

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



Commander's Corner

Merry Christmas!

It is almost time to close out another year. 2023 is coming fast.

As I write this, Thanksgiving is just a day away and has me thinking about all we have to be thankful for at the Post. I am thankful for all of our members, but there are some folks that come to mind that go the extra mile for our Post that I want to say thank you to.

I want to thank our Auxiliary and The Sons of the American Legion for the outstanding day they planned and executed for Veterans Day. I started my day with sausage gravy & biscuits, compliments of the ALA, had a few snacks throughout the day, also provided by the ALA, and finished my day with a hot chili dinner, thanks to the SAL. We all had our picture taken in front of the flag, and I understand they will be on display at the Post soon. In addition, every veteran who came in, 69 in all, received a mug hug and a thank you card. We were all feeling the love!

We also had the blood mobile on site on Veterans Day. I want to extend a thank you to all who donated. The shortage of blood in our county is reaching new levels. The blood mobile back the first of the year.

The past 30 days have been very busy at the Post. Check out all the great pictures taken by our Post Historian, Tom Piazza. He works tirelessly to

document our events. Thank you, Tom for your commitment to all the Legion Family.

We held a Flag Retirement Service in November. Unfortunately, very few members attended. The flag is a symbol of our country. It is important that we remember all the heroic people who helped our country grow and those who have protected it and those that continue to. We will be doing this ceremony quarterly and it is my hope to see more of you at the ceremonies honoring our flag, and our country. I want to thank Executive Board Member Tom Brown, for his diligence in managing the fire barrels every time we have this ceremony.

What would an event at the Post be without some goodies from Phyllis Surprise? All we have to say is an event is coming and her first words are what do you want, cookies, pies, cakes, or something else? In mid-September she began bringing a dessert on Friday to raffle off, so far these baked goods have brought in \$350.00 for the Building Fund. Thank you Phyllis.

The monthly baskets are made by Julie Rowe, the "sign a turkey, easter egg" etc. are provided by Claudia Commans, and Connie Young was responsible for Taco Tuesday (discontinued). Thank you ladies for your help in growing the Building Fund.

Jane Mundis is one the hardest working members we have. She cleans our Post every week, cooks First Friday Clam Chowder, serves as our Adjutant and when help is needed, she is there. Check out the picture of her sorting grommets on page 8. Thank you Jane for all you do!

And not to be forgotten, my wife Debbie. She is the one who organizes what needs to be done and makes sure it gets done.

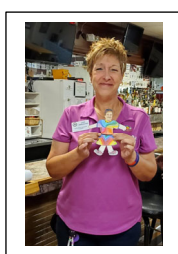
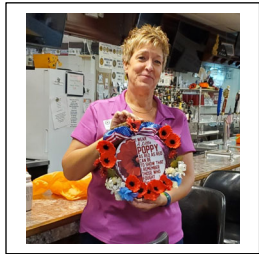
A note to the Legionnaires: The Adopt a Highway program will be held on December 14th. This is our turn to clean Grover Cleveland. All Legion Family members are welcome to help us. Please meet at the Elk's parking lot at 9AM. A Volunteer sign-up sheet will be available at the Post. Thank you in advance to those who participate.

For God and Country
Bob Ballew, Post Commander

Auxiliary News

On November 4, our Unit had the honor of a visit by ALA Department of Florida Jane Hardacre, Department of Florida 2nd Vice President Charlotte Bass, and District 4 President Natalie Scott at our monthly meeting.

President Jane’s Special Project is the Gary Sinise Foundation’s Snow Ball Express. Our Unit presented her with a check for the charity, as well as checks from the Legionnaires The Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Riders. In addition, we gave her a “Somewhere under the Rainbow” candy jar (District 4’s theme this year in honor of PDP May Malone), a poppy wreath and her own “Jane” flat member.



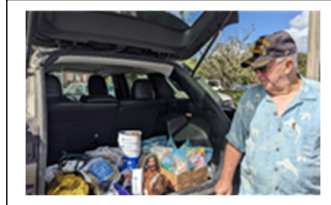
With help from our guests; we assembled 50 ditty bags that will be handed out at DayStar Life Center to homeless veterans who come there for assistance.



On Veterans day, we teamed up with The Sons of the American Legion again this year. We provided breakfast and the Sons provided dinner. We also presented each veteran with a gift.

Looking over the Fairing

On November 3rd we held our 4th annual Hams N Hogs Charity ride to benefit the Citrus County Veterans Coalition Food Pantry. Thanks to the generosity of those 69 riders who participated, and the businesses/club’s monetary donations, we were able to donate 14 hams, a turkey, and a generous check to ensure Veterans will have a thanksgiving dinner.



Many thanks to the following donors:

Able Septic Sewer Service Inc, S & D Sod, Advance Septic, ALR Riders Chapter 237 and Chapter 155, VFW Post 7122, Eagle Riders #4272, Eagles Aerie #4272, IRRU Social Club, The Doghouse 2. Citrus Sports and Apparel, Citrus Sports and Apparel, Grumpy Gators Bar & Grill, HNR Gunworks, Kane's Ace Hardware, Luigi's Family Restaurant, Michael Angelo's Pizza, Seagrass Waterfront, Sugarmill Family Restaurant, The Biscuit Barn, Two Guys From Italy Restaurant And Sports Lounge. Crystal Harley-Davidson, Margaritta Grill, The Breakfast Station, Mr. B's Car Wash and Cattle Dog Coffee.

More pictures on page 7.

Sons of the American Legion Updates

October 30, we held our first Halloween Party. There were about 65 folks in attendance, most in costumes. It was a hoot! You will find those pictures on page 6.

We were able to raise funds that will help us help our Veterans by our members and guests’ participation in a 50/50 and a basket raffle. Special thanks to Phyllis for helping us with the appetizers and the food art. The chocolate rats were very real looking.

On Veterans day, we served a chili dinner, cooked by Bill Rowe. It was great to see so many veterans at the Post!

Mark your calendars for Sunday January 15th for our Football Hamburger Clash. Three playoff games will be on the TV’s throughout the day and we will be serving burgers between 2 and 4PM. More information to come on this event in the January newsletter..

Veterans Update

Legion Inks MOU On Camp Lejeune Justice Act

(An excerpt from the American Legion’s National Legislative Division Weekly dated 11/4/2020)

The American Legion and Bergmann & Moore have entered into a memorandum of understanding with the legal firm that provides veterans benefits consultation for accredited Legion service officers that will help potential plaintiffs understand the Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA).

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, better known as the PACT Act, signed into law Aug. 10, 202, opens the door for certain individuals to file lawsuits and collect damages from the federal government due to their exposure to contaminated water on the Marine Corps base.

Qualified claimants had to have served at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune, N.C., between Aug. 1, 1953, and Dec. 31, 1987.

“Our goal is to make sure veterans and their family members do not settle for less than they deserve and that they have accurate information about the effect a settlement under the Camp Lejeune Justice Act could have on their VA disability benefits (and any other federal benefits),” a dedicated website for American Legion members states.

Bergmann & Moore, founded in 2004 by former VA employees, has been providing American Legion service officer training and legal consultation since 2017. The dedicated website is:

<http://camplejeunelitigationteam.com/al/>

provides a secure online form for Legionnaires and their family members to explain their circumstances. The firm also has a 24-hour phone number – 800-898-9450 – for those who do not wish to use the web platform.

Bergmann & Moore, according to the MOU, “will work in concert with a mass tort law firm as co-counsel to advocate on the claimant’s behalf” once eligibility under the CLJA is determined.

The stated purpose of the MOU has four prongs: -

- Create, implement, and execute a service project for veterans interested in participating in the PACT Act/CLJA litigation.
- Protect Legion members and their families through comprehensive education, advocacy, and assistance in determining whether a claim under the CLJA would be beneficial to them when compared with filing for and receiving benefits from programs administered by VA.

- Ensure Legion members receive the maximum benefits allowed under the law while protecting against predatory and/or unscrupulous actors
- Prevent Legion members from accepting or receiving a one-time benefit under the CLJA to the detriment of greater, future VA program eligibility and entitlement

Multiple forms of cancer are among at least 15 health conditions or medical events that may have been caused by contamination. Claimants may be veterans, their families, civilian contractors, or estates of those who were harmed. Veterans, family members and others potentially affected by contaminated water at Camp Lejeune are encouraged to consult American Legion accredited service officers about the lawsuit and or any other matters related to the PACT Act, which extends historic VA disability benefits relief for millions of veterans exposed to toxic contamination, from atomic cleanup sites to burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Free Lifetime Entrance Pass For Federal Parks & Recreation

All U.S. veterans and Gold Star family members are now able to get a free lifetime entrance pass for federal parks and recreation sites nationwide. The pass, an expansion on the annual free pass for currently serving troops and their families, grants free access to about 2,000 parks and lands managed by the National Park Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; Bureau of Reclamation; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, according to an announcement on the park service website. It also gives discounted amenity fees in some locations.

The new pass covers the holder and any accompanying passengers in a private vehicle at sites that charge per car, or the pass owners and up to three adults aged 16 and over at sites that charge per person.

For more information visit the parks web site at :

<https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm>



Local Service Officers
Jim Dryer (315) 240-1442
Wanda Thomas (352) 257-0541



December 2, First Friday

2PM – 6PM Clam Chowder

Donate to the Building Fund & receive a cup of Chowder

December 7, Wednesday

4PM: Trim the Tree Party

Bring a patriotic, military or Legion Family ornament

Wear your Ugly Sweater for prizes

Joel N Lynn Entertainment

Snacks

December 14, Wednesday

9AM: Adopt a Highway

Meet at Elks Parking lot,

Bring grabber, water, and sunscreen

Glove and trash bags provided

December 18, Sunday

Wreaths for Fallen Heroes

Meet 9:30AM: Meet at Crystal Harley Davidson

KSU 10AM: Depart for Florida National Cemetery

Bikes will have police escort. Cars welcome to follow

Help lay wreaths on a Veterans grave & say their name

December 31, Saturday: New Year's Eve Party

4PM -Celebrate at the Post

Every Friday

Wear a Red Shirt to support the Deployed

Noon to 7PM - Purchase your first drink & you will

Receive a chip for the Same Drink

**Excludes specialty drinks*

6:30PM Queen of Hearts drawing

(American Legion Family Members only)

50/50 Drawing follows the Queen of Hearts

(American Legion Family and Guests)

The Bonz Game follows the 50/50 raffle

Three rolls of the dice to get all the same number

Win 2 beer, wine, or well drink chips; or

1 call or top shelf chip

Proceeds go to the Building Fund

The Post will be closed Christmas Day

For the Latest Information

Check our Social Media Accounts:

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

Website: americanlegionpost166.com

Monthly Meetings and Officers

American Legion Post 166

Executive Board Meeting: 1st Tuesday at 10AM

General Membership Meeting: 2nd Saturday at 10AM

Post Commander	Bob Ballew
1 st Vice Commander	Mark Long
2 nd Vice Commander	Dwight DeJean
Adjutant	Jane Mundis
Sergeant-At-Arms	Jane Mundis
Finance Officer	Open
Chaplain	Bill Rowe
Historian	Tom Piazza
Judge Advocate / E Board	Bob McDowell
Past Commander / E Board	Marie Conti Executive
Board Member	Tom Brown Executive
Board Member	Bud Costello
Executive Board Member	David Kaczanowski
Executive Board Member	John Myers

American Legion Auxiliary

Monthly Meeting: 2nd Monday at 10:30AM

President	Debbie Ballew
Vice President	Judy Salo
Secretary	Julie Rowe
Treasurer	Dee Costello
Chaplain	Vicky Eley
Historian	Barbara Dubose
Sergeant-At-Arms	Janice McGough
Executive Committee	Dorene Bettis
Executive Committee	Barb Tripp
Executive Committee	Marion Healy

The Sons of the American Legion

Monthly Meeting: 3rd Saturday at 10AM

Commander	Curtis Woods
1st Vice Commander	Greg Doody
Treasurer	Bill Rowe
Chaplain	Bill Cloke
Sergeant-At-Arms	Ed Nemeth

American Legion Riders

Monthly Meeting: 1st Saturday of the Month at 10:30AM

Fun Ride follows

Director	Open
Assistant Director	Bob Ballew
Secretary/Treasurer	Debbie Ballew
Sergeant-At-Arms	Tom Brown
Chaplain	Open
Historian	Barbara Debose
Road Captain	Jerry Van Tassel

Holiday Raffle - 31 CHANCES TO WIN

Help make a difference in the lives of Florida veteran!
 During December, The American Legion, Department of Florida Holiday Raffle will award a cash prize to 31 winners, one on each day of the month.

- Tickets available at the Canteen
- The requested donation for each ticket is \$5.00
- Include your phone and email on your ticket
- For every ticket purchased, \$1 will be entered into the prize pool. Balance to Dept and Post for Veteran Programs
- A winner will be drawn each day
- Winners will be posted on the Florida Legion website and contacted for instructions on where to send their prize.

PRIZE POOL –\$1.00 from every ticket purchased from November 1 through November 30, 2022, at 11:59 PM EST, will be divided up based on a predetermined percentages for each day. After that, the prize pool can only increase based on the ticket sales from the previous day. For example, donations received through ticket sales on December 1st will be added to December 2nd prize payout.

Remember, the more donations received, the more everyone wins!!!

For more information and the daily percentages go to:
<https://www.floridalegion.org/news-events/holiday-raffle/rules/>



Need a Pumpkin or Pecan Pie for Christmas?
 Order at the Post by December 20th
 Pick up December 23rd between 5 & 7 at the Post
 Pies Provided by Phyllis

Welcome New Members

- Robert Anderson, Legionnaire
- Angel Ballew, ALA
- Bryan Ballew, Legionnaire
- John Callahan, Legionnaire
- Gary Carolfi, Legionnaire
- Peggy Carolfi, ALA
- John Costello, Legionnaire
- Kevin Dowden, Legionnaire
- Ryan Frederick, Legionnaire
- Douglas Klein, Legionnaire
- Mark Massicot, SAL
- Casey McCarthy, Legionnaire
- Jake McKenzie, SAL
- George Mitchell, SAL
- Joanne Nicholls, ALA
- Judith Pius, ALA
- Clayton Wilson, SAL
- Teri Wilson, Legionnaire

December Fund Raisers
Help us grow the Building Fund

Christmas Basket
Tickets \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00



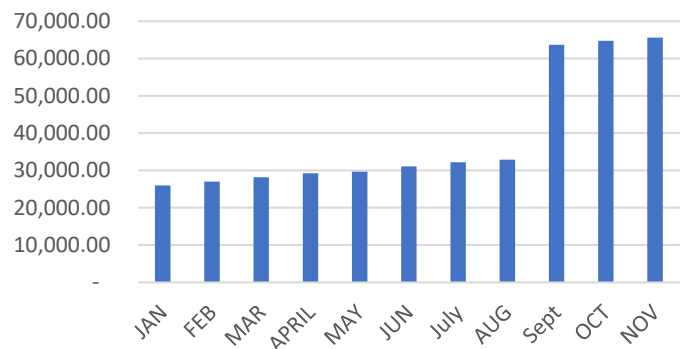
Handmade Patriotic Needlepoint

- Ruffino Prosecco*
- 2 Champagne Flutes*
- 2 Strawberry Daquiri Pouches*
- Bischoff Cookies*
- Milano Cookies*
- Scented Candle*
- Honey Roasted Peanuts*
- Pistachios*
- Peppermint Bark*

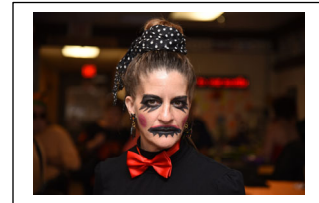
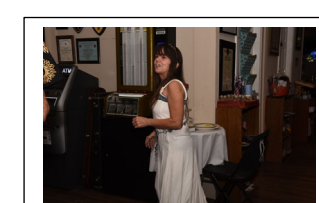
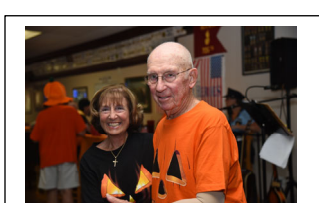
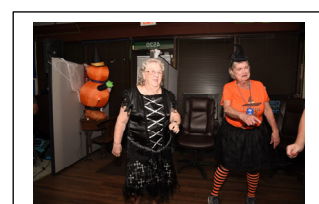
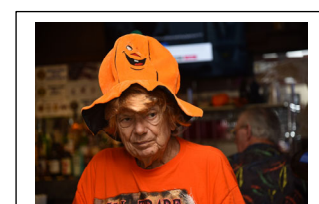
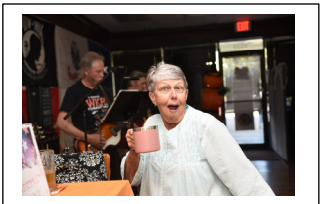
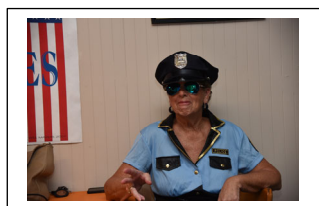
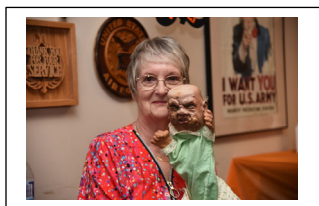
Decorate a Christmas Tree
Just \$1.00



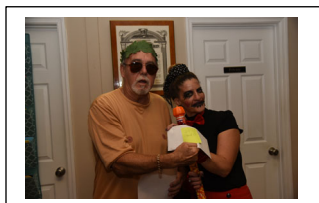
Building fund as of 11/28/22



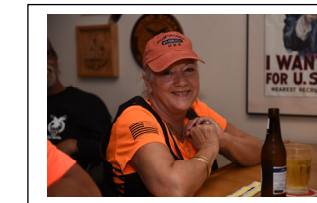
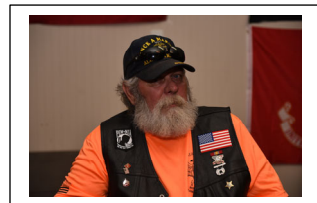
SAL's Halloween Party



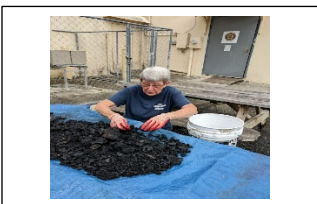
Contest and Raffle Winners



Hams N Hogs Charity Ride



Flag Disposal Ceremony



Veterans Day



American Legion Post 166– December 2022
4520 S Suncoast Blvd, Homosassa FL
352/765-3949

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Civil Air Patrol Birthday	First Friday 2 – 6 Clam Chowder Red Shirt Friday 6:30 Queen of Hearts/50-50 Raffle	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		10AM E Board Mtg	Pearl Harbor Day (1941) Flags Half Staff 4PM Post 166 Trim a Tree Christmas Party		Red Shirt Friday 6:30 Queen of Hearts/50-50 Raffle	10AM General Membership Mtg
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	10:30AM ALA Holiday Luncheon	US National Guard Birthday	9AM Adapt a Highway	Bill of Rights Day	Red Shirt Friday 6:30 Queen of Hearts/50-50 Raffle	10AM SAL Mtg
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Wreaths for Fallen Heroes	Hanukkah	US Space Force Birthday Panama/Operation Just Cause (1989)	Winter Begins		Red Shirt Friday 6:30 Queen Oof Hearts/50-50 Raffle	Christmas Eve
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Merry Christmas Post Closed	5PM – 8PM Karaoke with KJ Buzz Chainey				Red Shirt Friday 6:30 Queen of Hearts/50-50 Raffle	New Year's Eve 4PM Post 166 Party