



Synepuxent Observer Winter 2008 - 2009

Commander's Message



First things first. Rosie and I want to wish all members of our American Legion Family a very Happy Holiday season. May the new year be the way you wish it. We want a good year at the Post. For that to be, remember that

things do not just happen, someone has to make them happen. Along with that, a big thanks for your support with the Legion programs and projects. You volunteers, are the VIP's of Post #166 and without your dedication we would not be where we are now.. Working the past 6 months with President Rosemarie Brac, her committees and the Auxiliary members has been enjoyable. Also, working together and supporting the four pillars of the American Legion is the only way to go. .

A few years ago I requested information of members who have excelled in sports. A few responses have come in and are very interesting. Most of my life has centered around sports: as a player, manager, coach, and promoter of the games. I can relate to the sports scene and these stories can fill a void as war stories have also done. The time has come to share with you the highlights of our members sports careers of members in the Legion Family. If anyone wants to honor a member in future articles, send me the information.

You will notice the new tables and chairs that fill the hall. In completing this project a big thanks goes to Frank Holloway's niece, Diana Baker and her husband Stanley. They donated 2 tables and 16 chairs which have the name of "Frank Holloway" on them. If you want to purchase a chair with a name on it let me know.

Several "atta boys", many warm fuzzies and a huge "thank you" goes to Ray Updike and Paul Hawkins. On a moments notice they went the home of one our family members. They cut the grass and raked the leaves so the

yard would be ready to fare the winter season.

The Veterans Day program this year was outstanding and had an added touch. Included in the program was Abby, our Patriotic Girl, who sang "It's a Grand Old Flag". It was an added touch to include the youth of our family in Post events.

For the past year and a half I have also been County Commander of Worcester County. With this position I am representing the Post and the County. It was great to attend three other Veterans Day Services. Post #67 had their annual Post Everlasting program, Post #123 held their service at Stevenson United Methodist Church and Post #231's service was at New Bethel Church in Berlin. It was rewarding to share these events with other Legion Families.

In our prayers we want to keep our active duty troops, our Legion Family members, and all of our armed forces. Hitting close to home is Lt David Parsons of Ocean Pines who is in Iraq with the Maryland Nation Guard. We want David, Jessie, Rafe, and Kendahl Parsons in those prayers for his speedy and safe return to us.

The boxes for the troops were filled with items that were bought by our Auxiliary Unit #166. Thanks to the Three Musketeers Rosie, Paul and Chris Hawkins for another outstanding job they did for our troops.

If you need to talk to me, call me on my cell phone anytime or email me. DO NOT LEAVE MESSAGES AT THE BAR. Cell 443-735-1942 commander166@msn.com

For God and Country
Sarge Garlitz, Commander



Auxiliary President's Message

Dear members of Auxiliary Unit #166,

I would like to wish a Happy Holiday and Merry Christmas to all of our members. I am hoping the New Year will bring new members to our Unit. A reminder to all that the Historian Office is still vacant and I was hoping by now, that someone would volunteer to fill this slot.

I want to thank the Post Commander and Rosie Garlitz for the wonderful job they did for the Trim a Tree Party. The Post was decorated beautifully for the holidays with a comfortable atmosphere. Last year I thought the event with it's program was great. This year the entire affair was the best we have ever had and the program was very rewarding. The food was delicious and plentiful.

Our membership is in first place and I want to thank Vice President Pat Foringer for doing a great job. Our meetings are the third Tuesday of the month at 11:30AM. It was discussed that we change to an evening time so we might get more attending. It was agreed to keep the meetings at the same time since the ladies can't drive at night.

In closing I want to thank Bonnie Hanson and Lilly Tunis for an outstanding job with the Christmas Party for the challenged young adults. Their hours of dedicated work did not go unnoticed and is appreciated.

God Bless all of you,

Rosemarie Brac, President Unit #166



American Legion Riders Director John Granite and Auxiliary President Rosemarie Brac, prepare to lay a wreath on December 7, 2008 in remembrance of the Pearl Harbor Survivors. The wreath laying and Remembrance Ceremony were part of the Post Trim-A-Tree party where all parts of the Legion family were represented. Those who attended had an enjoyable time with lots of good food and comradeship.

American Legion Riders



John Granite, Director of Post #166 Legion Riders and Commander Sarge Garlitz present an ALR #166 official T-Shirt to Geri Steen. This took place at the Memorial Service for her husband Rudy Steen a member of Squadron #166 Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Riders.



DONATIONS MAKE APPLE PUMPKIN FESTIVAL A HUGE SUCCESS

The 2nd Annual Apple/Pumpkin Festival again had the support of the business around the Ocean City/Berlin area. The following were the donors for the auctions, the kitchen and the vending tables:

Rite Aid Rt 50, DA Kozma Ltd, Bank Of OC, De Novos Rest, Mione's Pizza, Glitter & Gold, Walgreens, The Perfect Touch, The Treasure Chest, Outback Steakhouse, Carrabbas Italian Grille, JJ Fish Studio, Victorian Charm, Berlin Florist, Sears Contract Sales, Alluring Accents, Solstice Rest, Globe Theater, Berlin Auto Wash, Liz Lind, SO HO Fashions, Bruder Hill Boutique, 707 Sports Bar, Gold & Crafts, Bonfire Rest, Princess Bayside, Adolfo's Rest, Old Pro Golf, Three Brothers, Seacrets, Salty Dog, News Center North, Steer Inn, Home Depot, Little House of Pancakes, Dumsters Ice Cream, Big Tuna Grill, Cheers of Berlin, Fish Tales, Marina Deck, Booty's Bar, Coins Rest, T. Somerville, Chucks's Vaccum, Park Place Jewelers, Dough Roller, Fager's Island Castle in the

Sand Raimondi's Flowers The Grand Hotel, Lombardi's, Gold's Gym, Nick's House of Ribs, Jules Rest, NAPA, Embers Rest, Kitty's Flowers, Breakfast Bills Phillips Crab House, Carousel Resort, Waterman's Seafood, Harbourside Rest, Greene Turtle North Shennagan's Irish Pub, Donaway Furniture, Crab Stop, Holiday Inn Boardwalk, PSI Vacuums, Shelly's Country Store, OC Florist, American Hotel Register, The Hilton Suites, Galaxy Rest, S&L Cleaning, OC Mini Storage, D&D Office Plus, Layton's Rest, Grainger Supply Co, Adam's & Burch Rest Supplier, Quality Inn, Bull on the Beach, Richard Pennington of HD Supply, BB&T Bank, Liljenquist & Beckstead Jewelers, Barrett Chevrolet, Espresso Wave, Paws & Claws, and Don Caldwell Seafood. We will not forget the donors of items for the Baked Good Table. Thanks.

A salute goes to those who donated items for the flea market. We would like to thank the following who donated to the scholarship fund



At the Apple/ Pumpkin Festival, Commander Garlitz and Rosie presented Kemosabi Joe of WAVE Radio on 92.1 FM with a Certificate of Appreciation for his support of the Post and it's programs. He not only promoted the Apple/Pumpkin Festival but Kemosabi Joe also broadcast his radio show from the Post during the Festival.

Give this guy a listen in the mornings at the WAVE on 92.1 FM



TWO INSTALLED IN THE POST 166 HALL OF FAME

by Nate Pearson

At the American Legion general membership meeting held on Monday, November 24, 2008, a new program was established at Post 166 to honor members who have served with distinction in the Color Guard activities. Nate Pearson provided a brief history of the Color Guard. Since its inception, the Color Guard has had 33 members, two of whom were female members. Today, the color guard detail has 15 members. Although the history of the Color Guard is not well documented, it is thought that the group was established in the 1970's. Thirteen of the early members are deceased.



From Left, Acting Commander Bo Spicer, Oberlin Mason, Captain Emeritus John Sauer and Captain Nate Pearson.

The two members who were honored by their induction into the HALL OF FAME, included past member Oberlin Mason and twenty year member and past Captain, John Sauer. Each contributed significantly to the success of the Post 166 Color Guard over the years, Oberlin Mason was an early member of the Color Guard who is also noted for

his volunteer services to the community as an Ambulance driver for the OPA Volunteer Fire Department. He has also been an active supporter for the Worcester County Veterans Memorial and was an active member of the Post 166 Color Guard joining in 1979. Obie served in World War II as a member of a tank destroyer team assigned to the 30th Infantry Division in Europe. He was a Purple Heart recipient who was wounded in the "Battle of the Bulge." Following World War II, he was in the reserve forces and recalled during the Korean War. He was eventually awarded the rank of Sgt. Major during his military and Reserve Service. He spent his career with the department of Veterans Affairs and retired to Ocean Pines in 1979.

John Sauer, who continues to provide Color Guard Service, has been a Post 166 Color Guard member for over two decades, and previously served as Color Guard Captain. Because of his leadership and service, he had previously been designated as "Captain Emeritus" of the Color Guard. John served during World War II with the 29th Infantry Division and was a D-Day Veteran. He was wounded during the D-Day invasion and was awarded the Purple Heart. He also earned the Bronze Star for heroism in action. Following his military service, John had a career as a Baltimore City Firefighter. When he was eligible for retirement, John retired to the Ocean City area where he continued his service as a volunteer for the Atlantic General Hospital, his church and a number of community organizations. His service and leadership with the Post 166 Color Guard is noteworthy and significant.

It was a high honor for members of Post 166 to have these two deserving and worthy members as the first to be enrolled in the Color Guard HALL OF FAME. Acting Commander Bo Spicer presented both Obie Mason and John Sauer with a special commendation and recognition certificate. They each have a special framed certificate installed on the HALL OF FAME wall in the American Legion main hall, congratulations are extended to each of these outstanding Legionnaires.

PROGRAMS INITIATED BY THE POST COMMANDER

by Nate Pearson

Following their election, each Post Commander established goals and objectives and visualizes programs that they hope will become a reality. They each attempt to make the American Legion a better place than they found it. They each plan to assist veterans and active duty military and provide support for the families of veterans. They each strive to achieve all the goals and objectives of the National American Legion.

Our current Post Commander, William "Sarge" Garlitz, has been especially successful and hard working at initiating programs that are new and needed. During his two year tenure as Post 166 Commander our American Legion programs and activities have expanded and become improved. Identified below are some of the programs that have been initiated during the past two years:

1. Initiated the American Riders Program at post 166.
2. Planned and implemented the "Apple/ Pumpkin Festival" in 2007 and continued in 2008.
3. Planned and Scheduled a Special Muster program at Post

166 in 2008.

4. Scheduled and Initiated Summer meetings at Post 166 that had never existed. One Monthly general Membership meeting added in June-July- August & September.
5. Established and planned permanent MIA-POW Tables in the main Hall of Post 166.
6. Initiated and Planned the Chair Donor program whereby members could donate funds to purchase Chairs for the post main Hall and have their Names inscribed on the Chairs.
7. Rescheduled general Membership Meeting for 7:00 pm.
8. SPECIAL DINNER – for PUFL and early Bird Membership. To foster and promote membership by rewarding life members and those who pay dues early.
9. Provided support and approval for the Color Guard Hall of Fame Program.
10. Initiated Gifts and mailings for troops overseas.
11. Established the TET Program and laid a wreath in memory of TET at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial.
12. Re-established the SAL Program as SAL Advisor.

VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED TO 2ND ANNUAL APPLE/PUMPKIN FESTIVAL SUCCESS

Again the volunteers of Post #166 made the 2nd Annual Apple/Pumpkin Festival a success. They are as follows:

The event was chaired by Rosie Garlitz and the Al Harmon Memorial Scholarship Fund made over \$4,000.00 this year. On the steering committee and worked the Festival were: Paul & Chris Hawkins, Mike & Donna Miller, Ed & Delores Price, Kathy Bohn and Joy Faulkner.

The volunteers on the day of the Festival had the benefit of the WAVE radio station with Kemosabi Joe broadcasting live: Frank Evans, Anna Foulz, George & Lois Barstis, Ron & Chris Jones, Rudy Zerner, Nate Pearson, Eric Nilsson, Elmer Muth, Steve & Pat Barbour, Charles & Nancy Rummel, Frank Hoover, Joe & Eileen Salafia, Bill & Elaine Wolf, Delores Koch, Irmgard

Heinecke, Katie Bohn, Andy & Billie Trageser, George & Rosemarie Brac, Pat Forringer, Rose Felty, Dick & Carol Hafer, Barry & Darlene Derr, Richard Pennington, Fred & Virginia Welch, Sis LeGates, Roger & Kitty Leggett, George & Sue Kavanaugh, Bud Breidenstein, Brian Rutter, Kati Bohn, Billy George, Steve Drocella, and Murph Bryant.



Steering Committee members, from left: Paul Hawkins, Chris Hawkins, Mike Miller, Donna Miller, Joy Faulkner and Rosie Garlitz. Missing are Ed & Dolores Price and Kathy Bohn

Things and events do not happen, someone has to make them happen. It is the volunteers at Post #166 that makes things happen. They are our most valued assets and are deeply appreciated.

The Legion Family at Post #166 has the greatest volunteers in the land. **Thank you, YOU VOLUNTEERS.**



Russell Franklin, the Chaplain of the SESD is a true Legionnaire.

He spends endless hours giving comfort to members of the American Legion Families of our district. At the SESD meeting November 23, 2008 at Post #123 in Berlin Sarge Garlitz County Commander and Commander of Post #166 presented Russell with a Certificate of Appreciation for his dedication to his office. Along with the certificate he was also presented with a \$50.00 gas card. He makes over 95% of the funeral services held for Post #166 members. We consider him the "best in the land". For God and County, Sarge

POST 166 COLOR GUARD REPORT

by Nate Pearson

Members of the Color Guard were sorry to lose one of their active members , who for reasons of health could no longer perform some the duties and activities of the Post 166 Color Guard. Jack Nichels , who joined the Post 166 Color Guard in 1992 and was an active member until 2007 found that his physical condition prevented him from continuing as a member of the Color Guard. While serving as an active Color Guard Member, Jack, performed his responsibilities in a very professional and dedicated manner. He was very dependable and reliable and was a positive member of the Color Guard. He will be deeply missed.

We continue to seek volunteers to serve as members of the Color Guard for the Presentation of Colors ; Parades ; Conventions ; Special Events , Funerals for Veterans , and Burial of Veterans. Our current Post Commander, William “Sarge” Garlitz has volunteered to served as a member of the Color Guard and will soon be a uniformed member of this Post 166 Unit. Thanks “Sarge” for your dedication and your willingness to assume this additional responsibility.

Those who are interested in this important American Legion Activity and wish to volunteer your time and service , call either Elmer Muth at 410-641- 5107 or Nate Pearson at 410-641-8427.

Charles Elliott Funeral

by Nate Pearson

The Color Guard of Post 166 participated in the funeral of long time Post member Charles Elliott on Monday, October 27, 2008 . the funeral was held at the Baptist Church in Ocean City with the burial held at Sunset Cemetery off route 50 near Berlin. The American Legion Funeral included a homily presented by Nate Pearson, followed by a reading of the “Veterans Farewell,” presented by Elmer Muth and a prayer given by Eric Nilsson . Each member of the Color Guard then executed the military farewell salute . This concluded the church phase of the funeral preformed by the Color Guard.

The Color Guard then proceeded to the Sunset Cemetery for the burial . Charles Elliott had been one of the longest serving members of the Ocean City Fire department and a leader within the Fire Department . Two tower trucks were on hand with the American Flag hanging between them in honor of this long time member. The old 1953 Fire truck with Firefighters as Pall bearers brought the casket to the grave site. A large number of Firefighters

from throughout the area were also present to pay final respects . Following a religious service, the American legion Color Guard Riflemen under the leadership of Bo Spicer provided a three volley salute . The riflemen included the following:

- Bo Spicer, Detail leaderEric Nilsson
- Vic Beard.....Jim Hudson
- John Sauer.....Earl Hewitt

Bugler, Charles Rummel then played TAPS as the riflemen came to present Arms , And the Firefighters provided a formal salute.

Elmer Muth and Nate Pearson then folded the American flag which was then presented to the daughter of Charles Elliott . The final activity was the release of a Dove. The District Chaplain of the American Legion, Russell Franklin was present for this funeral. It should be noted that Chaplain Franklin attends the funerals of all deceased American Legion Veterans. He is a very dedicated and professional District leader.

American Legion - Synepuxent Post 166 Quarterly Calendar - Winter 2008 - 2009

January 2009

5th - Executive Committee Meeting
1900 hrs.

12th - Membership meeting 19:00
hrs, come at 1800 hrs for social hour.

19th - SAL membership meeting
19:00 hrs, come at 1800 hrs for so-
cial hour.

20th- Auxiliary membership meeting
1130 hrs

24th - Dinner and Dancing at the
Post Starting at 1730 hrs. Meatloaf
Dinner and DJ Frank after. \$12.00 a
single, \$20.00 a couple.

25th - SESD SAL Meeting 1230 hrs
Post #231 Berlin
SESD Legion meeting 1400 hrs Post
#231 Berlin

26th - Membership meeting 1900 hrs
with guest speaker. Social Hour 1800
hrs.

28th - American Legion Riders
membership meeting 1900 hrs.

31st - TET Offensive 41st Anniver-
sary. Wreath placed at Worcester
County Veterans Memorial 1000
AM

February 2009

2nd - Executive Committee Meeting
1900 hrs.

8th - DEC Meeting 11300 hrs Post #91
Cambridge.

9th - Membership meeting 1900 hrs,
come at 18:00 hrs for social hour.

14th - Valentines Day Dinner and
Dancing at the Post Starting at 1730
hrs. Chicken Cordon Bleu Dinner and
DJ Frank after. \$12.00 a single, \$20.00
a couple.

16th - SAL membership meeting 1900
hrs, come at 1800 hrs for social hour.

22nd - SESD SAL Meeting 1230 hrs
Post 91 Cambridge.
SESD Legion Meeting 1400 hrs Post
#91 Cambridge.

28th - Auxiliary membership meeting
1130 AM

23rd - Membership meeting 1900 hrs
with guest speaker. Social Hour 1800
hrs.

25th - American Legion Riders mem-
bership meeting 1900 hrs.

March 2009

2nd - Executive Committee Meeting
1900 hrs.

9th - Membership meeting 1900 hrs,
come at 1800 hrs for social hour.

14th - ST. Patrick's Day celebration.
After the Ocean City Parade come on
into the Post Home for Corned Beef
and Cabbage served all day until 1930
hrs. Then put on your dancing shoes
for DJ Frank.

14th - Commanders' Banquet 1800 hrs,
Post #11 Frederick.

15th - SESD SAL Meeting 1230 hrs,
Post #269 Sharptown
SESD Meeting 1400hrs Post #269
Sharptown

15th - 17th American Legion Birthday.

16th - SAL membership meeting 1900
hrs, come at 1800 hrs for social hour.

17th - Auxiliary membership meeting
1130 AM

23rd - Membership meeting 1900 hrs
with guest speaker. Social Hour 1800
hrs.

24th - Dinner and Dancing at the Post
Starting at 1730 hrs. Ham Dinner and
DJ Frank after. \$12.00 a single, \$20.00
a couple.

25th - American Legion Riders mem-
bership meeting 1900 hrs.

Every Thursday, Bingo at the Post 1900hrs, doors open at 1730 hrs

**Every Friday - Lite Fare Lunches Served 1200 hrs until 1500 hrs,
Steamed Shrimp 1500 hrs until 1800 hrs, 1/2 lb shrimp and a
pitcher of Beer \$10.00**

WORCESTER COUNTY MUSTER A CLASS ACT

Post #166's Commander Sarge Garlitz, also the Worcester County Commander, organized a Veterans Muster. On Nov 1st he put together the first Worcester County Muster for its Veterans. This event was coordinated with the Maryland Department Affairs Director Bob Sharps of the Outreach and Advocacy programs. Post #166' Adjutant Bill Wolf was the PR contact during the Muster.

Mr. Sharps stated that this is the largest Muster that has been organized in Maryland to date. The Agencies from through out the State were here at Post #166 to answer questions regarding claims, benefits, education, rehabilitation services and anything regarding veterans affairs.

The following Agencies participated in this Muster:
Americanism-PC Martin Price, Legion Membership-PC Dr. Charles Rummel & John Sauer, Maryland Nation Guard Transition Advisor-Mark Olanoff, John Hopkins Medical(USFHP)-Bill Holmes, Academy Mortgage-Nancy Miller, USVA Vocational Rehabilitation Service-Elaine Wright, Maryland Depart. National Resources-Richard Allen, Worcester County Social Services-Debbie Ritter, Maryland's Commitment to Veterans- Mike Bargiband & Arrianna Hammond, Ocean City Emergency Management Planner-Buzzy Bayles, Community Mediation Maryland-Lorig Charkoudian, Maryland Elite SDVOB Network-Rod Hudson, Military Department/Veterans Affairs-Spike Schnitzker, Depart. Of Labor Licensing (DLLR)-Bernie Kemp, MDVA Cemetery & Memorial Services-Bruce Webster, Gull Creek Senior Living Community-Mari Bohall, Maryland Insurance Admin.-Doug Harris, Maryland Department of Aging-Wiley Finch, SFC Tracey Driver-Maryland Army National Guard Reintegration, USVA Analyst MHEC-Frank Murray, Maryland ESGR-Ben Jablecki, MDVA Veterans Service Office-Janet Thomas & Tiwana Watkins, and Bob Sharp MDVA Outreach and Advocacy.



Buzzy Bayles the OC Emergency Management Planner, Receives A Certificate of Appreciation for participation in the Worcester County Muster.

Veteran's Salutes

Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect in October 2008.

"The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation's armed forces," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation's flag."

The new provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of

the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year's provision also applied to members of the armed forces while not in uniform.

Traditionally, members of the nation's veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization's official head-gear. The most recent change, authorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel, was sponsored by Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14. For more information go to <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel>.

SAL SQUADRON #166 NEWS

These three months went faster than I thought and it is time for another newsletter. Our numbers on membership are good and our goal should be met soon. With 129 members in our Squadron we are not getting a good percentage of attendance at meetings or on the Post volunteer list. There is a need for bingo workers and kitchen help on Thursday nights. Contact Frank Hoover or Jim Mills at the Post on Thursday evenings.

The Squadron had a hand full of SAL members selling tickets on the Boardwalk Raffle this summer and \$1000.00 was received for their dedication to the project. The Bull Roast was successful with a good crew of SAL volunteers helping the Riders. We donated \$131.50 to the SAL Toys-for-Tots on the Eastern Shore from the "big wheel" profit. Our share of the Bull Roast was \$1446.62, good job. Thanks for those who helped Rosie Garlitz with the Apple Pumpkin Festival. Again I cooked her oyster fritters and they were a big hit again.

I attended the SESD meeting at Boggs-Disharoon Post #123 in Berlin on Nov 23. This was my first District meeting and they had 20 reps present. There are a lot of SAL activities out there that I had no idea existed and it was

a learning experience. The next District meeting is at Duncan-Showell Post #231 also in Berlin on Jan 25, 2009. Join me there at 12:30PM and lets get into these SAL programs.

On Sunday Dec 14 Paul Miller attended The



Paul Miller presented State Commander Michael Gray with a check of \$131.50 for Toys For Tots. SAL Advisor Sarge Garlitz looks on.

Detachment of Maryland DEC meeting at Post #166. He was the only member of our Squadron who attended. Lets start the new year with a new attitude and give the SAL a little more priority. There were 48 Reps from all over the State in attendance and they commented on the friendly reception they

received here in Ocean City.

On our sick call list is our Chaplain Winnie Langer. Lets keep him and his wife Rita in our prayers.

A Happy New Year
to everyone,
Richard Pennington,
Adjutant



Check out the SAL Detachment of MD
web site at <http://mdsal.org>



TRIM A TREE A BIG HIT AGAIN

Rosie Garlitz epitomized what was in the hearts of those who attended this years Trim a Tree Party. It showed what is so right about the good of our American Legion Family.

The hall was decked, the tables filled with bounty and military honor filled the air. This is what it was on Dec 7th at Post #166 also know as Pearl Harbor Day. A wreath was placed at the Remembrance Wall, the KIA/DOW Flag was introduced, those Veterans attending, those who are departed and those who made the ultimate sacrifice were honored. It does not get any better than this.

When a special ornament was placed on the tree, a sharp salute was rendered by Abby, our patriotic girl and a member of Unit #166 Jr. Auxiliary. The following are the Legion Family members who place an ornament on this years tree: George Barstis-Viet Nam, Bill Stockett-US Army, Dave Kline-USMC, Fredd Smeltzer-USMC, Bill Wolf-USAF, Jim Mills-USAF, Charles Rummel-US Coast Guard, Frank Hoover-Pearl Harbor Sailor, Glenn Reely-USN, Kitty Leggett-USN, Mike Miller(SAL)-Patriotic,

Poppy Granite (ALR)-Motorcycle Rider, Rosemarie Brac (AUX)-Patriotic, Jimmy Krikland (SAL)-Motorcycle Rider, and PC Nate Pearson-Eagle Emblem.

A real salute and a huge thank goes to the kitchen committee for this years preparation. This year's kitchen crew was made up of Fred & Virginia Welch and Carol Kerstetter. The program was opened and the food was blessed by Chaplain Warren Disbrow.

The surprise of the afternoon, a Christmas performance by Destination Harmony. Sharon Sorrentino, Fran Mancino, Barb Preece, and Joanne Masone got the entire group into the Christmas spirit. Thanks, it was great.

John Granite informed those attending that Ron Jones a #166 member, a friend of many and a true member of the Le-



New member (USMC) Dave Kline is executing a salute to Abby after he placed the USMC ornament on the tree.

gion Family passed away a few hours prior. John placed a USN ornament as a memorial to Ron on the tree and a moment was given for Ron who has transferred to post everlasting.

HATS ON TO ROSIE

President Rosemarie Brac of Unit #166 wants all members to wear a hat to the Jan. 20, 2009 meeting. This will be a tribute to Rosie Garlitz whose signature is wearing hats. She wants to pay this tribute to Rosie for her inspiring dedication, creativity and hard work at Post #166.

Synepuxent Observer, Winter 2008 - 2009



The (3 Musketeers) Paul Hawkins, Rosie Garlitz and Chris Hawkins for the 2nd year in a row are packing the boxes for the troops. Unit #166 donated \$500.00 to this project. Twenty boxes were sent to our active duty members in the war zone, state side and the far east.



Capt. Nate Person of Post #166 Color Guard is saluting the US Flag. He presented it to Chris Jones widow of Ron Jones at his Post Everlasting service on Dec 20th. Ron Jones was a Navy Veteran and served from 1962 to 1966



Finance Officer Joe Salafia presents to Auxiliary President Rosemarie Brac a check for \$19,700.00 This represents their share of the proceeds from the Boardwalk Motorcycle Raffle. Also a check for \$1,000.00 each was given to the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Riders for their support during the Raffle. The raffle was a huge success due to the efforts of the volunteers.



**Rosie called the winner of the Boardwalk Raffle, who is Tim Scaffidi from Glassboro, NJ. He was speechless. When Sarge got on the phone with him to brief him on the procedure to get the bike back to NJ he was elated. He was told to email Sarge so we could get things clear. His email read:
"Dear Sarge, First, I still don't believe that it is true when Rosie told me I was the winner of the bike. When I was talking to you I still had my doubts. I am sending this email because I believe you, veterans never lie....my dad was a Veteran also....."**

VETERANS DAY NOV. 11, 2008
ADDRESS BY JOHN GRANITE, DIRECTOR A. L. R.

ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS AND THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE TODAY, TO HONOR AND REMEMBER OUR VETERANS, BOTH PAST AND PRESENT. BECAUSE OF THEIR SACRIFICE & SERVICE, THEY HAVE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROTECT OUR FREEDOM.

BEING A FORMER EDUCATOR I WAS OFTEN CALLED UPON TO SPEAK, OR GIVE A PRESENTATION, USUALLY ASKING FOR SUPPORT, OR MONIES, TO CREATE OR CONTINUE EXISTING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS. I CAN HONESTLY SAY THAT I DIDN'T ENJOY ANY OF THOSE EVENTS. HOWEVER, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT TODAY IS QUITE DIFFERENT & I AM PLEASED BE HERE WITH YOU ON THIS IMPORTANT DAY. WHEN OUR COMMANDER ASKED ME TO SPEAK TODAY, MY FIRST THOUGHT WAS, SURE, I CAN DO THIS. I KNOW WHAT A VETERAN IS... A VETERAN IS SOMEONE WHO HAS SERVED, OR IS SERVING, IN THE ARMED SERVICES.

WELL, THAT MAY VERY WELL BE A DICTIONARY VERSION OF A VETERAN, BUT, AS I BEGAN TO REMEMBER WHAT VETERANS ARE DOING AND WHAT THEY HAVE DONE, BOTH AT HOME AND IN FOREIGN LANDS, MANY NEW WORDS EMERGED & WERE ADDED TO THE DEFINITION. WORDS LIKE SACRIFICE, DEDICATION, LOYALTY, BRAVERY, & COMMITMENT, TO NAME A FEW.

AS YOU LOOK AROUND THIS ROOM, AS YOU LOOK AROUND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, AND AS YOU LOOK AROUND YOUR CITY, YOU TO WILL FIND NEW TERMS TO ADD TO THIS DEFINITION. IN MY RESEARCH OF VETERANS I ALSO FOUND THAT EVERY BRANCH OF SERVICE HAS A CREED OR CODE BY WHICH THEY LIVE. MANY ORGINAZ-TIONS HAVE ADOPTED A VETERANS CREED AND I THOUGHT I MIGHT SHARE SOME OF THOSE WITH YOU TODAY. HOWEVER, LAST WEEK WHILE VISITING MY WIFE'S COUSIN AND BEST FRIEND, KELLY ROSSI, WHO CURRENTLY ALONG WITH HER HUSBAND PATRICK, ARE ACTIVE "SOLDIERS" IN THE NATIONAL GUARD, SHE PRESENTED ME WITH A NATIONAL GUARD T-THIRT. PRINTED ON THE BACK OF

THE SHIRT WAS THE "SOLDIERS CREED." AND AL-THOUGH EVERY OTHER SERVICE CREED IS MEANING-FUL AND HONORABLE, THIS CREED EXEMPLIFIES THE QUALITIES THAT I SEE IN OUR VETERANS. THEREFORE, I CHOSE TO SHARE THE "SOLDIERS CREED" WITH YOU TODAY.

SOLDIERS CREED

I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER.

**I AM A WARRIOR AND A MEMBER OF A TEAM.
I SERVE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES &
LIVE THE ARMY VALUES.**

I WILL ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST.

I WILL NEVER ACCEPT DEFEAT.

I WILL NEVER QUIT.

I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE.

**I AM DECIPLINED, PHYSICALLY & MENTALLY
TOUGH, TRAINED, & PROFICIENT IN MY TASKS &
DRILLS. I ALWAYS MAINTAIN MY ARMS, MY EQUIP-
MENT, & MYSELF.**

I AM AN EXPERT & I AM A PROFESSIONAL.

**I STAND READY TO DEPLOY, ENGAGE, AND DE-
STROY THE ENEMIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA IN CLOSE COMBAT.**

**I AM A GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM & THE AMERICAN
WAY OF LIFE.**

I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER.

EARLIER I MENTIONED SEVERAL WORDS THAT I BELIEVE DEFINE THE QUALITIES IN A VERERAN & WERE ADDED TO MY VETERAN DEFINITION. SACRI-FICE, DEDICATION, BRAVERY, LOYALTY, AND COM-MITMENT.

TODAY , WHEN I THINK ABOUT SACRIFICE, I THINK ABOUT THE YOUNG MAN WHO TURNED DOWN A COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP, JOINED THE MARINES, SERVES IN IRAQ, AND NEVER RETURNED TO FULFILL HIS DREAM. I THINK ABOUT THE YOUNG MOTHER, WHO LEFT HER CHILDREN IT THE ARMS OF A LOVED ONE, SO THAT SHE COULD HONOR HER OATH & SERVE HER COUNTRY. I THINK ABOUT THE FATHER WHO NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD HIS INFANT SON. AND, I THINK ABOUT THE MANY TEEN-AGERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES AND NEVER HAD A

Synepuxent Observer, Winter 2008 - 2009

CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE ADULTHOOD. HERBERT HOOVER ONCE SAID, "OLDER MEN DECLARE WAR. BUT IT'S THE YOUNG WHO MUST FIGHT AND DIE".

TODAY, WHEN I THINK ABOUT DEDICATION, I THINK ABOUT THE CAREER SOLDIER WHO HAS SPENT YEARS IN MANY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES KEEPING US SAFE HERE AT HOME. I THINK ABOUT THOSE IN THE RESERVE AND NATIONAL GUARD WHO STAND READY TO BE DEPLOYED AT MOMENTS NOTICE TO PROTECT OUR WAY OF LIFE. AND, I THINK ABOUT THE MANY HUSBANDS AND WIVES WHO STAND BY AND SUPPORT THEIR LOVED ONES, WHO ARE SERVING BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD.

TODAY, WHEN I THINK ABOUT LOYALTY, I THINK ABOUT THOSE WHO SLEEP, KNOWING THAT THOSE ON WATCH WILL NEVER LEAVE THEIR POST. I THINK ABOUT THE WOUNDED VETERAN WHO CONTINUES TO STAND PROUDLY & SALUTE THE FLAG. I THINK ABOUT THE DOCTORS & NURSES WHO WOULD NOT SLEEP UNTIL ALL THE WOUNDED HAD BEEN ATTENDED. I THINK ABOUT THE SOLDIER WHO MADE MANY TRIPS IN ADVANCE OF THE FRONT LINES TO SAVE HIS WOUNDED COMRADS. AND, I THINK ABOUT THE PRISONER OF WAR WHO ENDURED PAIN AND TORTURE BUT REMAINED STEADFAST.

TODAY WHEN I THINK ABOUT COMMITMENT, I THINK ABOUT THE PLATOON LEADER WHO CARRIES OUT HIS MISSION KNOWING THAT SOME UNDER HIS COMMAND MAY NOT RETURN. I THINK ABOUT THOSE WHO CONTINUED TO STORM THE BEACHES AT NORMANDY AS THEIR COMPANIONS AND FRIENDS FELL HELPLESSLY AT THEIR FEET. AND, I THINK ABOUT THE THOUSANDS OF VETERANS, WHO FULFILLED THEIR OATH TO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY, THROUGH HARDHIP, DISCOMFORT, AND SUFFERING.

TODAY, WHEN I THINK ABOUT BRAVERY, I THINK ABOUT OUR SOLDIERS WHO STAND SIDE BY SIDE IN DANGEROUS WAR ZONES AND DO NOT FAULTER IN SPITE OF THE ODDS. THEIR BRAVERY IS COMPARABLE TO THE BRAVERY OF THE 300 SPARTAN SOLDIERS, WHO KEPT AT BAY THE ENTIRE PERSIAN ARMY OF OVER A MILLION STRONG, FOR FIVE LONG DAYS. THEY DID THIS BY STANDING SIDE BY SIDE IN A NARROW MOUNTAIN PASS. ON THE SIXTH DAY, KING XERXES THE PERSIAN COMMANDER, SENT THIS MESSAGE TO THE SPARTANS. "SURRENDER NOW OR TOMORROW THE ARROWS WILL FLY SO THICK AS TO BLOCK OUT THE SUN". KING LEONIDAS, THE SPARTAN

COMMANDER, SENT THIS REPLY. "SO MUCH THE BETTER, AS WE WOULD RATHER FIGHT IN THE SHADE."

MANY TIMES THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY OUR VETERAN COMMANDERS HAVE SENT SIMILAR MESSAGES. SUCH AS, "I'LL COME BACK AS SOON AS I CAN WITH AS MUCH AS I CAN. IN THE MEANTIME YOU MUST HOLD!" GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR. "YOU'LL NEVER GET THE PURPLE HEART BY STAYING IN YOUR FOXHOLE, FOLLO ME!" CAPTAIN HENRY JIM CROWE. "TAKE HER DOWN!" INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO HIS CREW BY COMMANDER, HOWARD WALTER GILMORE, WOUNDED AND UNABLE TO CLIMB BACK INTO HIS SUBMARINE IN THE FACE OF AN APPROACHING ENEMY GUNBOAT.

AND ONE THAT WE HAVE HEARD MANY TIMES..."DAMN THE TORPEDOS...FULL SPEED AHEAD!' ORDERS GIVEN BY ADMIRAL, DAVID FARAGUT, TO HIS CREW, AS HE TURNED HIS SHIP INTO WATERS FILLED WITH TEATHERED MINES.

TODAY I WILL REMEMBER SOME VETERANS THAT ARE VERY SPECIAL TO ME. I WILL REMEMBER MY FATHER WHO SERVED IN THE NAVY WHILE I WAS AT HOME LEARNING HOW TO WALK. I WILL REMEMBER MY UNCLE WHO SERVED IN THE ARMY AND LOST HIS LIFE IN A DISTANT LAND. AND I WILL REMEMBER SGT. KELLY ROSSI AND SGT. PATRICK ROSSI ACTIVELY SERVING IN THE NATIONAL GUARD READY TO DEPLOY WHEN ORDERS ARRIVE.

WILL THERE BE A SPECIAL VETERAN IN YOUR THOUGHTS TODAY? WILL IT BE A CLOSE FAMILY MEMBER, A DISTANT RELATIVE, A FRIEND, OR POSSIBLY A NEIGHBOR. CHERISH THOSE THOUGHTS. REMEMBER & HONOR THE VETERANS CLOSE TO YOUR HEART, BUT LET US NEVER FORGET THE COUNTLESS NUMBER OF VETERANS WHO WERE DEDICATED, LOYAL, BRAVE, COMMITED, & MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE THAT AFFORDS US THE FREEDOM WE ENJOY TODAY. THANK YOU



Synepuxent Post 166 Officers 2008-2009

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Commander | "Sarge" Garlitz |
| 1st Vice Commander | Bo Spicer |
| 2nd Vice Commander | Martin Price |
| 3rd Vice Commander | Frank Hoover |
| Adjutant | Bill Wolf |
| Chaplain | Warren Disbrow |
| Historian | Eric Nilsson |
| Service Officer | Al Ferguson |
| Finance Officer | Joe Salafia |
| Judge Advocate | Jack Hyle |
| Sgt-at-Arms | Glen Reely |
| Executive Committee: | Charlie Rummel, Ed |

Are You Moving?

One of the things to remember when you move is to let your Post know your new address. It doesn't cost anything to change your address and it can save us all a bit of time and trouble. There are three locations in the American Legion that need your address: 1. Your Local Post, 2. The Department and 3. The National Legion. You don't have to notify all of them, just your Local Post (Us here at Synepuxent Post 166). When I receive a change of address, I fill out a data change form and forward it to Department and National. It's important, so

Pay Your Dues online!

Did you know that you can pay your dues on line? If you are a member of the Department of Maryland, you have the opportunity of paying your dues online using your credit card. Go to <http://www.mdlegion.org> and click on "Pay your Dues". After completing your dues renewal. Take your receipt to your local Post and ask that they provide you with your membership card. Should you have difficulty in getting your new membership card from your post, please contact the Department Headquarters at (410) 752-1405

ED SHOWALTER IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Ed Showalter a member of Post #166 was born in York, Pa March 6, 1928. He served in the US Army following WWII. In 1952 went to work at the York Naval Ordnance Plant, later know as Harley Davidson. He started as a machinist's helper for NOP and later for AMF, working his way up to Production Supervisor. He was promoted to Production Planner and held this position until he retired

in 1985.

In 1952 he started his fast-pitch softball career pitching for AMF. In 1953 he held the 1952 Champs to a one-hitter and followed up his next game with a no-hitter against the league leaders. Pitching fast-pitch softball for 22 years had a mantle with many trophy's of the game. Included on the mantle were awards from the 1963 State Championship team for the Naval Ordnance Plant. The four State Championships with AMF had a place as did the 1970 team that finished second on the national level. A few years later it was time to hang up the spikes.

He had other interests from the ball field. From 1952 to 1958 Ed raced on the stock car and hot rod circuit in Pa., Md., and Del. During the off season he found time to bowl on the plant's bowling league and company sponsored teams. During his bowling years he participated in sixteen national tournaments.

After his knee was injured in a water skiing accident he became an avid participant in the following: hunting, camping, snowmobiling, and deep sea fishing off the shores of Ocean City.

Upon retiring from Harley-Davidson in 1985 he moved to Ocean Pines with his wife Liz. For the next 19 years he worked for the Ocean Pines Marina.

In the late 80's and early 90's he started to pitch slo-pitch softball for the Westside Lounge. Many of his teammates are still in town and are members of the Post #166 American Legion Family. The team went undefeated for 3 seasons with Jim Wolf, Jimmy Kirkland, Wayne Garriott, Sarge Garlitz, and Tom Boenzli.

Ed took up shufflebowl with the Westside Lounge and The Villa Nova Bar. For several years he was a league officer and captain of these teams. During those years he was carrying a 225-230 average. Now at 81 years of age he is lead off for the Post #166 American Legion II 2008-09 shufflebowl team with a 190 average. Not too shabby.



Past Commander Nate Pearson of Post #166 and Rosie Garlitz of Auxiliary Unit #166 are presenting the KIA/DOW Flag to those attending the Pearl Harbor Day Event and the Legions Trim a Tree affair on December 7, 2008.

This is a **Killed In Action/Died Of Wounds** Flag

This Flag is a reminder for each day that we live. It provides us with an opportunity to honor those who have given their lives for freedom.

***The red color of the flag represents the blood of our fallen heroes.

***The circle is for the circle of brotherhood our military men and women share.

***The soldier running over the line toward the rifle and helmet represents the line that our brave soldiers, without hesitation, knowingly cross every day, the line where our brothers and sisters have fallen before them and yet our soldier goes.

***The helmet, atop a rifle symbolizes those who have fallen

Membership Renewal

It's that time again to remind those laggards that they need to get their 2009 Dues paid. Our Post is trying to make 3 Star and about 100 of you are keeping us from making that award. Check your wallet, if your membership card says 2008, then please send the adjutant a check for \$25.00 and your correct address, your 2009 card will be in the return mail to you. Our Mailing address is: Synepuxent Post 166, P.O. Box 63, Ocean City, MD 21843. **DO IT NOW!**

TIME TO MAKE NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

By Nate Pearson

You are to be commended for your membership and active participation in the American Legion General Membership Meetings. Your active membership is indeed appreciated and contributes significantly to the success of the American Legion.

It is now time for members to make the additional step and make **NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS** that will help your Post. We urge you to make one or more of the following resolutions to help your Post become more successful and effective:

RESOLVE : To help in the American Legion Bingo Kitchen several days each month.

CALL : Jim Mills at 410-641-6067 to volunteer.

RESOLVE: To assist with American Legion Bingo several days each month.

CALL: Frank Hoover at 410-289-4995 to volunteer.

RESOLVE : To serve on an American Legion Committee

CALL: Sarge Garlitz at 1-443-735-1942 to volunteer.

RESOLVE : To help with the Post Newsletter

CALL: Bill Wolf at 410-208-2780 to volunteer.

RESOLVE : To become a member of the Post Color Guard.

CALL: Nate Pearson AT 410-641-8427 to volunteer.

RESOLVE : To become a candidate for a Post office during the 2009 elections in May.

CALL: Sarge Garlitz at 443-735-1942.

RESOLVE: To serve as Public relations liaison in 2009. Take American Legion Photographs and provide articles to local newspapers.

CALL: Sarge Garlitz at 443-735-1942

Your help in any of these areas will benefit your Post.

SAL Officers 2008-2009

Commander-----Todd Howard 410-208-3781
Adjutant-----Richard Pennington 301-481-0078
Vice Commander- Billy Yost
Chaplain-----Winnie Langer
Historian-----Paul Miller
Sgt-at-Arms----Barry Derr

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
American Legion-Dept of Maryland..... 410-752-3822

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
<http://www.alpost166.org> - Our Post, Synepuxent Post 166, Ocean City, MD.
<http://www.opvets.com>—Worcester County Veterans Memorial Web Site. .

POST SPEAKER PROGRAM



The Oct 27th meeting had Nancy Miller as the guest speaker. Nancy is with the Academy Mortgage Co in West Ocean City. She gave an informative talk regarding Reverse Mortgages to members of the of the Post. Commander Garlitz presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Postmaster—Send Address Changes to:
Synepuxent Observer
P.O. Box 63
Ocean City, MD 21843-0063

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Quarterly: January, February,
March 2009



Todd Howard—Commander



Sarge Garlitz—Commander



Rosemarie Brac—President