



Synepuxent Observer Spring 2009

(Outgoing)

Commander's Comments

(Incoming)



During the past two years I strived to make Post #166 a close knitted Legion Family. With the addition of the Legion Riders and the SAL Squadron functioning very well, the active family was formed. These two groups along with the Post and the Auxiliary put together a roster of volunteers that topped the charts. Outstanding.

The great volunteers of the of Post #166 were under the roof at the same time on June 6th. On this date we honored and recognized the volunteers of the Legion Family. It was an honor to have been able to spend that evening with this peerless group.

On the same evening four members of the Post who were involved with the D-Day invasion were recognized. It was a privilege to be able to share their moments on the 65th anniversary of this historic event.

During the past 6 months it has been very rewarding serving with our elite Color Guard. This group has a bond and a dedication to do for our veterans what they deserve. They are ready to go on a moments notice and always are standing tall.

On January 31, 2008 the 40th anniversary was recognized for the TET Offense of the Vietnam War. The program at the Worcester County Memorial was a very moving moment for those attending. A few days later the veterans of this major victory of the Nam war were at the Post. Several opened up for the first time ever and expressed their feelings. It was very emotional. You almost had to be there.

The past two years we have given almost \$9,000.00 in scholarships from the Al Harmon Memorial Scholarship Fund. I want to thank those who have supported this program and those who have made donations toward this vital fund. Also thanks to Rosie for the Apple/Pumpkin Festival that these scholarships benefited. If you want to make a donation when you send your dues in or through out the year, please do so.

On July 19th I will put the Adjutants hat on for the 2009-2010 Legion year. You may contact me anytime and I will be at the Post several times during the day. Do not call and leave a message at the Post, call me on my cell phone 443-735-1942 or email me firstsgt166@msn.com

I ask all members of the Post #166 Legion Family to support Commander Elect Bill Wolf and the officers who will be installed on the 19th of July. Remember, teamwork is the ticket and the volunteers write the tickets.

As your adjutant for the past two years I have gained some insight into the way the Post is run. This should help me in the coming year and I am happy to have served under Commander Sarge Garlitz and seen the many activities he has started at the

Post. My job will be to add to these programs and to start new ones. We have come a long way, but there are still committees and programs that we have not adopted. All you have to do is visit the National Legion site to see the many ways there are for our Post to provide service to our local veterans as well as our Community and State.

Our watchword for the coming year is "volunteers", without them we won't have a Post. We have good sized Legion Family of Legion, Auxiliary, Legion Riders and S.A.L., in fact we send out over 1200 Synepuxent Observers each quarter. What I hope to do is bring the entire Legion Family into the Life of the Post. For any planned event we should have not only Legion volunteers, but Auxiliary, Riders and S.A.L. as well. The Post belongs to all of us and we should all support it.

Speaking of supporting the Post, we have 876 Legion members on the books and over 700 of them are local. They are within easy driving distance not only from ocean City -259 members, but from Berlin/Ocean Pines—278 members and Bishopville, Selbyville and Fenwick Island—225 members. Guys we only have 30-40 at a meeting, that's less than 5% of the membership in the area. During the next year I would like to see the membership at meetings expand to 10%, that means 70 at a meeting. We need the support to be able to help our returning Gulf War Veterans and to support the local communities.

Starting in September, our meetings are the 2nd and 4th Monday of the Month. The first meeting is our Business meeting and we will be highlighting some committee or program every month. The 2nd meeting will feature a speaker of interest and both meetings will have good food following the meeting (drinks are only \$1.00 before the meeting) **Come on Out!**



Volunteer Dinner & D-DAY Heroes

On June 6, 2009 the Post Celebrated our Volunteers and our Heroes, with a Ceremony and Dinner in their honor. One Hundred and five plus our Heroes turned out for the occasion. The Post Steward, Ken Gray, and his volunteers from the American Legion Riders served up a delicious dinner of Ham and Turkey with all the trimmings. Following the dinner there was music and dancing with DJ Andy.

One of our members, John Sauer was triply honored; not only for his volunteer work with the Color Guard, but also as a D-Day Hero and as Legionnaire of the Year. On the right is a photo of John receiving his award from Commander Garlitz.



Our volunteers and the work they do is what keeps our Post going, Without them we would have to close the doors and this is the night we single them out for special recognition. Every one of them has worked long and hard for the Post and even there a few stand out for the time they put in. These were given Commander's Recognition Awards by Commander Garlitz.



From Left to right, Lined up to receive The Commanders Recognition Award are: Virginia Welch, Fred Welch, Lois Hamaty, Geroge Hamaty, Joy Faulkner, Bob Faulkner and Bill Wolf. A special recognition was given to Rosie Garlitz for the many, many hours she has put in at the Post. No one has more richly deserved an award than our Rosie.



Rosie walked up to receive her award amid chants of Rosie, Rosie by the assembled Volunteers

D-DAY HEROS HONORED

On the 65th anniversary of the D-Day invasion Synepuxent Post #166 held a special event. Four members of Post #166 were in the June 6, 1944 invasion at Omaha Beach. US Navy Elmer Muth, US Navy Tom Rommel, US Army John Sauer and Army Air Corp Walter Starck were amid the action of this WWII victory.

The four noted heroes were praised by Commander Garlitz for their actions during the invasion. House Of Delegates Representative James Mathias presented each of these veterans with a Maryland House of Delegates Resolution for heroism during the June 6, 1944 D-Day invasion. He also represented Governor O'Malley with a presentation of the Maryland Governor's Citation for their participation in the D-Day battle.

Elmer Muth gave the history of the invasion using maps and scale models of the ships. This gave a clear picture of the attack that made history 65 years ago.

Emotion filled the room as all four men shared their D-Day experience with the 105 in attendance. This evening will never be forgotten and the events of the evening are being passed on throughout the Post #166 American Legion Family.



Left to right Elmer Muth, Walter Starck, Sarge, John Sauer, Delegate James Mathias and seated Tom Rommel.

COLOR GUARD

by Nate Pearson

During the previous quarter, two special programs were conducted by the American Legion Color Guard under the leadership of Captain Elmer Muth. Both were conducted at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial .

The first was a special tribute to a Veteran along with the installation of a memorial paver. On June 16, Donovan McCann, a former US Marine was so honored in an extended program that was concluded by a three volley salute by the rifle squad of the American Legion – Synepuxent Post 166. The rifle squad commanded by Captain Muth included: Bo Spicer, John Sauer, Bud Breidenstein, Vic Beard and Eric Nilsson. Nate Pearson played TAPS to conclude the program.

On September 18th, the Daughters of the American Revolution hosted a special program at 11:00 am. The program was held on “Constitution Day.” Over 50 elementary Students from schools in Worcester County provided a special program on the original 13 original colonies. A special tribute was also provided to the two hard workers who were responsible for establishing the Worcester County Veterans Memorial – Ro Bridgman and Sharyn O’Hare.

American Legion Guard Members who participated in Presenting colors and retiring colors included: Elmer Muth, Vic Beard, Bud Breidenstein, Al Ferguson, Jim Hudson, Nate Pearson Charles Rummel , John Sauer, and Bo Spicer.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

by John Granite



RIDE FOR KARA

The Post #166 American Legion Riders participated in the 93.5 “The Beach” radio station’s sponsored benefit bike run for Ms. Kara Adams who is fighting cancer and in need of financial assistance. Approximately 500 bike riders from the surrounding area met at the 93.5 station in Georgetown and traveled south to Millsboro and finished at

the American Legion Post # 28 in Longneck. Riders were treated to good food and music at the Post and auctions and raffle’s raised \$8000 for Kara. Anyone wishing to help Kara may send contributions to:

Kara Adams Fund
Bank of Willards
7484 Market Street
Willards, Md 21874

VA Maryland Health Care System Important phone numbers & Information

Veterans who need medical advice, have questions about their medications or need to schedule a same day appointment can call the Telephone Care Line Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. by dialing 1-800-465-2441.

Toll-Free Numbers for VA Maryland Health Care System

Facilities:

Baltimore VA Medical Center - 1-800-463-6295

Baltimore VA Rehabilitation & Extended Care Center -1-800-463-6295

Perry Point VA Medical Center - 1-800-949-1003

Cambridge VA Outpatient Clinic - 1-877-864-9611

Fort Howard VA Outpatient Clinic - 1-800-351-8387

Loch Raven VA Outpatient Clinic - 1-800-463-6295, extension 7650

Pocomoke City VA Outpatient Clinic - 1-866-441-0287

Prescription Refill & Appointment Line:

To get a listing of your future appointments, request a prescription refill or check on the status of your prescription 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, please call 1400-4634295, extension 7395. Please have your Social Security and prescription numbers ready when calling.

For Questions About Clinic Appointments:

Baltimore VA Medical Center - (410) 605-7333

Cambridge VA Outpatient Clinic -(410) 228-6243, press "1"

Fort Howard VA Outpatient Clinic - (410) 477-1800, press "1"

Glen Burnie VA Outpatient Clinic - (410) 590-4140, press "1"

Loch Raven VA Outpatient Clinic - (410) 605-7650, press "1"

Perry Point VA Medical Center

o (410) 642-2411, extension 5077 (Specialty Clinics)

o (410) 642-2411, extension 1188 (Primary Care Team A)

o (410) 642-2411, extension 1189 (Primary Care Team B)

Pocomoke City VA Outpatient Clinic - (410) 9574718, press "1"

For Questions about Medical Benefits & VA Health Care Enrollment:

- Baltimore VA Medical Center - (410) 605-7324
- Cambridge VA Outpatient Clinic -(410) 228-6243, press "1"
- Fort Howard VA Outpatient Clinic -(410) 477-1800, press "1"
- Glen Burnie VA Outpatient Clinic -(410) 590-4140, press "1"
- Loch Raven VA Outpatient Clinic - (410) 605-7650, press "1"
- Perry Point VA Medical Center - (410) 642-2411, extension 5018

VA Maryland Health Care System (cont'd)

- Pocomoke City VA Outpatient Clinic- (410) 9574718, press "1"

Patient Concerns & Compliments:

If you have a problem receiving health care services, or if you have a concern or compliment about the customer service provided by any of our staff members, please contact one of our Patient Advocates:

Baltimore VA Medical Center - 14004634295, extension 7099

Perry Point VA Medical Center - 1400-949-1003, extension 5097

Baltimore VA Rehabilitation & Extended Care Center and all Outpatient Clinics - 1400463-6295, extension 7542

Long-Term Care Information Line:

Veterans and their family members who have questions about nursing home and long-term care programs and services available through the VA Maryland Health Care System can call the Long-Term Care Information Line at 1-800-949-1 003, extension 1121.

Billing Information:

If you have a question about a bill that you have received from the VA Maryland Health Care System, please contact the VA Health Revenue Center Monday through Friday from 8 am. to 8 p.m. at 1-866-3934006.

PUFL—Paid Up For Life Membership

PUFL membership is based upon IRS actuary tables, it really isn't a discounted membership, you're just betting you will live longer than the tables say. The cost to you is based upon the dues you pay each year, in our case it is \$25.00 a year. Right now out of the \$25.00 dues, the Post keeps \$4.50, The Department \$7.50 and National \$13.00. Every Year in July, National sends the Post a Check for the \$4.50 per PUFL member, in our case the number of PUFL members is 64.

However, if you elect to go PUFL, this PUFL amount can be paid in installments of 10% a month with 10% down. If you are 65 now the PUFL rate is \$352.00 (they are saying you are going to live 14.08 more years) and you can pay it all or send \$35.20 with your PUFL Application and you will receive your PUFL card when you are paid up. **We have been informed that National will be raising the PUFL rates next year**

Although the National and Department won't give you a discount, the Post can just by basing your dues on a lower yearly figure (still keeping in mind the \$20.50 that goes to Department and National). For July, August and September that is what we will be doing. For PUFL membership you will be charged at the rate of \$21.00 a year, this means that every July, the Post will only get \$0.50 for your PUFL Membership. We are offering this discount only to members in good standing (dues paid up to date) because of the increase coming up. I have a comparison chart below to show you the savings to you.

Dues	AGE GROUP							
	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85 & Over
Years X Dues	22.06	19.40	16.70	14.08	11.61	9.28	7.23	5.88
\$21.00	\$463	\$407	\$351	\$296	\$244	\$195	\$152	\$123
\$25.00	\$552	\$485	\$419	\$352	\$290	\$232	\$181	\$147
Saving	\$89	\$78	\$68	\$56	\$46	\$37	\$29	\$24

This offer will only be good for the next three months, then it's back to the normal dues and after the first of the year a higher rate. Download an application from the web site or request one from the adjutant NOW.

COLOR GUARD LEADS BALTIMORE RAVEN'S PARADE



The Parade had 71 units which included Marching units ; Pom Poms ; Floats ; Football Players ; and bands. Following the American Legion color Guard was the Ocean City Pipe Band. The reviewing and judging stand on 28th street had the difficult task of selecting units for prizes. The parade, lasting over two hours had many spectators along the parade route . In 2010 , the raven's roost parade has been scheduled on Saturday , June 5 mark your calendars.

by Nate Pearson

On may 30 , 2009 , the American Legion Color Guard – Post 166 was the first unit in a well attended raven's roost parade. Color Guard members who marched in the Parade included the following:

Elmer Muth – Rifle.....Bud Breidenstein - Rifle
Eric Nilsson - Rifle.....Warren Disbrow - Rifle
Dave Lewis - U.S. Flag.....Glen Reely – MD. Flag
Nate Pearson – MIA Flag

The Parade , which traveled along Philadelphia Avenue , was ablaze with the color purple as many Raven 's Roosts Chapters and Groups from Maryland , Pennsylvania, and Delaware marched in support of their favorite pro-football team.



On May 24, 2009, Governor Martin O'Malley in recognition of Memorial Day, hosted a welcome home ceremony for the Maryland Army National Guard's 224th Area Support Medical Company which included a crab cake feast on the lawn at Government House. The unit recently returned from an 11-month deployment, which included service in Iraq. Among those honored were our own Post 166 member Lt. Dave Parsons, shown here with his wife Jessie and Governor O'Malley.

American Legion - Synepuxent Post 166 Quarterly Calendar - Summer 2009

July

4th - Independence Day
6th - Executive Committee Meeting
14th to the 17th - Annual Department of Maryland Convention
19th - Legion, SAL and Auxiliary Membership meetings at 1:00 PM, 2009-2010 Officers sworn in. Immediately following is the Post Annual Picnic.
20th - Organizational meeting of the 2009-2010 Executive Committee

August

3rd - Executive Committee Meeting
10th - Membership Meeting
17th - S.A.L. Membership Meeting
19th - American Legion Riders Meeting.
Auxiliary—no meeting in August



September

7th - Executive Committee Meeting
14th - Membership Meeting
15th - Auxiliary Meeting
21st— S.A.L. Membership Meeting
28th - Legion membership meeting
Look for a Bull Roast in September for the Scholarship Fund. No date set as yet, check the web site for details.

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

Monday through Friday - Lite Fare Lunches Served 1100 AM until 3:00 PM, Friday - Steamed Shrimp 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM, 1/2 lb shrimp and a pitcher of Beer \$10.00.

Crabby Wednesday, brought to you by the American Legion Riders, order on Tuesday before 2:00 PM and come in on Wednesday at 5:00 PM to eat your crabs, other items available if you can't eat crabs.

Music, Karaoke and Dancing every Saturday night 8:00 Pm till Midnight during the Summer, come on in and catch DJ Andy as he plays your favorites.

SHUFFLEBOWL #166 ON A ROLL

As we all know the second season for Ocean City starts in October. Also in October the Ocean City Shuffle Bowl League starts. Last year Post #166 had two teams in the league. Legion #1 made it to the Final Four for the second year in a row.

For this years season the Post is looking for two more teams. The teams are open to all adult members of the Legion Family. Rumor has it that both the SAL and the Riders are thinking about forming a team.

This is a fun time is on Wednesday evenings. Anyone interested please contact Sarge at 443-735-1942 or email at firstsgt166@msn.com .

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

If you are sick or know of any Legionnaire who is sick or has died, please let me know... Anything I can do to help, or a prayer.

**Warren Disbrow, Chaplain
169 Jamestown Road # 106
Ocean City, MD 21842
Phone: 443-783-3838**

The Art league of Ocean City would like to thank the American Legion Auxiliary unit 166 for its generous donation of \$250.00 for the Patriotic Show held in May. The Money was used as prize money for the artists involved.
Joy Faulkner art League

Volunteer and member of Unit 166

Stephen Decatur NJROTC

by CMDR. Chris Deming

Stephen Decatur Naval JROTC recently wrapped up our 14th successful year at Stephen Decatur High School. The end of the year highlights included another successful Military Ball. The cadets planned and executed the event with minimal assistance from the instructors and parents. The military ball is a formal dinner dance that starts with a receiving line. Cadets introduce themselves and their dates to the adults and guest of honor. The receiving line is followed by a buffet dinner and then dancing, games and door prizes the rest of the evening. This year's theme was "Old Hollywood", transforming the high school cafeteria into a different era, including a replica of Mann's Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles. Cadets from the Washington Air Force JROTC, Pocomoke Marine JROTC and Wicomico Army JROTC units joined the Decatur cadets for a memorable evening.

Another spring event that cadets eagerly look forward to is the NJROTC Annual Awards Ceremony. Outstanding cadets receive annual NJROTC awards as well as medals from many local and national civic and patriotic organizations. The unit executive officer Cadet/ LT Eric Sichau received the American Legion General Military Excellence Medal. The medal was presented to Eric by Martin Price Vice Commander of Synepuxent Post 166, Ocean City, MD.



Cadets continued their community service right up to the end of the school year, assisting the Worcester County Veteran's Memorial with elementary school trips to the memorial in late May. Decatur cadets demonstrated the correct way to fold the American flag and all the elementary school students got a chance to practice the flag folding.



Right at the end of the school year, on June 3rd, Air Test and Evaluation Squadron One (VX-1) brought a Seahawk helo to the football field here at Stephen Decatur to let students tour the aircraft and talk with the crew. The pilot was Ryan Kelchner, a 1997 Stephen Decatur graduate.



An exciting summer event coming up is the Lincoln High School Mini-Boot Camp with the Adventure Race theme at Camp Wilderness in West Virginia.

Seventeen Decatur cadets (both current cadets and incoming cadets) are attending this week long camp the last week of July. We will compete in a weeklong camp/race that includes orienteering, rappelling, rock climbing, COPES course, rifle, shotgun, and archery range, mountain biking, swimming, drill and inspection competitions, white water rafting, sports day and survival classes.

The top-performing unit will receive a guidon streamer as well as an individual ribbon for their uniform. All participating cadets receive a T-shirt, ribbon, as well as a Certificate of Completion. Plans are to have National Guard air assets (Blackhawk orientation flights) in support as well.

From the Desk of Anna Fultz, Auxiliary President

Dear Members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 166,

As my first Presidential memorandum, I would like to express my appreciation for your vote of confidence in electing me President of the Auxiliary and your faith in my ability to unify and organize a new eventful, interesting and enjoyable year.

As Auxiliary members, our first and most important purpose is to support our Veterans and second to do all we can to assist our American Legion Post 166 and work for the good of the Community, State and Nation.

In order to inspire additional programs, we all should make an extra effort to attend the meetings held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month: working together, offering new ideas and suggestions, and accepting new chairmanships that need to be filled will continue to make our Auxiliary a strong and vibrant Unit.

We are extremely fortunate to have an outstanding slate of Officers and Chairmen to carry on the work our Unit has begun for the year 2009-2010. They are as follows:

Officers

- President:* Anna Fultz
- First Vice President:* Rosemary Garlitz
- Second Vice President:* Bonnie Hansen
- Recording and Corresponding Secretary:* Carole Lohmann
- Treasurer:* Nancy Rummel
- Chaplain:* Teddy Rozzano
- Sergeant-at-Arms:* Kay Gubosh

Color Bearer: Chris Hawkins

Color Bearer: Vera Crossley

Executive Committee

Pearl Jordan, Lily Tunis, Sarah Gray

Committee Chairmen

Americanism: Eileen Salafia

Auxiliary Emergency Fund: In Standing Rules

Chaplain/Gold Star: Teddy Rozzano

Girl's State: Kay Gubosh

Public Relations: Arlene Page

Membership: Rose Mary Garlitz

Poppy: Teddy Rozanno

Children and Youth: Bonnie Hansen

VA & R: Nancy Rummel

Representatives to the American Legion House

Committee: Eileen Salafia, Bonnie Hansen

Anna Fultz

President



Comrades who have Transferred to Post Everlasting!

These Comrades have transferred to Post Everlasting during the period of July 2008 to June 2009.

- ★ Edward G. Aiken, Rodger W. Baker, Walter L. Craig, James R. Farlow, Daniel Fultz, Ronald Haslam,
- ★ Clarence D. Hammond, Ronald E. Jones, John J. Kropfelder, Kenneth E. Lankford, Hugh Mc Fadden,
- ★ Steve Powanda, Robert L. Ringgold, Kermit H. Rosenberg, Carl A. Rudbeck, Jr., Joseph J. Seeberger,
- ★ George T. Strohm, Jr., William E. Yost.

Let us pay our respects to our departed comrades, let us revere them as good soldiers who fought the good fight in a just cause. May we sincerely say, "May their Souls Rest in Peace"

Synepuxent Observer, Summer 2009

**The AMERICAN LEGION – SYNEPUXENT POST 166
Historical Outline**

by Nate Pearson

The American Legion was Chartered in 1919 following World War I. As the largest Veterans Organization in this country, the American Legion has nearly three million members.

Because Ocean City was a small fishing village following World War I, The Population was too small to generate interest in an American Legion with very few veterans. The Growth did not take place until the Bay Bridge was completed in the 1954 period.

Following World War II, as veterans were leaving the military service, A group from Ocean City came together to establish a Legion in Ocean City. They began meeting in "SACCO'S" Restaurant in downtown Ocean City, and met there for about six months. In February 1946, the group was granted an American Legion Charter. The first Commander was George Cropper.

The American Legion then moved to a John Dale Showell building located on Talbot Street and Philadelphia Avenue. (This location is now a parking lot.) The arrangement made between John Dale Showell and club members was that he would receive one half the club's profits rather than rent. The first year in The Showell building, he was paid \$167.00; the second year he was paid \$1,700.00. After the second year a lease arrangement was made. The American Legion continued to lease the Showell building and hold meetings and events there for the next seven years from 1947 until 1953.

About 1950, a decision was made to purchase land and establish a permanent Post Home. Following a real estate survey, they decided to purchase land on 23rd street at a cost of \$12,500.00. (Our present location).

The Club members were very divided about the purchase of land on 23rd street, arguing the location was too far out of town. One member stated "WHY BUILD WAY OUT OF THE TOWN." This decision almost caused a split among the members. During the 1953-54 year, the American Legion erected a building which included what is now the Dance hall section and the Main Hall Meeting room. During 1955-56, The present Bar and small kitchen was added to the structure. Jackson was the Commander that year.

In 1970-71, the Kitchen was enlarged and the pantry was added along with the Large south eastern storage area. Tony Villani was the post Commander.

During the 1992-93 year, the second floor area was added to include a large Conference room, lavatory, and office area. Jerry Daisey was the Post Commander that year.

OTHER LEGION HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

In 1959, The American Legion was interested in purchasing property on the Board walk at 5th street to raise funds from a BINGO OPERATION. The Post was not able to secure a loan, but together with the Ocean City Fire department, and the Ocean City Lions Club,

the three organizations were able to obtain a loan for the property and the building. During the 1960's and beyond, the BINGO jointly operated by the three organizations was an excellent fund raiser. BINGO MONEY BUILT THE 23RD STREET AMERICAN LEGION. The 5th Street building is still owned by the three organizations who share the annual lease which generates roughly \$ 40,000 per year to each group.

In 1970, BINGO was moved to the American Legion Post Home where it continues to be a primary fund raiser for the Post. Under the Leadership of Past Commander, Frank Hoover and legion volunteers, the Bingo Program is held twice each week during the summer and Once each week during the other months.

STORMS AND FLOODS: The storm of 1962 flooded much of Ocean City, but the 23rd street property was Spared and not flooded. In 1970 During the Legion Parade, there was a downpour flooding the town. Frank Holloway and Gordan Wilkins were knee deep in water, but again the Legion received no flooding.

GAMBLING- SLOT MACHINES: the American Legion had slot machines for a period of three years and were discontinued when the Worcester County Laws prohibited slots within the County

ROBBERY: In 1960-61, a robbery took place and the Legion safe was broken into Resulting in the loss of \$1,400.00. Robbery not solved.

CROWDS AND FAMOUS VISITORS: At one time the American Legion had large crowds, five and six deep at the Bar, especially during conventions. Aging members has reduced those numbers. Many sports hero's visited the Bar like Johnny Unitis and many Baltimore Colts players. Both Pres. Nixon and Pres. L.B. Johnson visited Ocean City, but not the Legion

LAND OFFERS: The Legion had an opportunity to buy what is now the OCEAN MECCA parking lot for \$32,000.00. They also had the opportunity to buy the land to our south -Minature Golf at a cost of \$ 80,000.

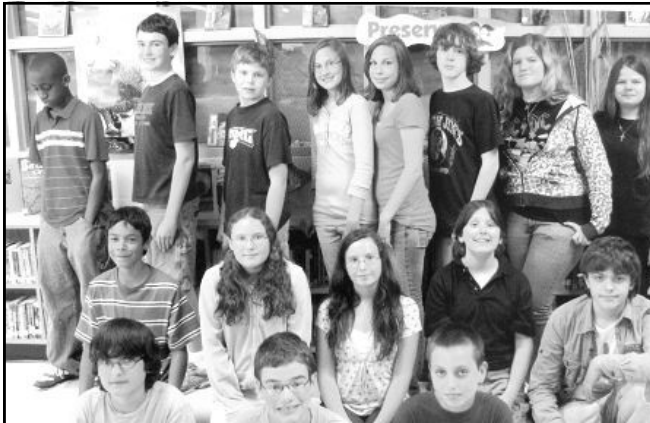
Currently Post 166 has 876 members plus membership in the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion which brings the American Legion Family to well over 1200. The big disappointment in 2009 was that the Maryland Legislature did not approve Slot machines for Veterans Groups in Worcester County. All other Eastern Shore Veterans Groups have Slots as a fund raiser. Commander Sarge Garlitz worked tirelessly to have HB65 passed but this did not happen.

The American Legion holds general membership meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of each month beginning at 7:00 PM. Eligible veterans are urged to make a difference by joining the American Legion to assist and support Active Duty military personnel and Veterans. The American Legion also helps fund many community organizations with donations as well as youth groups. Scholarships are also provided.

This year in May, Post 166 held a special Dinner to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the American Legion and the 63rd Anniversary of Synepuxent Post 166.

WORDS FROM THE SONS

by Billy Yost



Stephen Decatur Middle School Students

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 166 arranged for these 7th graders from Stephen Decatur Middle School to attend a Shore Birds game May 21st, with Food Drinks and Transportation. Thanks to D.C.M.A. Frank Clark, Jim Parillo of Beach Express and Guidance Counselor Theresa Torpie for making it possible. Theresa called after the game and said everything was great, from the game and the Food to the Bus Driver, it was a great day. Thanks to all the members who supported this effort.

William Emmett Yost, a Legion member for 43 years, died April 3rd at the age of 77 at his winter home in Venice, Florida. Emmett, who was a member of Synepuxent Post 166, was a Korean War Veteran who served on the Aircraft Carrier USS Corregidor (CVE-58).

A little over a month before his passing, on February 28th he walked his youngest daughter Bonnie Down the "Beach", on "Long Boat Key" off of Sarasota, FL, to marry Robie Suozzo at the Key Colony Resort. Presently, Emmett's son Billy Yost is the S.A.L. Commander of Synepuxent Squadron 166.



Emmett with Daughter Bonnie



L to R: Vice Commander Billy George, Adjutant Richard Pennington, Historian Paul Miller, Finance Officer Sean Rox and Commander Billy Yost. Not present, Sgt-at-Arms Barry Derr and Chaplain Joe McLaughlin.

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Synepuxent Observer, Summer 2009

The Squadron #166 SAL elected their officers for 2009-2010.

They are as follows:

- Commander Billy Yost
- Vice Commander Billy George
- Adjutant Richard Pennington
- Finance Officer Sean Rox
- Chaplain Joe McLaughlin
- Historian Paul Miller
- Sgt-at-Arms Barry Derr

Commander Todd Howard will be stepping into a new role, that being the Past Commander. We are looking forward to his input in the upcoming year. During Todd's year as Commander our membership attendance at our meetings tripled.

It was a privilege to attend the volunteer's Dinner on June 6th. Commander Garlitz Utilized this date, the 65th Anniversary of the D-Day invasion, to honor the four members of Post #166. who actually were involved on this historic day. They each described their personal involvement in this major mission. As they each shared their part, I had a tingling sensation of Awe hearing how this gigantic endeavor all depended in so many people. The of hearing first hand was a very thrilling moment for all. Delegate Mathias attend and present the awards from the Sate as well as from the Governor of Md.

SAL Commander Billy Yost and I are going to attend the State SAL Convention in Frederick, Md. the last week-end of June. We are looking forward to getting information and being involved with the State SAL programs. We have been attending

VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED AND HONORED

On June 6th the same night of the D-Day recognition our many volunteers were also honored. Those attending the dinner were the ones that made our programs and projects top the charts. From working bingo, the boardwalk raffle, the Apple Pumpkin Festival, the Color Guard, the Veterans Muster, Rosie's hall decorations crew, packages to the troops program, kitchen help and the list goes on.

The Commanders Recognition Awards were presented to the following:

- Heartbeat of Post #166 Award - Rosie Garlitz
- Jr. Auxiliary Patriotic Award - Abby Stabinski
- Publication Award - Adjutant William Wolf
- Unsung Volunteer Award - Bill Brooks
- Dependable Volunteers Award - George and Lois Hamaty
- Get it Done Award - Bob and Joy Faulkner
- Honor Guard Leadership Award - Nate Pearson
- True Volunteer Award - Fred and Virginia Welch
- Extraordinary Volunteers Award - Paul and Chris Hawkins

District meetings and have gained valuable insight. The Convention will give us even broader information to utilize at our Squadron. Please call me if there are any questions.

Dues are now due and are still \$15.00. Be an EARLY BIRD. I can be reached at 301-481-0078 or email rich-pen2@verizon.net. For God and Country, Adjutant Richard Pennington

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