

March 2022 The American Legion Family of Post 166 Doing Things All Year Long

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## Commander's Corner

We recently held the Four Chaplains Brunch and Remembrance Ceremony with all Legion Families participating. Unfortunately, Debbie & I weren't there but I have heard from those who attended what a great job everyone did. I want to extend special thanks to all of the presenters, those who help cook and serve brunch and those who participated in other ways to make this a success.

We have another special event day coming up March 30<sup>th</sup> - the 30 anniversary of our Post.

A temporary charter was issued on March 30, 1992. The actual charter was presented to the Post on February 17, 1993.

Twenty-eight veterans showed up for the first meeting which was held at the Lions Club since there was no Post home. The Post grew and by 1995 even had a color guard. Unfortunately, by 2002, membership had dropped due largely to the attrition of members ageing, and others who became tired of not having a Post home. By 2007, there were only twelve members.

Slowly, members started to come to meetings. And in 2019, after 26 years of the Post moving from one meeting place to another, the Post found a home! With the help of many members working hard to make the space right, the Post opened and held it's opening celebration on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Today we are one of the fastest growing posts in the State.

We will celebrate with Members Appreciation Day on March 30<sup>th</sup>. I hope you will join us for the celebration. There will be lots of food, music, and a fundraiser to benefit the Building Fund.

For God and Country  
Bob Ballew, Post 166 Commander

## ALA Unit 166 Vice President's Message

Hello everyone. Welcome to March and some warmer weather. I am writing our message while Judy is on a well-deserved vacation.

The Auxiliary Unit 166 sends our sincere condolences to our Past Auxiliary President Natalie Scott, on the loss of her son. Prayers of comfort to you and your family Natalie.

The Post's Brunch and Four Chaplin's Remembrance Service on February 20<sup>th</sup> was a wonderful event. Guests complimented the food and how very moving the Service was. I want to thank everyone who participated starting from the "behind the scenes" preparation all the way to final cleanup.

Our Mystery Bags Fundraiser located in the Post has been quite successful and will continue. We've made various donations thus far, and moving forward, all future donations from our mystery bags will be donated to help grow the Post Building Fund.

We recently learned the importance of tracking volunteer hours. The hours are consolidated by Unit, then District, then Department, then Division, and finally Nationally. There is power in those hours. 2018-2019 total volunteer hours were 7,087,662! Think what it would be if everyone turned in their hours.

Our Unit will take it's turn on the Adopt a highway initiative on March 16. Plan to meet at the Post at noon and bring a grabber if you would like to join us.

Our next meeting will be March 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Please consider attending, join the fun and see first-hand the great things the Auxiliary contributes to the success of our Post.

For God and Country,  
Dee Costello, Unit 166 Vice President

## Looking over the Faring

This month we were able to honor two veterans:  
Ralph Kroeck and Jack Stewart.

We were contacted by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to assist with the last wish of Ralph Kroeck, an Air Force (sergeant ) veteran, and retired St. Louis Missouri police officer.

He is in hospice and his last wish was to go fishing one last time with his daughter. They took him out on a boat and he was able to catch several fish including spotted seatrout and sheepshead. The fish were cleaned, cooked, and presented to the family.

We were able meet him at the Ozella Key Marina, spend a little time with him and thank him for his service. He was so happy to see us and we were honored to be there for his final fishing trip



Jack and his wife, Kathy Stewart, are “regulars” at our Post. Although Jack remained a member of Post 155, he spent most of his American Legion visits with us. Our Riders Chapter 166 and VFW Riders 8189 were honored to provide an escort to Bushnell National Cemetery where Post 155’s honor Guard performed the service. It is always a humbly experience to participate in an escort like this.

On Saturday, March 5, we will be participating in a Memorial Poker Run sponsored by the Crystal River Eagles Riders in memory of Al Mortz and Karen Welch to support “50 Legs”. Karen was a member of the Auxiliary Unit 166 and we will be riding to honor her memory.

Ride Free

Tom Brown, ALR Chapter 166 Director

## SAL Squadron 166

We are now in the Election Process of officers for 2022-2023. I encourage all of the SAL members to step up and take part in making our Squadron the best it can be. I know some think they cannot hold leadership positions because they are either snowbirds or go North every summer, but that is not the case. We recently made a change to our bylaws (and are awaiting approval) to suspend meeting from Memorial Day to Labor Day. You do not have to be nominated by someone other than yourself, you can stand up and nominate yourself to the position that best fits you.

So please plan to attend our next meeting and be part of the solution for making our SAL the best!

For God and Country

Greg Doody, Squadron 166 Commander

## Service Officer Report

### PTS or PTSD

PTS is a normal reaction to a traumatic event and not a mental disorder and is likely to improve or substantially subside within 1- 3 months, therefore no treatment is recommended. If that condition worsens, it can develop into PTSD and the individual should by all means be treated by a trained clinician.

PTSD is a disorder and mental health experts agree that there is no cure, however with effective therapy patients can learn to manage symptoms and live a more normal life armed with the knowledge that the possibility always exists that symptoms/triggers may occur.

If you are experiencing symptoms of PTSD, please seek help!



For God and County

Buzz Chainey, Post 166, Service Officer



Our Post depends on your support!

Please attend the meetings, make your voice heard & help us achieve our goals. It takes all of us working together for our Post to be the best it can be!

There are many volunteer opportunities.

**Event Team** - We need volunteers to join our team and assist us with the execution of the majority of events held at the Post. We need volunteers to help with food prep, set up, decorations, and most importantly ideas for great events so we can continue to raise money for our Post.

**Queen Of Hearts, 50/50 & the Bonz Game** - We need volunteers to run these games on Friday evenings

**Marketing** - We need volunteers to help us get our name and projects out to the public via newspapers, social media, etc.

**Officer Positions** - All of the American Legion Families need volunteers to fill positions.

Don't see anything here but would like to help us in other ways. Just volunteer - there is a place for everyone.

### We need you!

Contact the Post at [americanpost166@gmail.com](mailto:americanpost166@gmail.com) or (352)765-3949, tell the Bartender or contact Debbie at (727) 432-7230 to volunteer your time and expertise!

**Remember It Takes All Of Us,  
Working Together To Make Our Post  
THE BEST IT CAN BE!**

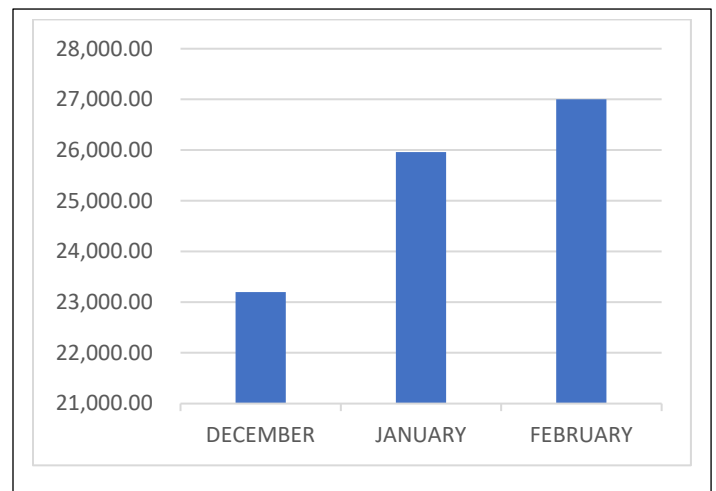


### Welcome New Members

Mariann Cornwell, ALA  
Joseph Davis, Legionnaire  
David McGrady, SAL  
John Neish, Legionnaire  
Ricky Smith, SAL  
Patti Rocco, ALA

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### The Building Fund Growing



**Help us Grow the Fund  
Support Your Post's Events!**



## **March 2022**

**Please Signup for Food Events**

### **March 1 – Fat Tuesday\***

4PM: Jambalaya

### **March 4 – First Friday\***

2PM to 6PM: Clam Chowder

### **March 12 – Flag Disposal Ceremony**

11:30AM: Ceremony will take place in Post parking lot  
Lunch provided for all Attendees following ceremony  
3PM to 6PM: Starlight Band

### **March 15 – American Legion 103<sup>rd</sup> Birthday**

9AM to 5PM: Blood Mobile

### **March 17 – St Patrick's Day \***

4:00PM: Made to Order Rueben's (Corned Beef)  
5PM to 7PM: Kevin Dunn

### **March 27 – Wisconsin Day \***

4PM Brats & more

### **March 29 – Karaoke**

6:00PM to 8:30 PM: Featuring Buzz Chainey

### **March 30 – 30th Anniversary of Post 166 Member Appreciation Day**

10:30AM: Monthly Breakfast  
Food all day

*\*Fundraiser for the Building Fund*

## **Remember Everyone Deployed**

### **Every Friday**

Wear a Red shirt, purchase your first drink  
between noon and 7PM; Receive a chip for the  
same drink, excludes specialty drinks

### **Queen of Hearts**

6:30PM Queen of Hearts drawing  
(American Legion Family members only)

### **50/50 Raffle**

50/50 Drawing follows the Queen of Hearts

All American Legion Family members and their guest  
are welcome at the Post. Guests must be  
accompanied and signed in by a member.

## **General Membership Officers**

Commander	Bob Ballew
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Mark Long
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Open
Adjutant	Jane Mundis
Sergeant-At-Arms	Jane Mundis
Finance Officer	Open
Chaplain	Bill Rowe
Historian	Tom Piazza
Judge Advocate	Bob McDowell
Service Officers & Members at Large	Buzz Chainey
Executive Board Member	Dwight De Jean
Executive Board Member	G. Majchrowicz

## **American Legion Auxiliary Unit 166**

President	Judy Salo
Vice President	Dee Costello
Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Debbie Ballew
Sergeant-At-Arms	Barb Tripp
Chaplain	Vicky Eley
Executive Board Member	Dorene Bettis
Executive Board Member	Janice McGough
Executive Board Member	Julie Rowe
Executive Board Member	E. Owens

## **Sons of the American Legion Squadron 166**

Commander	Greg Doody
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Curtis Woods
Sergeant-At-Arms	Jane Mundis
Treasurer	Gary Salo
Sergeant-At-Arms	Ed Nemeth
Chaplain	Tony Doody

## **American Legion Riders**

Director	Tom Brown
Assistant Director	Greg Doody
Secretary	Debbie Ballew
Treasurer	Gary Salo
Sergeant-At-Arms	Ed Nemeth
Chaplain	Buzz Chainey
Historian	Tammy Chainey
Road Captain	Open

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## **For the Latest Information**

**Check our Facebook Page and Website**

Facebook: [American Legion Post 166 Homosassa, Florida](#)

Website: [americanlegionpost166.com](http://americanlegionpost166.com)



## Post Photo Album

### Wing Night



### Pie Day





## Valentine's Day



## Four Chaplains



# AMERICAN LEGION POST 166- March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		10AM Post E-Board Mtg <i>Fat Tuesday</i> 4PM Jambalaya Wear your Mask and Beads	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>Navy Reserve Birthday</i>	First Friday 2PM-6PM Clam Chowder  6:30PM Queen of Hearts 50/50 Raffle  <i>Hug a GI Day</i>	<i>Seabee Birthday</i>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:30AM ALR Mtg					Red Shirt Friday 6:30PM Queen of Hearts 50/50 Raffle	10AM General Membership  11:30AM Flag Disposal Ceremony Lunch Follows for attendee 3PM to 6PM Starlight Band
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<i>Daylight Savings Time</i>  <i>K-9 Veterans Day</i>	10:30AM ALA Mtg	American Legion 103 <sup>rd</sup> Birthday 9AM-5PM Blood Mobile		St Patrick's Day  4PM Reubens (corned beef)  5PM-7PM Kevin Dunn	Red Shirt Friday  6:30PM Queen of Hearts 50/50 Raffle	10AM SAL Mtg
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<i>First day of Spring</i>	<i>Rosie the Riveter Day</i>				Red Shirt Friday 6:30PM Queen of Hearts 50/50 Raffle	
27	28	29	30	31		
Wisconsin Night 4PM Brats & More		6:30PM Karaoke With Buzz Chainey	30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Post 166 / Member Appreciation  10:30AM Monthly Breakfast  Food all day Raffles  <i>National Vietnam War Veterans Day</i>	<i>Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day</i>		

