

For God and Country

THE PHOENIX

THE VOCIE OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 166, INC
 4520 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa, FL
 Post Phone 352-765-3949
 ROBERT "BOB" BALLEW - COMMANDER
 P.O. Box 767 - Homosassa Springs, FL 34447-0767
 2018,2019,2020 1st Place Winner Of FALPA Paper Contest

May 2022

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

Celebrating 30 years of the Arnold Vern Allen American Legion Post 166



Commander's Corner

Congratulations everyone! Our Post has the distinct privilege of having 100% membership for the Legionnaires (106.86%), the Auxiliary (102.96%) and the SAL (100%). This is a huge accomplishment and says a lot for our Post!

Also, I want to thank everyone who participated in Post 166's 30th Birthday. We had a nice group join us for the Flag Disposal Ceremony and a full house later in the day for our "Team" picture and dinner.

Looking forward, elections are right around the corner for most of the Legion Family. Your voice is important so please come to the meeting this month and vote. And for the Legionaries, we are still looking for a Finance Officer. This position requires a few hours three times a week. You do not have to be an accountant or CPA; you just need to have basic math skills. We have an accountant who balances the books and makes sure that our taxes are paid. If you would like more information, please call me. This is a position that MUST BE filled before June 1st.

We also are looking for a few parttime volunteer bartenders. This is just a few hours once or twice a week. If you are interested in helping your Post, please see Lead Bartender Michelle.

Mark your calendars for our installation of Officers on June 25th at Sugarmill Woods Country Club again. Look for more information on this event in the near future..

Memorial Day, we will once again have a memorial service at the Magnolia Cemetery to honor Arnold Vern Allen and Rueben Haire. The blood mobile will be on site from 9 to 5PM. If you can give, please do so. This county continues to be short on whole blood. Later in the day at 4PM, we will have a short service at the Post followed by a "Picnic at the Post" with the SAL cooking hamburgers and hotdogs, and music by Kevin Dunn.

As a reminder, if you have ideas or suggestions to better our Post, please feel free to talk to me. I am usually at the Post every evening or call me at 727/432-7230. We all want the Post to be the best Post it can be and it takes all of us working together to make that happen.

For God and Country
Bob Ballew, Commander Post 166

ALA Presidents Message

Hello and Happy Spring Season to all.

We have completed our election preliminary functions and will update you on the new officers after a little bit of final issues are settled.

We will continue to welcome new volunteers for our programs for this next fiscal year.

Very good news from membership chairman, Deb Ballew, is that we have reached over 100 percent of our membership goal!

We are planning a great welcome for Wanda Brandt on May 2 at 9:30 for breakfast and are hoping that many of you can join us. It's important for us to be united for our American Legion Auxiliary and to make our concerns and successes known to our District President. Please join us! Sign up at the Post or call the Post at 352-765-3949.

Once again, we had to cancel our Adopt-A-Highway last month, due to not enough helpers. We have rescheduled for May 11. Meet us at the Elks Club at 9:00AM. We are trying to beat the heat by starting a little earlier. This activity counts for our Service Community that we as an organization have committed to.

Thank you in advance for all you do for our veterans and our American Legion!

Looking forward to seeing you at our May 9th meeting.

For God and Country
Judy Salo, ALA Unit 166 President

Department of Florida Legion Family Events

DCC Meeting will be held on May 1st at the Post 284, located at 5515 SE 109th Ave in Belleview. Registration opens at noon and the meeting starts at 1PM. This is the yearly meeting where the constitution and by-laws are updated and voted and the election of new Dept. officers.

Department Convention will be held June 16th through the 19th at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista Hotel. More details are available at:

<https://www.floridalegion.org/news-events/department-convention>.

All members are invited to both events, where you can learn more about the American Legion Families.

Youth and Children

April is Youth and Children Month in the American Legion and the Youth and Children initiative has been one of the Legion's four pillars since the formation of the American Legion.

Our Post has worked closely with the Lecanto High School JROTC program for several years. Our Boys State and Girls state candidates come from this organization and the JROTC has helped with many programs at our Post. They are a great group of kids, and definitely give us hope for the future of our nation.

Boys State and Girls State candidates are high school juniors and are chosen from JROTC program. The Post's Boys State candidate last year was recently accepted to the Air Force Academy.

Post Chaplain Bill Rowe had the honor to attend the JROTC Awards Ceremony on April 12, and present awards to some deserving cadets.

JROTC Leadership

Julian Arceo And Gavin Helbling



JROTC Academics

Penelope Dalida And Gabriel Rogers



Boy State Candidates

Julian Arceo and Jordan Hurst



Looking Over The Faring

It has been a busy month for the Riders with the Round Robin and Unity Rides taking place throughout the state..

District 15 Riders made our Post a stop in early April and we were able to present them with a check to support their cause.



Riders from Bushnell, Clermont and Kissimmee visited the following week and spent a couple of hours at our Post.



The In-State Unity Ride took place April 24th through the 29th. This ride raises awareness and collects donations for PROJECT: VetRelief's Suicide Prevention Initiative. To accomplish this, there were two routes: Gulf and Atlantic. Both routes started in Lake City and stopped at American Legion Posts along the way collecting donations. During the last day, both routes come together and ride to Tampa, FL. A few Chapter 166 Riders were able to ride on day one from Lake City to our Post, where we had snacks waiting for all the riders and a donation for the cause.



The American Legion Riders State Rally will be held at the OCC Road House & Museum in Clearwater on April 30th, also in support of PROJECT: VetRelief's Suicide Prevention Initiative and we plan to be there.

On Thursday April 21, we participated in the escort of the Traveling Vietnam Wall. There were motorcycles from all over the country for this event. The ride began at the Beall's in Inverness with a Police escort to Crystal Harley where many of us assisted in putting the wall together and remained until Sunday, April 24th. For veterans of that war, it is an emotional experience. All of us who were able to participate were definitely humbled.



Our big event, The Derby ride is right around the corner on May 7th. We encourage everyone to come and participate. Ride with us in the vehicle of your choice and enter the Best Derby Hat contest.

Registration, featuring a continental breakfast, starts at 9:30AM and depart the Post at 10:30AM. There are five stops scheduled: Crystal River Eagles 4272, IRRU Social Club, American Legion Post 77, American Legion Post 237, and American Legion Post 155, with games at each stop. Once we return to our Post, there will be dinner, awards for the dice game, raffles, and the Best Derby Hat contest.

The cost of the ride is \$15.00 which will go to support The Post's Veterans Charities.

Ride Free
Tom Brown

VA Benefits Update

On March 1, 222, the VA announced its intention of adding nine rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities in relation to exposure to toxic chemicals in the air, water, or soil for Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations.

Veterans, dependents, and survivors who had claims previously denied for any of the below respiratory cancers are encouraged to file a new or supplemental claim for benefits once the rule-making process is complete:

- Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of the larynx
- SCC of the trachea
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung;
- Sarcomatous carcinoma of the lung and
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung

Any Veteran who had one of these cancers manifest to a degree of 0% or more at any time during or after separation would be eligible for service-connection.

VHA's Health Outcomes Military Exposures team began a focused review of scientific and medical evidence related to exposure to fine particulate matter and the subsequent development of rare respiratory cancers. Its research affirmed a biologic plausibility between airborne hazards and carcinogenesis of the respiratory tract.

Based on these findings, VA Secretary, Denis McDonough, is proposing a rule that will add presumptive service connection for these rare respiratory cancers for certain Veterans.

The VA intends to focus its rule on the rare respiratory cancers above in Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations and other locations..

Once rule making is complete ,the VA will conduct outreach to impacted Veterans and survivors to inform them about potential eligibility.

Source: Bryan Lett, USMC Veteran & VBA's Office of Strategic Engagement Public Affairs Specialist

General Membership Officers

Commander	Bob Ballew
1 st Vice Commander	Mark Long
2 nd 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 Officer/Executive Board Member	Buzz Chainey
Executive Board Member	Dwight De Jean
Executive Board Member	G. Majchrowicz
Past Commander/Executive Board Member	Marie Conti

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 st Vice Commander	Curtis Woods
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





**American Legion Post 166
Homosassa FL
May 2022**



Monday May 2 – Monthly Breakfast

- Special Guest ALA President Wanda Brandt
- Food Drive for Veterans Coalition Food Bank with presentation about their services
- Non-perishable food items requested: canned meats, box dinners such as Hamburger and Tuna Helper, pasta, canned fruit. Please no canned vegetables.

Thursday May 5 – Cinco de Mayo

- 5PM: Nachos, Margarita Cookies

Friday May 6 – First Friday

- 2PM to 6PM: Clam Chowder

Saturday, May 7 – Annual Derby Day Ride

- 9:30AM: Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 10:30AM: KSU and “Start your Engines”
- 5:00PM: Ride returns to Post for Dinner, Prizes and Raffles
- 6:30PM: Best Derby Hat Contest

Wednesday, May 11 – Adopt-A-Highway

9A:00AM: Meet at Elks Club parking lot

Saturday, May 14 – Oldies Night

- 4PM to 7PM JOEL n LYNN Entertainment

Friday May 27 – National Poppy Day

Get your Poppies at

- Open to Close at Post 166 & Luigi's
- 9AM to 2PM at Homosassa Publix
- 9AM to noon at Homosassa Winn Dixie

Monday May 30 – Memorial Day

- **Magnolia Cemetery Service honoring Arnold Vern Allen and Rueben Haire**
9:30AM: Bikes and vehicles depart from Post for Cemetery
- **Post 166 Memorial Day Remembrance Service**
4:00PM: Remembrance Service and “Picnic at the Post with Hamburger & hotdogs
- **Poppies available at:**
Open to Close at Post 166 & Luigi'
9AM to 12PM at Homosassa Publix
Memorial Day Activities at Walden Woods South

Joseph DeVito, SAL

Lily DeVito, ALA

Nicole DeVito, ALA

Joe Gustinis, SAL

Candy Mullins, ALA

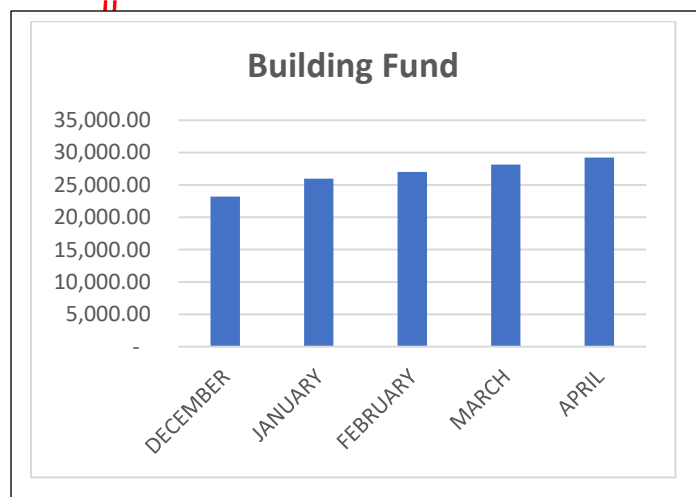
Peg Pinello, ALA

Kenneth Weaver, TAL

Laurie Webster, ALA



**Help Grow The Building Fund
Personalize A Poppy For \$1.00**



Thank You

To Everyone Who Donated To The Building Fund

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
(American Legion Family and Guests)

For the Latest Information

Check our Facebook Page and Website

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

Website: americanlegionpost166.com

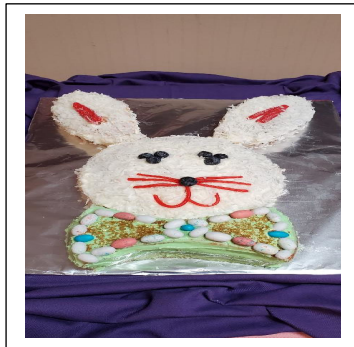
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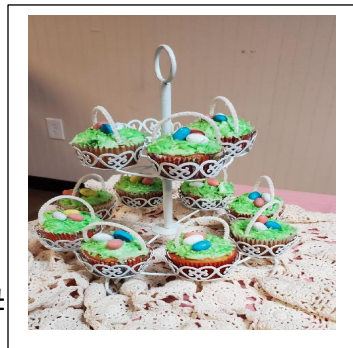
Flag Retirement Ceremony



Easter



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American Legion Post 166, Homosassa FL – May 2022

National Military Appreciation Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Bloody Mary Sunday District 4 Meeting Post 284 (Bellevue) 12PM to 1PM: Registration	2 9:30AM ALA Breakfast for Wand Brandt & Veterans Coalition Food Drive *	3 10AM Post Eboard Mtg	4	5 Cinco de Mayo 5PM Nachos & more	6 First Friday with Clam Chowder 6:30PM Queen of Hearts Drawing 50/50 Raffle	7 4 th Annual Derby Day Ride Best Derby Hat Contest*
8 Mother's Day V-E Day Bloody Mary Sunday	9 10:30AM ALA Mtg	10	11 Adopt-A-Highway 9AM Meet at Elks Club parking lot	12	13 6:30PM Queen of Hearts Drawing 50/50 Raffle	14 10AM General Membership Mtg 4-7PM Oldies Night with JOEL n LYNN
15 Bloody Mary Sunday	16	17	18	19	20 6:30PM Queen of Hearts Drawing 50/50 Raffle	21 10:30AM SAL Armed Forces Day
22 Bloody Mary Sunday	23	24	25	26	27 National Poppy Day* 6:30PM Queen of Hearts Drawing 50/50 Raffle	28
29 Bloody Mary Sunday	30 Memorial Day* Poppy's* 9-5 Blood Mobile Memorial Day Services	31				
*Memorial Day 9:00AM to 5:00PM: Blood Mobile on site 9:30AM: Depart Post for Magnolia Cemetery Memorial Day Service (Bikes & Cars) 4:00PM: Memorial Day Remembrance & "Picnic at the Post" with hamburgers and hotdogs		*Derby Day Ride 9:30AM: Registration & Continental Breakfast 10:30AM: Depart Post 5:00PM: Ride returns to Post for Dinner, Raffles and Prizes 6:30PM: Best Derby Hat Contest		*Monthly Breakfast 9:30AM: Breakfast with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALA Dept. of FL President Wanda Brandt Veterans Coalition Presentation & Food Drive Non- Perishable foods (no canned vegies) for the Veterans Coalition Food Bank. Bring food donations to the Post April 29 & 30, May 1; & May 2 to the breakfast		*Poppy Distribution locations Post 166 & Luigi's May 27 & 30: Open to Close Homosassa Publix May 27 from 9AM-2PM May 30 from 9AM to 12PM Homosassa Winn Dixie May 27 from 9AM to 12PM Walden Woods South May 30 at Memorial Day Activities Howard's Flea Market May 28 & 29 from Open to Close



Monthly Breakfast
Hosted by American Legion Auxiliary
Unit 166

May 2, 2022 at 9:30AM

Featuring Special Guest
ALA Department of Florida
President Wand Brandt

Food Drive For Veterans Coalition Food Bank

Donations: Non-perishable foods,
including

Canned meat, boxed meals such as
Hamburger and Tuna Helper, Pasta,
and canned fruit.

Please no canned vegetables

Donations may be dropped off on
April 30, May 1, and at Breakfast

Everyone is welcome

Please sign up at Post for Breakfast



Ready to ride?
Bikes, Trikes, Street Rods
Trucks And Automobiles
All Welcome!



**Fourth
Annual
Kentucky
Derby
Ride**



Dice Roll with a twist
at Every Stop!
Prizes for High/Low
Scores after Ride

May 7, 2022

American Legion Post 166

Registration at 9:30AM

Continental Breakfast Provided

KSU at 10:30AM

Ride Starts and Ends at American Legion Post 166

4250 S Suncoast Blvd, Homosassa

Crystal River Eagles 4272

5340 W Grover Cleveland Blvd, Homosassa

IRRU Social Club

922 US Hwy 41 S, Inverness

American Legion Post 77

4375 S Little Al Point, Inverness

American Legion Post 237

6726 N Lecanto Hwy, Beverly Hills

American Legion Post 155

6585 W Gulf to Lake Hwy, Crystal River

Meal, Prizes and Best Derby Hat Contest Following Ride

\$15.00 Per Person

Ride Sponsored By American Legion Riders Chapter 166

Benefits Post 166 Veterans' Charities

For More information Call Tom (727) 492-5219



WE NEED YOU

**TO BE A
VOLUNTEER BARTENDER**

**EXPERIENCED OR
Will train**
No previous experience needed!

**Volunteer Bartender Position Needed For
Day Shift, Night Shift or Fill-in Position**

Earn Tips And Support Your Post!

Apply at Post 166

**For more information, contact Michelle at
352/765-3949**