussard as Master of Ceremonies and the colors presented by the Marine JROTC from Snow Hill High

School. The program was organized by 2nd Vice Commander Bob Paul and featured veterans speaking about their experiences while serving from the Cold-War era through Afghanistan.



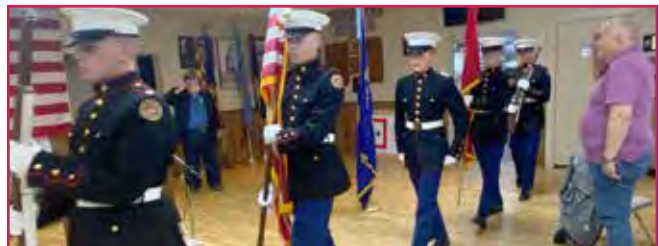
MC Adjutant John Bussard



Guests stand as the program is about to get underway



When the observances were over, the feast began



The Marine JROTC from Snow Hill High School presented the colors



1st Vice Commander J.R. Best read the explanations about the symbols on the MIA Table, helped by Post member Robert Smith



2nd Vice Commander Bob Paul and Junior Auxiliary Advisor Jesse Parsons placed a wreath at the MIA Table



The singing of God Bless America was led again by Karen Holmes



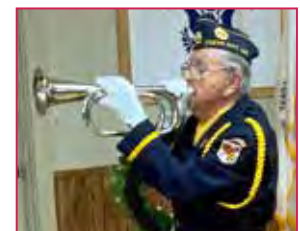
Army Veteran Ben Dawson



State Senator Mary Beth Carozza



Navy Vet Chuck Schaub



Color Guard Johan Nykvist on he bugle as the colors were presented



# AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

## Elks Hometown Heroes Banner Program

Once again, Ocean City Elks Lodge #2645, held a spectacular banner presentation for those veterans whose Hometown Heroes banners were displayed on boardwalk lampposts this summer, courtesy of the Elks Hometown Heroes banner program. The presentations were held at the Elk Lodge in October, and included members of American Legion Post 166. Each made short comments upon being presented with their banner. Here are photos of some of our members speaking at the ceremony.



John Bussard



Allen W. Cathell



Jake Gatrell



Jeffrey Grim



Paul Hawkins



Bob Paul





# AUXILIARY NEWS

Every Christmas season the Auxiliary hosts a Christmas Part for clients of the Worcester County Developmental Center. As it has been in the past, it was a festive occasion.



Here's just a part of the crowd



Emily Nock and a party goer



Dessert table servers



A room full of party-goers



Santa has arrived



Sharon Hilty and Jesse Parsons



Tina, Linda, Marti, Kirsten, Penny, Jessie with a party guest



# AUXILIARY JUNIORS



Jessie Parsons

Lots of exciting things have been happening for our Juniors program. Our October meeting included making Veteran's Day cards and having our Unit Gold Star Mother, Sharon Hilty, speak at our meeting. She emphasized that acts of kindness have meant

so much to her. Delaney McDaniel and McKenna Birkhead-Thompson represented our Unit 166 at the Department of Maryland Junior Fall Conference, where Delaney served as the Department Honorary Junior Chaplain. October also brought Make A Difference Day where our Juniors and ALA members delivered jack-o-lanterns filled with candy to our local Coast Guard station.

On Veterans Day, cards made for veterans were distributed to our post veterans and to the local nursing home. McKenna Birkhead-Thompson also delivered cards to veterans at the ribbon cutting for the new Major General Linda L. Singh Readiness Center in Carrol County. Sophia and Mia Hume made cards that they distributed in Delaware. On November 13, a ceremony was held at our Post to celebrate our nationally recognized juniors program. Rosie Garlitz, the founder of our Juniors Program, and Starr Purnell, our former Department of Maryland Juniors Chair and current National Juniors Chairperson were both on hand to celebrate.

State Senator Mary Beth Carozza and Delegate Wayne Hartman presented a citation from the Maryland General Assembly; County Commissioner Chip Bertino presented a citation from Worcester County; and Pete Buas, Ocean City Council Member, presented a citation from the Town of Ocean City. Saylor Amos also received a citation for being chosen Department of Maryland ALA Junior Member of the Year. Thank you to Emily Nock and Marie Gilmore for coordinating this special event.

Following the ceremony and lunch, Starr Purnell facilitated the officer induction ceremony for members of our Junior Unit. Elected officers for 2022-2023 were: Saylor Amos, President; Delaney McDaniel, Vice President; Sophia Hume, Sgt-at-Arms; Mia Hume, Historian; and Brooklyn

Paul, Chaplain. Starr also presented our Juniors with a pin from the ALA National President. We are so grateful for the leadership and mentoring offered by Rosie and Starr over the years. For American Education Week, cards signed by our Juniors were delivered to our local schools to thank teachers. Delaney McDaniel participated in the flag retirement ceremony at the Worcester County Memorial on November 19.

December began with Brooklynn Paul participating in the tree trimming at our post. All of our juniors participated in the packing of the boxes for our troops overseas. It is always an uplifting event with much community involvement from Stephen Decatur High School's students from the Connections program. The majority of our donations come from this program. Delaney McDaniel was on hand at the high school to help load our vehicles with the donations. The school's Junior ROTC, our scout troops, and American Legion family members all pitched in to make our Support the Troops project a great success. Our partnership with Jeff Merritt and Operation We Care continues to provide a great structure for this mission.

*Jessie Parsons,*  
ALA Unit 166 Juniors Advisor



Addison and Delaney McDaniel (ALA Juniors) and Kirsten Brown and Alica Muir (ALA) delivering candy filled jack-o-lanterns to the Coast Guard for Make Difference Day in October



Junior McKenna Birkhead Thompson delivering a Veterans Day Card made by Our Juniors Unit to Retired Brigadier General Annette Deener at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new Major General Linda L. Singh Readiness Center



# AUXILIARY NEWS

## We Have the Best Juniors

It's undisputed, we have the best Junior Auxiliary. As a result of being recognized as the best by the Department of Maryland Auxiliary, our Juniors were further honored at a December 11 Recognition Ceremony with Proclamations and Citations from state and local elected leaders. Here's a snapshot of that program.



Starr Purnell, District President and National Juniors Activities Chairperson, inducting our juniors into unit office. Brooklynn Paul, Chaplain; Mia Hume, Historian; Sophia Hume, Sgt-at-Arms; and Delaney McDaniel, Vice President



OFront left to right at the November 11 Recognition Ceremony for our Juniors: Rosie Garlitz (founder of the Unit 166 Juniors program); Starr Purnell (District President and National Juniors Activity Chairperson); Mia and Sophia Hume; Brooklyn Paul; Delaney McDaniel; County Commissioner Chip Bertino; State Senator Mary Beth Carozza; Junior Advisor Jessie Parsons. In the back are Del. Wayne Hartman, and Ocean City Councilman Pete Buas



A proud advisor, Jesse Parsons



Former Advisor Emily Nock



Kirsten Brown

## Happy New Year!! I hope everyone enjoyed the Holiday Season!

I am happy to share we our close to exceeding membership goal for 2022-2023. I would like to thank every one of our members without our members this wouldn't be achievable.

Our Auxiliary is enjoying seeing new members at our meetings along with the continued support of our long-standing members.

Our meetings are every third Tuesday of the month, with social hour and light refreshments at 6:00 p.m. with our meeting starting promptly at 7:00 p.m..

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



# SAL NEWS & ACTIVITIES

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BULL AND OYSTER ROAST FOR SAL

The Son's **BULL AND OYSTER ROASTS** held to raise money for their charitable activities has become a **CAN'T-WAIT-UNTIL-THE-DOORS** open event. Here's a look at the roast held November 12.



It was hard trying to keep those trays filled



Buckets and buckets of oysters



Tables were full

The house was packed



Kevin Mathews and Charlie Herbert made sure everyone paid admission



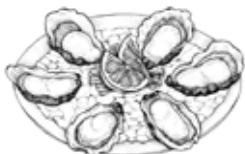
There were games of chance to raise money for SAL's charitable giving



Post Chaplain Ben, and SAL President Joe pulling a ticket for a 50-50 drawing



Penny Mathews, Bea Torlish, and Marti and Gene Marron at the station where the carved bull was served



Steward Gidget and Bartender Tina with a new keg of beer



Where there's food, there's drink, served by Bartender Tina



# AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

As winter approaches and the riding season closes, the Riders have been busy planning next year's events. There will be a lot coming up, hope to see you there!

In honor of the American Legion and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, Post 166 Riders donated to Wreaths across America at the Eastern Shore Veteran's Cemetery in Hurlock, Maryland. Always remember.

We also had other events for the Christmas season. The Riders gave gift cards to the USCG Station Ocean City, hosting a joint Christmas Party with the Sons of the American Legion. We also donated to the Cricket Center and Coastal Trust to help throughout the holiday season.



### Angel Tree Gift Drop-Off at Holy Savior

Our members also donated gifts to Holy Savior Church for its Angel Tree. Every year, the church sponsors needy families for Christmas and the Riders were happy to help out.

### Gun Raffle

It's not too late to get you raffle tickets for the 2023 ALR Gun Raffle. We're raffling off a Beretta A300 Ultima 12 gauge shotgun, and a Franchi Momentum 6.5 Creedmoor rifle. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. Drawing will be held on Super Bowl Sunday, February 12.

### Upcoming 2023 ALR Events

- Our annual Crab Feast will be coming up in July.
- The Bike Week 2020 Open House will be mid-September.
- There will be a new fund raiser for 2023. Stay tuned!

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). If you are a motorcycle rider, or just want to support the Riders, let us know. Once again, thank you everyone for your continued support. Ride safe!



Riders Gifts for Holy Savior Angel Tree



Riders Gun Raffle

**American Legion Riders Post #166 Gun Raffle**

Drawing will be held on "Superbowl Sunday," February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.



Beretta A300 Ultima 12 Gauge Shotgun



Franchi Momentum 6.5 Creedmoor Rifle

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

See your favorite bartender for tickets!

FIRST WINNER CAN SELECT THEIR CHOICE OF RIFLE

# 1ST STATE DETACHMENT MARINES



## From the Commandant



Bob Broderick

We had a busy 2022, including, of course, celebrating 247th birthday of the founding of the U. S. Marine Corps at Tun Tavern In Philadelphia on November 10, 1775. The tavern burned down in 1781 as the Revolutionary War was coming to an end, so it's no longer there.

But we, the First State Detachment, still are and here's a little of what we accomplished in 2022.

We held our 16th annual golf outing in June and supported 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 we participated at the Ocean City Convention Center for the Jeep Week event.

In September First State Marines volunteered to help the Bethany Fenwick Chamber of Commerce out at the Bethany Beach Arts Festival. On October 16 we held our third annual Semper Fi Bike Ride, walk or Run, on Ocean City's Iconic Boardwalk. Funds raised at this year's events went to benefit the Semper Fi & America's Fund and The Believe in Tomorrow Foundation, two worthy charities that benefit Veterans and their families regardless of their branch of service. It was a non-stop summer for First State Marines who provided Color Guard and Honor Guard service at veteran funeral services.

We capped the year by supporting the annual Toys for Tots Party at Mio Fratello's Restaurant, where 100 guests feasted at a buffet, danced the night and contributed cash donations to the program. And guess who the servers at the buffet



Always working, First State Marines manning the buffet line at Mio Fratello's Toys for Tots party

were, our very own First State Detachment Marines.

In 2022 members of First State Marines accumulated 1,345 volunteer hours of community

service in Worcester and Sussex Counties. We joined the Chambers of Commerce in Bethany Fenwick and Ocean City to integrate into the local business communities that support our fund-raising events and recognize First State Marines as a valuable local resource.

The Detachment has been around since 1989 supporting veterans and charities in the Ocean City area and lower Sussex County Delaware. With more than 160 members, the men and women of the First State Marines continue to honor us with their commitment to community service and the selfless giving of time and resources.

I couldn't be prouder of the support and work of First State Detachment Marines for the volunteer hours of community service in Worchester and Sussex Counties, the communities we live in.

*Bob Broderick*

MCL Commander



Presenting the colors at Jolly Rogers Christmas in July Event



Riders enjoying the bike event in October



Nelson Kelly

Well, here's hoping everyone had a great Thanksgiving and Christmas. As always what a wonderful time of the year. At the same time, I hope you made an effort to remember those less fortunate than we are, and our troops still serving, especially those in harm's way.

Your chapter has been busy in 2022, with its great community and Veterans programs. Since the last newsletter we donated to the Eagle Scout project of William Kozma, Scout Troop 2173, Bishopville, Maryland.

William is currently a Senior at Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin. William's project was the construction of a gazebo, at Most Blessed Sacrament School in Berlin. He raised more than \$10,000 through donations from businesses, organizations and individuals. The gazebo, dedicated Sunday October 16, was built in memory of Mark Record, who was Principal of MBS when William attended. In his remarks, William said, "Mr. Record was a mentor and inspiration to me." On November 16 Bob Gilmore and I had a productive visit to Veterans Incarcerated at the Eastern Correctional Institution. They visited the East and West Wing group at ECO and for the first time the Annex that is used as a pre-release area for inmates with good conduct. These veterans are always glad to see us, and we find them



William and his family with the gazebo he constructed

clean cut and well behaved. We had a tasty meal of chicken and sides and once again had a lesson in the art of eating with a plastic spork.

One of the complaints of incarcerated veterans is not having access to VA healthcare and a VA service officer. We had a VA rep scheduled to go with us, but she had to cancel at the last moment. We did learn this visit that the veterans have access to video conferences with attorneys. So why not with VA? We are going to try to set them up with a video conference with the VA rep for those that are close to release. VA can help set them up with housing, jobs, healthcare and other VA benefits.

Unfortunately, communication with ECI is a challenge for us. Bob Gilmore does an excellent

job chairing this extremely important program. We are still waiting for permission from ECI management to donate "Veteran."

In 2023 we will be starting our ninth year as a VVA Chapter. Out thanks go to Post 166 for all the support it has given us. We could not ask for a better home. VVA 1091 membership applications and pre-addressed envelopes are on ledge by bulletin board. If you know of any eligible Vets we would love to have them as members. Our esteemed Treasurer has informed me we are in dire need of funds to keep our scholarship, Veterans Incarcerated and charity programs going. Please help us (you) when you hear more about this.

Your Prez and his First Lady will be heading South in January and returning in April. You will be in good hands with VP Gerry. We need someone to help with Maryland State Council meetings. June and I have been attending these, traveling from Ocean City to Cumberland. It's time for someone else to volunteer. Expenses are covered.

Your Prez

*Nelson Kelly*

Our VVA Chapter #1091 has completed another successful year. After enduring the many disruptions in our ability to gather and enjoy each other's company during the pandemic years, business returned to normal. Our current roster includes 114 members along with 12 AVVA Members.

Our members have been able to support many important veteran and community projects throughout the year. These include, among others, veterans in need, Flags for Heroes, a visit to Delaware of the Wall, Eagle Scout Projects, "Welcome Home Day" Celebration, two NJROTC Scholarships, Marine Corps League Projects, Elks # 2645 Hometown Heroes Boardwalk Project, Worcester County Veterans Memorial Education Project, Operation We Care and Wreaths Across America.

By the time this comes out Christmas and New Year's will have passed. Here's hoping all our members and friends in our community had a Merry Christmas and look forward to a Happy and Healthy 2023.

*Bob Gilmore*  
Treasurer



# AMERICAN LEGION SCOUTING NEWS

## Scouts Entertain Gull Creek Residents for Christmas

Troop and Pack 261 at Gull Creek Retirement home on Sunday, December 1. The boys sang Christmas carols, played bells and multiple other instruments to the residents.



Reece Solomon playing the violin



Parker Gill playing the piano



Webelos playing the bells:  
(left to right) Steve T, Brantley Gilbert, Daniel Nazari



Pack 2 Lions and Tigers playing the bells: (left to right)  
Thomas Nazari, Sam Epsen, Colby Koch, Wesley Grimes  
and Koralline Kelly

## Troop 621

Troop 621 had an end of the year that saw the girls celebrate Halloween at Furnacetown and Christmas at Shellville in Rehobeth. They also continued to prepare for the year ahead and took a Shad Landing Shakedown Hike to prepare for bigger treks ahead like the Appalachian Trail.



The haunted post office "scare crew" at Furnace Town. Nick Busko, Emery Busko, Ollie Gill, Willow, Winter, Megan Kiser, and Heather Kiser.



At Shellville to to celebrate Christmas



From left to right, Heather Kiser, Ollie Gill, Bailey Herrmann, and Nick Busko at Shad Landing

**A little Christmas Cheer for Veterans**



Addison and Delaney McDaniel filled 15 stockings before Christmas for veterans at the Berlin Nursing Home



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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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

Winter greetings, Comrades, from the Chaplains desk. I don't know about you, but it seems like I'm just getting to the point where I can write 2022 on my checks without thinking, and now I'm already practicing writing 2023. I should have it down perfectly by July or August as long as my short-term memory holds out. Seems like time is on afterburners with no hope of slowing down. I am convinced that we elders and the younger are on different clocks and our clock is ticking on high-speed mode, working to get us to the finish line in record time. I want to move that finish line as far forward as I can. Seems like by the time I finish putting my pants on in the morning it's time to take them off for bed. GOD has blessed us with this life but gave us just so much time to live it, to make the most of it or should I say the

best of it? The important thing to me, is where I will be after my clock in this place has stopped? Something we should all think about if we care.

The post was incredibly active this in 2022 thanks to our "take charge" leaders and staff, from the commander on down. The Gold Medal Bartenders and Kitchen Crew take a back seat to none, and we would be nowhere without volunteers. I continue to hear from visitors saying how much they love coming to our post for the camaraderie and prices.

We as members all have a piece of skin in Synepuxent Post 166. We earned it.

This is the time of year that we should look to our families, comrades and friends and celebrate the good news of Christmas.

Many of our members have no family in the area, which makes us kin to each other here at the post. We are a Family. Also, many members are unable to get to the post, either because of health problems or they are without transportation. A visit, a card or a friendly ride can make a world of difference to a shut-in. If you know of someone in need, but can't provide some help yourself, please let me or one of the officers of the post know. We also have a limited supply of medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, that we can make available for those in need.

Finally, comrades, several of our members have transferred to Post Everlasting and more on sick call. Please keep the family members of those whom we lost, lifted up in your prayers for comfort, and pray for the healing of those on sick call.

I hope that you and your families had a very Blessed Christmas and will have a healthy and prosperous 2023. See you at the Post.

God Bless You.

— Ben Dawson  
Chaplain

### POST EVERLASTING REPORT

The following members  
transferred to  
Post Everlasting

- John J. Andrews
- Frederick Heinlen
- Martin Kwesko
- William A Popa
- C. Edward Prager
- Francis A. Ruffo
- Glen Watson



# Quarterly Calendar Winter 2023



## JAN

Date	Event
1st	New Years Day VVA Chapter 1091 Meeting 1200 hrs Followed by Party
3rd	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
4th	Game Night 1800hrs
9th	SAL Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
10th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
11th	Game Night
16th	House Committee Meeting 1000hrs
16th	Executive Committee Meeting 1730hrs
17th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
17th	Auxiliary Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
18th	Game Night
19th	Riders Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
21st	"Putting for a Cause" with After hour Party at 4 PM Following 9th hole at Post
23rd	Post Membership Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs Speaker 1830hrs
24th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
25th	1st State Detachment Marine Corps League Meeting Noon
25th	Game Night
31st	TET OFFENCE #55
31st	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs



## FEB

Date	Event
1st	Game Night
5th	Four Chaplains Service 1400hrs
5th	Junior Auxiliary 166 To follow
6th	House Committee Mtg 1000hrs
6th	VVA Chapter 1091 Mtg 1800hrs Social 1700hrs
7th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
8th	Game Night
10th	Sip'n Shop at Post 166 5 pm to 10 pm
11th	Valentines/Sweetheart New York Strip/Shrimp Dinner 1600-2000hrs
13th	SAL Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
14th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
15th	Game Night
16th	Riders Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
20th	House Committee Mtg 1000hrs
20th	Executive Committee Meeting 1730hrs
21st	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
21st	Auxiliary Mtg. 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
22nd	1st State Detachment Marine Corps League Meeting Noon
22nd	Game Night
27th	Post Membership Mtg 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
28th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs



## MAR

Date	Event
1st	Game Night
5th	Junior Auxiliary Meeting 1400hrs
6th	House Committee Mtg 1000hrs
6th	VVA Chapter 1091 Mtg 1800hrs Social 1700hrs
7th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
11th	St Patrick's Day Party 1300hrs w/Corned Beef & Cabbage
13th	SAL Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
14th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
16th	Riders Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
20th	House Committee Mtg 1000hrs
20th	Executive Committee Mtg 1730hrs
21st	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
21st	Auxiliary Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
22nd	1st State Detachment Marine Corps League Meeting Noon
27th	Post Membership Mtg 1900hrs Social 1800hrs
28th	Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1300hrs
30th	Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day 1300-1600hrs

# Synepuxent Post 166, Winter 2023

Postmaster—Send Address Changes to:

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Ed Pinto, Editor  
airpinto166@gmail.com

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## American Legion

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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/evtreocs/index.html> - request copies of military records
- <http://www.mdva.state.md.us> - MD Department of Veterans Affairs
- <http://www.va.gov> - US Dept. of Veteran's Affairs
- <http://www.opvets.com> - Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines

### PHONE NUMBERS IMPORTANT TO VETERANS:

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

## ATTENTION POST #166 LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS

To make sure you are receiving your Synepuxent Observer by speedy email delivery, we need your email address. If your newsletter is still coming by regular mail, we don't have it, so let's change that, Send your email address to [airpinto166@gmail.com](mailto:airpinto166@gmail.com) and we'll take care of the rest.

## RENEW MEMBERSHIPS

at <http://www.legion.org/renew>  
ALL Active Duty Members should submit their 8"x10" Photos to American Legion Post 166, P.O. Box 63, Ocean City, MD 21843 to replace the current Active Wall at Post 166

Contact Ed Pinto  
at [airpinto166@gmail.com](mailto:airpinto166@gmail.com)

[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.

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