

★ ★ ★ AMERICAN LEGION POST 166 ★ ★ ★



Commander's Message

This winter was very uneventful compared to past years. Many of our events had to be canceled because of Covid-19 restrictions.

Nothing really happened in January or February because of Covid. We had to cancel our Four Chaplain's Service, but we wound up doing a Super Bowl tailgate party which everyone loved. Also canceled this year was our Valentine's Day Sweetheart Steak and Shrimp dinner. The Four Chaplain's Service is being rescheduled for some time in May when the weather is nicer.

Things looked much brighter in March starting with our Saint Patty's Day party with Little Joe's Corn Beef and Cabbage. We had music all weekend and the crowds were big. I would like to take this

time to thank the many volunteers that helped to make Saint Patty's day a huge success. Without the dedicated volunteers we could have never had a successful weekend. We also had our First Responders Banquet, where we honored 30 First Responders, which included EMT's, Firemen, Policemen, Coast Guard, and even special awards of 60-plus years of dedicated service. These awards were given to the brave men and women who sacrifice their lives to help and protect us every day.

The Queen of Hearts, as of this writing, is up to \$14,000 and growing. It is being handled by two very dedicated volunteers, Buddy Jones and

Chuck Porter. Without these two Legionnaires volunteering their time selling tickets through the week and on Sundays, we probably wouldn't have a Queen of Hearts. Thank you Buddy and Chuck.

Be aware that Legion baseball is gearing up for another great season with many of last year's players returning. Schedules will

be coming out in the near future. All home games are being played on the fields off of Route 113 in Berlin. Come out and support our youngsters, they could use your support.

The Riders are planning their annual Crab Feast again this year on July 15. More information will be coming out in the near future as to the price and the time of the event. When they get a price on the crabs, they will be sending a flyer to each Post so you can start making your reservations. Remember the old saying, NO

MONEY--NO TICKET.

Election of new Officers is right around the corner and we need some new blood because many of the older Officers are going to be dropping off and their position will need to be filled to make this another successful year. Come to the next General Membership meeting and volunteer your time to make your Legion the best Legion in the South Eastern Shore District. Remember, Membership meetings are always the fourth Monday of the month with social hour at 6 p.m. with food and \$1 drinks and the meeting

Continued on page 16





HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

The House Committee Report

The House Committee has been busy, as usual. Projects approved are as follows:

New stereo system; an upgraded security system, inside and outside of the building; Planning for a new room divider, and looking at replacing the chairs and tables in the bar. We also are upgrading and getting a new and better ATM.

We are really pleased that we are getting great positive feedback on our food and service. Our plan is to hold all alcohol prices at the same level, no increase, and keeping our food specials as they are, since they have been so

well-received.

These include a pitcher of domestic beer and a pound of 21- to 25-count shrimp for \$15; the cheesesteak hoagie at \$7.

Customers also are loving our crab cake sandwich and dinner.

But you know what they love even more. They love our cooks, our bartenders, and the great service we have here at Post 166.

Charles Spaziani
House Committee

POST STEWARD UPDATE



Sam Wiley
Post 166 Steward

I hope this message finds you all well and healthy. We have had a busy few months at the Post since Christmas, and we are starting to get busier. Per the Governor's mandate on March 12, we have increased capacity at the Post. We still have hand sanitizer and sanitizer wipe stations throughout the building. Please use them

often. Please continue to wear a mask while moving about the Post, playing games or dancing. Please social distance the best you can. If you are not comfortable sitting next to other people you may want to move to a part of the Post that is less crowded. We have about 100 seats in the back hall where you can spread out. Slot machine players, please use the alcohol wipes that are provided to clean your machine before and after use.

We are still asking members to monitor their health and the health of their guests. Please do not come to the Post if you have been sick or are having cold or flu symptoms. Those include fever, cough, sneezing, headaches, shortness of breath, and loss of smell and taste.

If you hold an office at the Post and are planning an event, please be sure to fill out a Post event form. There are blank forms in the mail slot on my door. Also, anything you are selling at the Post should come through my office as well. Any signage that you want displayed needs to come

through my office for approval.

We have been using the e-mail tool Constant Contact to reach out to our membership. If you are not receiving messages, we probably do not have a current e-mail on file. If you want to be added to Constant Contact, I need a full name, e-mail address, telephone number and what Legion family group you belong to. Please put in the mail slot on my door or e-mail to steward166@comcast.net.

We had a really successful St. Patty's weekend. A million thanks to all of you who volunteered your time selling raffles, Legion apparel, bar backing, and in the kitchen, and a huge shout-out to all those amazing folks who came in on the Sunday after to help clean up.

I would like to also thank our great staff for all their hard work during St. Patty's weekend. These are the folks that makes this Post look good to all our visiting Legion family members. From all the extra bar shifts and long hours our bartenders put in... to our crazy busy cooks in the kitchen who just killed it all weekend, and again to our amazing volunteers. Post 166 rocked it! I am really proud of this hard-working crew.

If there is anything anyone needs from me, I am normally at the Post from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday to Friday. I can be reached at 410-289-3166 or 717-756-8552.

Sam Wiley

- Post 166 Steward

POST 166 CELEBRATES FIRST RESPONDERS Special Recognition to Our Own Bo Spicer

Tribute to First Responders

By Tom Wengert

Opening remarks delivered at the Post 166 tribute to the area's First Responders on March 24.

"When they teach you how to call 911 when you are in grade school they tell you everything you need to do, state your name, address, the whole nine yards. You don't really think anything of it. It's just something you learn and stick it in the back of your head until you need it.

Until that one fateful day where your life changes forever and you need help. Your first call is to a first responder.

Dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, paramedics, and EMTs are our superheroes. When we call they are there, and their jobs are far from easy. They work long, crazy hours around the clock and rush to scenes helping complete strangers without thinking twice.

In situations where first responders are called we forget that they are taking time away from

their families to help yours. When they to out on a call they witness crazed situations and are just expected to go home at the end of the day and be okay. We want you to know that without you the world we live in would not be the same.

It takes a special kind of person to care for others when they don't have to. These people rise to the call of duty every time they walk through the doors at work. Some even having their lives taken to save someone else. I can't even imagine what goes through someone's mind when they are headed to a call but what I do know is they don't get enough credit. It seems credit is only given when they make the save, but that's not how it should be.

So, when you see your local first responders give them a wave or thank them for their service because without them the world would be a much different place.

Post 166 celebrated the achievements of the area's First Responders March 24 at its annual First Responders Awards Program and Dinner, while also presenting a special Extraordinary Service Award to our own George "Bo" Spicer in recognition of his 60 years of service in the military and First Responder organizations. Twenty individuals in addition to Bo, and eight police and fire departments were recognized for outstanding efforts on behalf of their communities in 2020.

Bo was cited for his 60 years of service that began with Laurel, MD Junior Police Squad as a teenager. Then he was off to the U.S. Air Force, serving as a K9 handler for four years. After leaving the Air Force he went on to serve with the Prince George's



Worcester County Sheriff Matt Crisafulli received the Special Recognition Award for George "Bo" Spicer from Bob Smith. Bo was honored for 60 years of Community Service in the military and law enforcement.

County Police, Maryland State Police, retiring as a Sergeant, the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves, the Worcester County Sheriff's Department, as a full-time sheriff's deputy and where he is still working part-time, and finally with the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Department since the 1970s.

The program was organized by Post 2nd Vice Commander Robert Smith and began with a dinner blessing by First Detachment Marine Corps League Chaplain David Kline. After dinner, Post Col- or Guard Captain Glen Reely opened the dinner with the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a welcome message by Commander Tom Wengert, introduction of the program by 2nd Commander Smith. After the awards were presented to the recipients, Karen Holmes led the singing of God Bless America. Post Chaplain Ben Dawson then ended the ceremonies with a Benediction.

Synepuxent Post 166, Spring 2021

Here are the names of the First Responders and organizations honored by Post 166:

INDIVIDUALS

George "Bo" Spicer
Melissa Bragg, Ocean Pines Paramedic
Teresa Carder, Police Communication Operator, Maryland State Police
Kenneth Dukes, Girdletree Volunteer Fire Department
Virgil Dukes, Girdletree Volunteer Fire Department
Zachary Converse, Deputy First Class, Worcester County Sheriff's Department
Mike Ellingsworth, Ocean City Fire Department
Amy Gutowski, Private First Class, Ocean City Police Department
Joseph Kerr, Senior Police Officer, Berlin Fire Department
Kevin Lane, Trooper First Class, Maryland State Police
Eric Lenz, Corporal, Maryland State Police
Crystal Merritt, Officer, Snow Hill Police Department
Neil Payne, Chief, Stockton Fire Department

John Pianka, Ocean Pines Police Department
John Pylypczuk, Berlin Volunteer Fire Department
Damon Showmaisel, Snow Hill Fire Department
Douglas R. Strong, Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class, U.S. Coast Guard
M. Wayne Timmons, Jr., Ocean City Fire Department
Charlie Townsend, Berlin Volunteer Fire Department
Harry Trimble, Berlin Volunteer Fire Department
Steven Twilly, Ocean City Paramedic

ORGANIZATIONS

Berlin Volunteer Fire Department
Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department
Girdletree Volunteer Fire Department
Newark Volunteer Fire Department
Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department
Pokomoke Volunteer Fire Department, In Honor of Allen Butler
Pokomoke Police Department
Showell Volunteer Fire Department



Program organizer Bob Smith, Post 166 2nd Vice Commander welcomes First Responders.



Color Guard Captain Glen Reely Opens the Program



Chaplain Ben Dawson delivers the invocation



2020 NCO of the Year Cpl. Eric Lenz is flanked by MCL Vice Commandant John Daddazio and Lt. Earl Starner, Commander, Berlin Barrack



Auxiliary Junior Addison McDaniel presents the Stockton Volunteer Fire Department Recognition Award to Fire Chief Neil Payne. Accepting on his behalf was John Merritt



Auxiliary Junior Delaney McDaniel presented the Girdletree Volunteer Fire Department Recognition Award to President John Merritt

Synepuxent Post 166, Spring 2021



Commander Wengert presents 2020 Trooper of the Year to TFC Kevin Lane, Maryland State Police, Berlin Barrack



Chief Bradley Temple of the Ocean City Coast Guard Station presents Coastie of the Year Award to Boatswain Mate 2nd Class Douglas Strong



Firefighter Kenneth Dukes holds Girdletree Volunteer Fire Department of the Year Award presented by Post 166 Judge Advocate Jack Hyde, with Girdletree Fire Department President John Merritt (r)



Firefighter Virgil Dukes (c) receives Girdletree Volunteer Fire Department of the Year Award from Post 166 Executive Committee Member Phil Ludlam (l), with Girdletree Fire Department President John Merritt



Melissa Bragg won the Ocean Pines Paramedic Employee of the Year Award, awarded by Marie Gilmore, 166 Auxiliary Past President, accepted on her behalf by Bill Birckner, VP, Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department



Ocean City PD Police Officer of the Year PFC Amy Gutowski with her award, presented by Post 166 Auxiliary President Emily No



Ocean Pines Police Chief Leo Ehrisman (r) with officer John Pianka (c), awarded Ocean Pines Police Department officer of the Year presented by Post 166 Sgt-at-Arms Bob Gilmore



Scout leader Nick Busko and his daughter Emily presented Officer Crystal Merritt with the Snow Hill Police Department Officer of the Year Award



The Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department Recognition Award was accepted by EMT James Chamberlain, presented by Post 1st Vice Commander Pat Sharkey

Synepuxent Post 166, Spring 2021



Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Department Recognition Award was presented by Joe Verdura to William Finch, in honor of Allen Butler



Joe Verdura presents Berlin Police Department Officer of the Year Award to Officer Joseph Kerr



Commander Wengert presented the Pocomoke Police Department Recognition Award to Chief M. Lee Brumley



Karen Holmes leads the singing of God Bless America towards the end of the program



Award for Ocean City Volunteer Fireman of the Year went to M. Wayne Timmons, Jr., presented by George Leinemann, accepted by J. R. Best



Auxiliary Juniors Advisor Jessie Parsons presented the NCO of the Year awarded to Police Communications Operator Teresa Carder. Accepting was Lt. Earl Starner Commander, Berlin Barrack, Maryland State Police



Saluting the Presentation of the Colors



Bob Paul of Post 166 and VVA Chapter 1091 Presents Newark Volunteer Fire Department Recognition Award to department President J.C. Barbely



VVA CHAPTER 1091

First off a big Thank You to Post 166 for its continued support.

By now we will have had our Welcome Home Celebration and picked a 50-50 raffle winner with proceeds going to The Wall That Heals that will be on display at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial April 22-25. Thanks to everyone for their support. VVA Chapter 1091 is a Platinum sponsor helping to bring this moving display to Worcester County.

We have resumed our meetings. Post 166 is as safe a place as you can find. They are doing an outstanding job following protocols and a special Thank You to the bartenders that do a thankless job of enforcing them. Hopefully by now some or most have had their Vaccinations. June and I have had ours with no side effects. It will be good to see Covid in our rear-view mirror.

Our past President and current Officer Gerry Barron has taken a spill and had some orthopedic surgery. Hurry back Gerry, we need you.

If you are a Vietnam in-country or Vietnam-era veteran and would like to join us, mem-

bership applications are by bulletin board at Post. See dates for eligibility. Associate applications are there also.

Nelson Kelly
VVA Chapter 1091



VVA Donation

Shown holding the sponsorship check from VVA Chapter 1091 for the Wall that Heals, from left, is Bob Gilmore, 1091 Treasurer, Marie Gilmore, President of the Worcester County Veteran's Memorial, 1091 President Nelson Kelly, and Bob Smith, 1091 Executive Board member

Flags for Heroes

Flags for Heroes is a joint project of the Ocean City Berlin Rotary Club and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation. Each May on Armed Forces Day a field of flags is set up in honor of a hero.

A "hero" is someone who has had an impact on your life. Someone you wish to honor with a flag. Many flags are dedicated to members of the Armed Services. Some to doctors, firefighters, law enforcement, EMS technicians, and teachers. Anyone who is a hero to you. The flags will remain flying until Independence Day, July 4. A medallion will be placed on each flag, indicating the name of the "Hero" and the name of the person or group sponsoring the flag. The medallions may be removed from the flag and kept or given to your hero.

Individual flag sponsorships are \$50. each. Please fill out form and return to address on the form by May 10. All proceeds from sponsorships benefit the Educational Program of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial and the scholarship program of the Ocean City/Berlin Rotary Club.



Rotary Club of Ocean City/Berlin
and
Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation



Flags for Heroes 2021

Veterans Memorial Park
Rt 589 between Manklin Creek Road and Cathell Road

Armed Forces Day, May 15th - Independence Day, July 4th



Flags for Heroes is a tribute to the people who have supported and inspired us. Each flag honors a person who has made a difference in someone's life. Honor your personal heroes - a military member, first responder, teacher, community leader, anyone who has been a hero in your life.

Sponsor A Flag for \$50

Each flag will be identified by a medallion with your name and the name of your hero.

Your tax-deductible contribution will provide funding for Ocean City Berlin Rotary Club scholarships and local charities and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation Educational Outreach Program. Both are 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organizations.

To help assure accuracy, please list only **ONE HERO** per form

Name of Hero _____

Sponsor _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Make your check* payable to: Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation

Please write "Flags for Heroes" on the memo line.

*One check may be written for multiple flag sponsorship forms at \$50 each.

Mail to: Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation
P.O. Box 1576
Ocean Pines, MD 21811

For more details, e-mail: cliff0917@aol.com

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL



THE WALL THAT HEALS

The Wall That Heals will be arriving in Memorial Park in Ocean Pines on April 20, around 4 p.m. Join us as we welcome the wall to Worcester County. The 53-foot trailer will be escorted from Shorebirds Stadium in Salisbury to Memorial Park along 589. Patriots will line the roadway as more than 100 motorcycles and law enforcement vehicles escort the wall to its position in Ocean Pines.

The wall will be assembled by volunteers on Wednesday, April 21, beginning at 8:30 a.m. It will take about six hours to assemble. The Wall That Heals, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., is a project of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. The Wall That Heals travels throughout the United States, giving those who cannot visit the wall in Washington the opportunity to honor those who gave their lives for their country in Vietnam.

The Wall That Heals will be available for visitors by 2 p.m. on the April 21. Join us on April 22, at 11 a.m. as we say "Welcome Home" to our Vietnam veterans during a special ceremony. We will also have a Candlelight Ceremony April 24, at 7 p.m. You will have the opportunity to proceed along the wall, holding a candle. The names of our "Hometown Heroes" will be read. The names of all our heroes that are on the wall, and declared their hometown as one of the counties on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia or in Sussex County in Delaware, will be read.

The wall is available for visitation 24 hours a day,

beginning Wednesday April 21 until 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 25. Volunteers will be ready to assist as needed.

If you would like to volunteer, call or e-mail Frank Bolen at 302-245-5216 or email at frankieb@mchsi.com. All volunteers will be trained Wednesday April 21, at 6 p.m. To join the escort from Shorebirds Stadium, call or e-mail Ken Ingram at 301-980-3401 or email at ken.lois@mchsi.com.

By Marie Gilmore

President, Worcester County Veteran's Memorial



The Traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum



APRIL 22nd - APRIL 25 at 2 P.M.
OPEN 24 HRS FOR VISITORS
Volunteer docents available at all times



Hosted by:
WORCESTER COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL
AT OCEAN PINES
Sponsored by:
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND
(founders of The Wall)

"WELCOME HOME" CEREMONY
THURSDAY, APRIL 22nd at 11 A.M.

CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY
SATURDAY APRIL 24th at 7 P.M.

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS
READING OF THE NAMES OF HOMETOWN HEROES
FROM EASTERN SHORE OF MARYLAND & VIRGINIA
AND SUSSEX COUNTY DELAWARE



AUXILIARY NEWS

Greetings Auxiliary Members!



Emily F. Nock

I know it has been a long winter, but thankfully spring is finally here. The weather is warming up and as our town slowly heads towards some sense of normalcy, so is our unit. This March, we resumed our in-person meetings and while many events have been put on hold, our members are still out there making a difference. Just recently a member emailed me about how she had been spending her time helping a disabled veteran with things around the house, such as cleaning and cooking. These small acts go a long way and embody the spirit of our organization.

Once again, we participated in the Post's First Responder's Awards Dinner. I am proud to say that not only were members of our unit able to attend and present some of the awards that night, but our unit was also able to once again offer a

donation to cover the costs of the evening. This is just a small way that we can help to say thank you to those men and women that are working every day to keep our community safe.

We were also able to continue our Americanism Essay program. Though we were unable to hold the normal luncheon, Americanism Chair Eileen Salafia was still able to visit local schools and promote the program. The winners from our unit will go on to compete at the Department level with schools across the state.

Just a reminder, that we are currently collecting volunteer hours for our reports to the Department as well as for Auxiliary Member of the Year. Volunteer hours can be emailed to myself at enock@nockinsurance.com or dropped off at the post. Or better yet, bring them with you to our next meeting! If there is a member that you feel is especially deserving of being named member of the year, nominations can be submitted to Committee Chair Karen Thompson.

Elections are also coming up at our May Meeting with nominations being announced in April. If you are interested in serving, please reach out to me. There are several officer and committee positions that are available.

I would also like to thank everyone that volunteered at the Post during St. Paddy's Week. As summer approaches, I am sure we will see many more opportunities to help. Generally, this information is communicated by email, so make sure we have your current email address on file.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 20 at the Post. We would love to see some faces that we have not seen in a while, so if you're able to, come on out! Social time begins at 6 p.m. and the meeting will start promptly at 7 p.m. Until then stay tuned to your email and the Unit's Facebook page for more information on Auxiliary Events.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Post!

In the Spirit of Service not Self,

Emily F. Nock
President



Maryland's Unit 166 #ALAJuniors made survival treat bags for soldiers. What a great idea! #ALARockstars #LegionFamily



#ALAJUNIORS





AUXILIARY NEWS

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP



Karen Thompson

With a total of 41 new members for 2021, auxiliary unit 166 continues to topple the South-eastern Shore District charts with total number of members! At this pace we are sure to reach an all-time high in membership here at post 166!

Membership continues to be the hot topic in auxiliary news with National Headquarters Membership Award Program deadlines fast approaching. The next membership-based unit award is the Caring & Sharing Award with a submission deadline date of April 30. Units that attain at least one rejoined member who has not paid dues since 2018 and submits an award form by April 30 wins a \$25.00 gift card to Emblem Sales.

The month of May brings us the Armed Forces Day Department Award of \$250 toward the ALA Mission. This award will be presented to departments that reach 95 percent of their 2021 Department membership goal by May 18, 2021! Award information can be found online at the My Auxiliary Member Portal at www.alaforveterans.org. Along with award information this portal has a plethora of resources and online training tools that are provided to all members at no cost. Please be sure to take advantage of everything the National Auxiliary Portal has to offer to their members.

Saint Patrick's Day 2021 was another successful weekend here at the post. This was our first big event since covid-19 changed our lives forever in 2020 and I can say it was a great feeling seeing everyone having fun! Along with this fun comes a lot of hard work by all the legion families of post 166. If you have ever been here for a St. Patrick's Day celebration, then you are aware of how many volunteers it takes to make this event possible. I want to thank all volunteers who answered our plea for help. From the Auxiliary I would like to thank Lori Arillo, Lois Barstis, Bonnie Strawbridge, Terri Miller, Vicki Brown, and our newest member Inki Greenwald for their assistance selling t-shirts and raffle tickets. SAL Commander Joe Verdura and Adjutant Chuck Lathbury who did a great job prepping, cooking, and serving that famous annual corned

beef and cabbage dinner once again. Sunday morning clean-up went smoother and faster than ever before! Without volunteers like the First State Detachment Marine Corps League (Chuck, Bob, Rick & Sally, Marty, and Karen) and Post 166 members George and Debbie, and Bob and Inki I think I would still be there cleaning up the back hall today! I wish I could mention everyone by name as each volunteer is an intricate part of making a multi-day event of this size a success, so if I forgot to mention you please know how grateful we are here at post 166 for each and every volunteer that walks through our door.

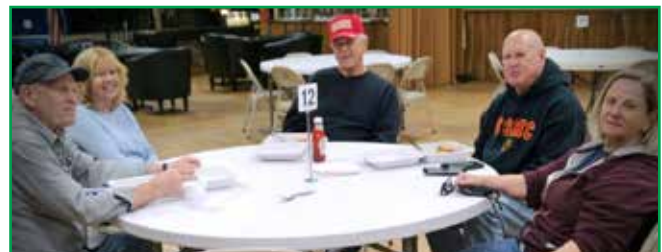
In closing I would like to remind everyone that May 21 is National Poppy Day! On National Poppy Day we will have poppy merchandise from Emblem Sales available to purchase at the bar. So, remember to please wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nations uniform. Poppy baskets can be found around the social quarters please help yourself to a poppy flower or two!

As always if you have any questions regarding membership, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Karen Thompson 
1st Vice President, Unit 166



Part of the Sunday morning cleanup crew after the St. Patrick's Day Dinner are, from left, post members Debbie and George, and Post steward Sam Wiley



The Marine Corps First Detachment was there to help with the cleanup. From left to right are Bob Broderick, Sally Geoni, Rick Poundsberry, Marty and Karen Kwesko.



AUXILIARY NEWS

JUNIORS CONTINUE TO ROCK!



Jessie Parsons

Unfortunately, due to COVID, our ALA Juniors only got to meet once in person over the last few months. However, a few of our juniors were still able to make Valentine's Day cards for our veterans in the Berlin Nursing Home and they delivered them.

On Sunday, March 7, our Juniors met at the Post and conducted their formal meeting. Lindsay Birkhead-Morton was able to join via face-time. In person were Kendahl Parsons, Addison and Delaney McDaniel, and Saylor Amos. All officers were present.

The Juniors made Soldier Survival Kits with treats for our veterans. There were several veterans at the post that day that enjoyed these treat bags from our Juniors.

As we look forward, our Juniors will be making their Poppy Posters to submit to the Depart-

ment of Maryland and will continue to work on their patch programs. Our Juniors also plan to volunteer and have a guided tour of the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall that will be at our Worcester County Veterans Memorial location in April.

We have two juniors who are eligible to attend Girls State and will be completing their applications for this program to be held in June.

Marie Gilmore, Kristen Brown, and I have taken part in several virtual training programs offered by the National ALA that are geared to support those that work with ALA Juniors programs. It is a time to share ideas and brainstorm activities to engage juniors.

We will continue to work to serve our veterans as we continually adapt to COVID restrictions. Our Juniors are returning to school full time now and readjusting to yet another new normal. Everyone stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely in service,

Jessie Wolfe-Parsons,

Unit #166 Junior Advisor



SPAGHETTI DINNER FOR SCOUTING

SATURDAY, APRIL 24 4 pm – 8 pm

Dinner Ticket \$8.00



The Post is hosting a dinner and auction to fund our BSA scouting units: Troop 261, Troop 621, and Pack 261.

Spaghetti with meatballs is served with a salad, garlic bread, and dessert.

Take-out or Limited Seating is Available



BUY TICKETS

RESERVE A TABLE

AUCTION



Legion-sponsored Scout Troops Stayed Busy Despite Covid



Cub Scout Pack 261:

Our Lion and Tiger Scouts visited the Berlin Fire Department to learn about fire safety and emergency preparedness. They also took part in a beach clean-up at Assateague State Park.

Our Bear Scouts learned the importance of handling a pocket knife safely, and visited PetCo to learn about animals and pet ownership. They hosted local Native Americans at a den meeting, to learn about and celebrate the culture of Delmarva Native Americans.

The Pack also took a weekend family camping trip to Trap Pond State Park and took part in the Post's flag retirement ceremony at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines on Veteran's Day in November.

Troop 261:

Scout Troop 261 as always is thankful for the sponsorship of Post 166 and the Post's continuous chartering of Troop 261 since 1946.

Recently the troop visited Potomac Scout Reservation, where nine scouts received Pioneering Merit Badges by lashing and constructing a tower. The boys also fired rifles and learned rifle safety.

A special thank you to John Malinowski Senior of Ocean Pines for becoming the latest Committee Chairman of Troop 261 while managing Ocean Pines Golf and Country Club.

Troop 621:

The girls of Troop 621 are entering their third year of scouting in the Boy Scouts of America's program, and has 12 registered girls ages 11

to 16. In 2020, the Troop stayed active by using Zoom for online troop meetings.

Life Scout Emery Busko was inducted into the Order of the Arrow, Nentego Lodge. On December 6, the Troop helped fill boxes for Operation We Care. That afternoon First-Class Scout Nicole Kiser was voted in as the new Senior Patrol Leader, succeeding First-Class Scout Evelyn Walsh. The Troop camped the weekend of December 19 at Henson Scout Reservation to participate in Wreaths Across America at the Eastern Shore Veteran's Cemetery.

In January, the troop built a new campsite next to the Lion's Club and also volunteered 297 hours to support Wicomico Environmental Trust's covid-relief event that encouraged people to Bundle Up and Get Out (BUAGO) at Salisbury's Center Park. The troop camped at Shad Landing in February to work on the Hiking merit badge along the water-logged Hudson-Tar trails.





LEGION RIDERS NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Karen Thompson

BIKE WEATHER IS HERE!

Bike weather is upon us and we are ready to get out there and ride! So why not ride on over to our American Legion Riders Easter Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday April 3. We will be serving restaurant style to your table a hot baked ham dinner with all the “fixens” from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dessert is included, and we will have our own bartender at the back hall bar. This event will be open to the public and you may pay at the door! DJ Mikey will be there to set the musical atmosphere for the evening and there will be plenty of chances to win cash when you play the Rider’s Famous 50/50 Board with Commander Tom!

Hot off the press is the American Legion Riders Apparel, including zip-up hoodies and ladies v-neck shirts, which will be available for purchase throughout the evening. Come on over to Post 166 and support our Riders Fundraiser!

Springfest is happening this year and the AL Riders will be hosting a Post 166 bike night – details to follow in April so watch for flyers and please make sure that the post has your correct email address for Constant Contact, so you don’t miss anything.

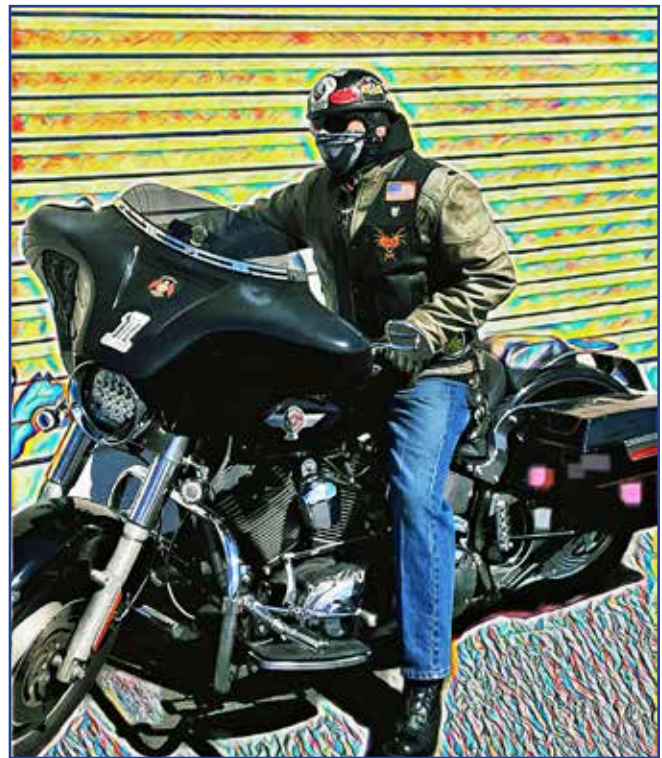
As of today, the annual riders crab feast is still scheduled for July 15. Specific details are still be worked out and we will pass the information along as soon as we can. For Crab Feast questions or to put your name on the volunteer list please

contact George Pickrell via email and gmpickrell73@gmail.com or call at 301-943-9722.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these events, please feel free to contact any ALR officer or the post directly.

Karen Thompson

Secretary
Chapter #166, ALR



Manny Perez all outfitted and waiting to get back on the road again.



The Riders also are holding a gun raffle, proceeds to benefit Veterans Programs and local charities. Tickets are \$5 each, five for \$20. Two prizes to be awarded at the drawing July 15 Crab Feast, an SKB 690 12-gauge shotgun with adjustable choke and a Henry 22. cal. Golden Boy Rifle Military Service Edition 11. Winners must be able to pass a Maryland State Police or residence’s police background check.





1ST STATE DETACHMENT MARINES

1st State Detachment to Hosting Two Major 2021 Fund Raisers

Like other Veterans Organizations, 2020 was a challenging year for the First State Marines. Cancelling events had a dramatic impact on fund raising and limited opportunities for our normal social activities. Marines are taught to improvise, adapt, and overcome, so to our credit we made

lemonade out of the lemons 2020 gave us. We found ways to work within COVID restrictions and continue to successfully raise monies for the charities we support.

With the impact of mass vaccinations, we expect a return of normalcy for life here in Worcester and Sussex Counties. We are already seeing a resurrection for event scheduling and expect a return of seasonal visitors here on the shore. We are planning on hosting two major 2021 fund raisers and participating in events like Jeep Week and the Jelly Fish Festival.



VOLUNTEERS FOR THE COLOR GUARD

The Post 166 Color Guard is looking for volunteers. Here's your chance to put on a uniform again in a meaningful way. At Parades, at Special Events, and to say farewell with dignity to departed veterans. The Post 166 Color Guard is often our face to the public at large. Interested in feeling that special pride that comes with a sense of accomplishment, and continued service?

Contact Post Commander Tom Wengert at (443) 994-2513 or television9153@yahoo.com or Color Guard Captain Glen Reely at (443) 783-0489 or glenreely1941@gmail.com.

- ★ On Thursday, June 10 we will be hosting our 15th annual Frank Conlon Golf Tournament at the Ocean City Golf Club.
- ★ On Sunday, October 17 we will be staging our second annual Semper Fi Bike Ride on the Ocean City boardwalk.

Marines and Navy Corpsman interested in joining this Detachment can find information on membership and registration for either event posted on the Detachment website www.firststatemarines.org or by visiting our face book page marines at first state detachment. We hold our regularly scheduled membership meeting here at Post 166 on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 12 noon. For more information you can call our Junior Vice Commandant at 410-430-7181.





SAL NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Saint Patrick's Day at the Post



Pam

Sheri

Tina

Traci

Once again the Sons of the American Legion Post 166 outdid themselves with a fantastic St. Patty's day party and food.

Here are a few photos about the festivities. There a whole lot of dancing and Irish reeling and shouting going around, and when everyone was tuckered out they had their tables to return to and SAL Commander Joe Verdura's corned

beef and cabbage.

And from SAL Adjutant Chuck Lathbury comes a special shout out in the form of stylized St. Patty Day photos of our bartenders, a small token of just how much they have done for all of us and how much we appreciate them. Of course, tipping big also helps!





SAL NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Chuck Lathbury

About this time last year Governor Hogan was ordering businesses to shut down and Marylanders to stay at home for their safety. So, after we all ran to the stores to purchase that 20th roll of toilet paper we just had to have, that is exactly what we did – WE STAYED HOME.

Finally, almost exactly one year later restaurants and bars were given the permission to operate with no limits on capacity and that has given us a light at the end of this pandemic. Although we still must wear a mask and continue the “air handshake” I am optimistic we are heading in the right direction of being able to see everyone face mask-less once again.

March also brought us more happy times here at the Post with the St. Patrick’s Day holiday. Every year this holiday brings in one of the largest crowds of the year and 2021 did not disappoint. Post 166 really rolls out the green carpet for Post members, family, and friends to come on in and celebrate St. Patrick’s Day from open to close. The Post’s Auxiliary showed its support once again by volunteering to sell tee-shirts, fundraising raffle tickets, clear tables, and serve food. Thanks to all of Auxiliary Unit 166 for your support. The Sons once again was in charge of cooking 600 pounds of corned beef and an endless supply of cabbage, all under the guidance of our Commander and our official post 166 chef Joe Verdura.

After days of cooking Commander Joe called on his Adjutant (me) to slice and dice while Sergeant-at-Arms George Pickrell and SAL member Joe Paul prepped and served. When it was all said and done, we all licked our wounds, cleaned up and went home for a good night of sleep. We would like to thank everyone who attended our post celebration and to all the volunteers that helped out wherever help was needed.

The current SAL fundraising raffle is a chance to win an Offshore Fishing Trip on the charter boat The Wrecker, along with a \$400 gift card to Mickey Finns Bar & Grill Ocean City MD. Raffle tickets are currently being sold at the bar or you may contact the Post or any SAL officer to pur-

chase by mail.

As we move into the Spring of 2021 and fewer pandemic restrictions, the Sons of the American Legion will begin discussing and organizing new events as soon as possible. Please watch for these. Until then stay safe and healthy and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Chuck Lathbury

SAL Adjutant



Commander’s Message

Continued from page 1

begins at 7 p.m.

In closing remember The Wall That Heals will be coming to the Ocean Pines Veterans Memorial from April 22 through April 25. It will be open and guarded 24 hours a day so you will have no excuse for not stopping by and visiting The Wall That Heals.

May God bless you and may God bless this great country that we call America.

Tom Wengert,
Commander

WANT TO RECEIVE YOUR SYNEPUXENT OBSERVER ON YOUR COMPUTER?

We can deliver your newsletter right to your computer, tablet, or phone. In full color.

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We’ll make sure you are added to the Constant Contact Synepuxent Observer digital subscriber list.

That’s all there is to it.



SERVICE OFFICER



Scott LaCoss

If You Need a Helping Hand, Here's How to Get It

Despite the restrictions and limitations of the ongoing pandemic, I've remained busy as Service Officer for the Post. I currently offer standard availability on Wednesdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., although I make myself available

at other times in order to match up our schedules. However, you must make an appointment in order for me to assist you. My role is to serve as the intermediary between the servicemember and the Maryland Department Veteran Service Officers, who formally represent your claims to the Veterans Administration.

For most claim services, I need a copy of your DD-214, your medical/service records and a Power of Attorney appointing the American Legion Department of Maryland Service Officers to represent you in VA claims. I'm still learning the ropes, but I've been working hard to assist all veterans who request my services.

This is a great time of year to take stock of where your VA claim stands as regards how you feel medically. Many of us have service-connected ailments which did not substantially impair our abilities to live a normal life when initially assessed. Over time, however, these ailments and injuries can worsen and have more serious impacts on our lives. When that is the case, I can help you submit a claim for review and increase of your VA Disability compensation.

Finally, I'd like to add that the VA has a wide variety of programs to help veterans who are struggling after leaving the service. If you know of a veteran who needs help, either give them my contact information, or advise me of their needs and contact info and I'll take it from there.

Welcome Springtime! Wishing you all a happy and healthy Spring. God Bless you and God Bless the USA.

Yours in service,

Scott LaCoss
410-991-8742
ucrider@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



| | | |
|------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
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| 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

Spring greetings Comrades from the Chaplains corner of Post 166. Hopefully, most of you reading this posting have safely made it through 2020 (physically and emotionally). It surely has been a tough time for us all with an unprecedented lockdown of almost a year due to the virus we call Corona. No April 1 Corona jokes please.

Thankfully, we are now getting back to as close to normal as we have been for some time, with spring-like weather, baseball, and golf (with spectators), and restaurants and shops opening at full capacity here in Maryland. This year has been especially painful for our Post with many of our members hospitalized and several lost to this devastating virus. Hopefully, most of you have received or are scheduled to receive the vaccine. We must all still be aware of and follow State-mandated virus safety measures. The vaccine is only about 95 percent effective and there are other viruses starting to show their heads. We older folks are still the most vulnerable and require the most care when infected.

On the brighter side, the Post seems to be getting back to the Post of old. Meetings now go on as normal, faces we haven't seen in a while are starting to show and activities are being planned, which is always a good sign.

The Commander and House Committee have

been making or proposing many upgrades to the Post especially to our meal menu and party/entertainment activities.

With so much coming on the bright side that we are thankful for, we should never forget those less fortunate members and families who are on sick call or transferred to Post Everlasting. Please remember to lift each of them up in your Prayers. I don't always know of a member in need of prayer unless I hear it from you. Please let me know who and what their needs are. A phone call will be much appreciated.

As always I look forward to seeing you and sharing a greeting each time I come to the Post. There is nothing like the Brotherhood we share as veterans.

A listing of the quarterly Post Everlasting will be provided in an attached posting.

GOD Bless and stay safe,

— Ben
Chaplain



GLEN REELY
the Sgt. of Arms in charge of
Color Guard playing "Taps" for
Post Everlasting members.

POST EVERLASTING REPORT

The following members transferred to Post Everlasting


Jay H. Adams
John J. Kellington
Dallas G. Baker
Donald R. Rathel
Armand J. Boulanger
Dana Rothstein

Robert F. Bowman
Robert Harbaugh
Allison M. Conforte
Robert Lowe
Herman W. Duke
Anthony DeCesaris

Henry C. Hungerford





Quarterly Calendar SPRING 2021





APRIL

| Date | Event |
|------|---|
| 3rd | Riders Easter Ham Dinner-1600-1900hrs |
| 4th | Easter Sunday Post Open at Noon |
| 5th | WA Chapter 1091 Meeting 1800hrs Social Hour 1700hrs |
| 6th | Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs |
| 12th | SAL Meeting 1900hrs Social Hour 1800hrs |
| 13th | Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs |
| 15th | Riders Meeting 1900hrs Social Hour 1800hrs |
| 19th | Post Executive Committee Meeting 1730hrs |
| 20th | Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs |
| 20th | Auxiliary Meeting 1900hrs Social Hour 1800hrs |
| 24th | Boys Scouts 261 Spaghetti Dinner 1600-2000hrs |
| 26th | Post Membership Meeting 1900hrs Social Hour 1800hrs |
| 27th | Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs |
| 28th | 1st State Detachment Marine Corps League Meeting Noon |

MAY

| Date | Event |
|------|--|
| 2nd | Junior Aux 166 Meeting 1400hrs |
| 3rd | WA Chapter 1091 Meeting 1800hrs Social Hour 1700hrs |
| 4th | Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs |
| 10th | SAL Meeting 1900hrs Social Hour 1800hrs |
| 11th | Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs |
| 15th | Armed Forces Day Program at Post 1300hrs |
| 17th | Executive Committee Meeting 1730hrs |
| 18th | Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs |
| 18th | Auxiliary Meeting 1900hrs |
| 20th | Social Hour 1800hrs Riders Meeting 1900hrs Social Hour 1800hrs |
| 21st | National Poppy Day |
| 24th | Post Membership Meeting 1900hrs Social Hour 1800hrs |
| 24th | 1st State Detachment Marine Corps League Meeting Noon |
| 25th | Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs |
| 31st | Memorial Day Service on the Beach at Dunes Manor 0800hrs |
| 31st | Memorial Day Service WCVN 1100hrs |
| 31st | Memorial Day Service at Post 166 1300hrs |

JUNE

| Date | Event |
|---------|--|
| 1st | Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs |
| 6th | Junior Aux 166 1400hrs |
| 7th | VVA Chapter 1091 Meeting 1800hrs Social Hour 1700hrs |
| 8th | Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs |
| 13th | SESD Auxiliary Meeting Social 1800hrs Meeting 1900hrs |
| 14th | Annual Flag Day Program at Post 1300hrs |
| 14th | SAL Meeting 1900hrs Social Hour 1800hrs |
| 15th | Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs |
| 15th | Auxiliary Meeting 1900hrs Social Hour 1800hrs |
| 17th | Riders Meeting 1900hrs Social Hour 1800hrs |
| 18-19th | OC Air Show SAT & SUN |
| 18th | 8th Annual Honor aVet Program & Reception at the Casino @ Ocean Downs 1900hrs |
| 21st | Post Executive Committee Meeting 1730 hrs |
| 22nd | Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs |
| 23rd | 1st State Detachment Marine Corps League Meeting Noon |
| 28th | Post 166 Elections 1400-1800hrs Post Membership Meeting 1900hrs Social 1800hrs |
| 29th | Beach Singles Social (Corn Hole) 1400hrs |

Synepuxent Post 166, Spring 2021

Postmaster—Send Address Changes to:

Dated Material Do Not Delay

Synepuxent Observer

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airpinto166@gmail.com

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American Legion

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Volume 48 No. 2



Tom Wengert - Commander

George Pickrell - Director

Emily F. Nock - President

Joe Verdura - Commander



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

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

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

Anyone who wants to receive the Observer by email please email the post at: **airpinto166@gmail.com** and request it with a current email address.

The hard copy of the Observer will be mailed unless you request otherwise.

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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