



December 2021

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

Commander's Corner

I would like to take a moment to thank our Auxiliary Unit 166 and the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 166 for the wonderful Veterans Day they co-sponsored!

The day began with sausage gravy & biscuits provided by the Auxiliary and ended with a Sloppy Joe dinner provided by the SAL. Unit 166 also prepared "care packages" for all veterans filled with cookies & snacks, chap stick, a star from a retired flag, a flag pin, and a Poppy. There were thank you notes for every veteran, not only from Unit 166 but also from Homosassa Elementary School. Commander Scott was also able to stop by and enjoy the day with us. And last but not least, thanks to the Costello's for donating two kegs of beer allowing Veterans to drink free drafts and to Dick Bily for contributing towards the Event. Such a special day for Veterans, thanks to our Legion family!

Also, in support of the ***Vote in Honor of a Vet*** program, sponsored by the Supervisor of Elections office, Veterans were asked to fill out a biography of their time spent in the Armed Forces. This information will be used as a tool in educating 18-year-olds, when they become eligible to vote. The Veterans biographies will make voting a more personal experience and help the kids understand the sacrifices made by veterans. These biographies will also become a part of the ***Vote in Honor of a Vet*** display at the Supervisor of Elections office. If you were not able to attend our Veterans Day Celebration or did not fill out a Biography, please stop in the Post and fill one out. Remember, the future is in the hands of these kids!

Membership

On another note, I would like to address membership to the Legionnaires. As you probably know, American Legion membership is not growing as fast as the New American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard would like so he is offering some incentives:

- **No Veteran Left Behind Membership Excellence Pin**
This pin will be awarded to any Legionnaire who obtains three new members into The American Legion. A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2022 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2021 membership year. Transfers do not count. Only one pin will be awarded per individual. www.legion.org/commander/pin
- **New Membership Engagement Program**
Members who last paid in 2020 and did not renew their membership in 2021, will be able to continue their continuous years of membership, despite not renewing in 2021, if they renew for the 2022 membership year.
- **Department Incentive**
Any department that attains 103 percent of its 2022 membership goal and achieves at least a 90 percent retention rate will later receive \$18.50 for each member dues transmitted over that 103 percent. This is money back into our Post account. Membership counted will end on Oct. 1, 2022. It's up to all of us to do our part to help achieve this important goal.

Merry Christmas to all and may 2022 be the best year yet!

For God and Country
Bob Ballew
Acting Commander, Post 166

ALA Unit 166 Presidents Message

Hello to all American Legion members!

The Auxiliary Unit 166 is growing and getting better all the time. We have welcomed a new vice president, Dee Costello and another Executive Committee member, Julie Rowe. Both ladies are amazing assets to our group. In addition, we welcomed several new members and are looking forward to seeing them at our next meeting on December 13th.

Debbie Ballew, Unit 166 treasurer, and I, recently attended a District 4 meeting in Gainesville. We learned a lot about what other Units are doing to help our Veterans. One of those projects is Blessing Bucket, which is designed to give homeless Veterans the necessary items to survive. Our Unit was able to donate a carful of items for this special project, thanks to the generosity of our members at Post 166.

In order to ensure that families in need will have a holiday meal, our Unit donated 34 hams to Daystar Life Center. Thank you to Dee Costello for overseeing this project!

Donations boxes are located in the lobby at the Post for donations of clothing and food. These donations go to DayStar Life Center who distributes them in our community to those who are in need of a helping hand. The donations do not leave this county.

We were also out in the community over Veterans Day with Poppy's. Thanks go to Jan Habich and Jeanne MacBernie, who were at Publix; and Barb Trip and Sherri McDaniel, who were at Walden Woods. Due to everyone's generosity, we raised over \$400.00, which will be used to help Veterans.

I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Happiness is not a state to arrive in but a manner of travel"

Margaret Lee Runbeck

For God and Country

Judy Salo, President ALA Unit 166



Julie Rowe and Dee Costello are installed by District 4 President Natalie Scott



Preparing 'Care Packages' for Veterans Day



**Donations for
Blessing Buckets**



**Hams For Daystar
Life Center**

Sons of the American Legion

I want to thank everyone who was able to attend the SAL meeting this month. Our Squadron hadn't been able to have a meeting since June due to the majority of our members traveling.

Our meeting was very productive with several decisions made:

- **Adapt a highway Initiative** – We agreed to participate with the Legion Family in the cleanup of Grover Cleveland, doing our share once a year.
- **Boy's State Delegate** – We will participate in partial monetary support of a high school junior to attend boys state in Tallahassee this year.
- **SAL Meetings** – We voted to change our meeting schedule. Meetings will be held monthly with the exception of the summer months (Memorial Day to Labor Day), when there will be no meetings.
- **Hamburger Night** – We will be hosting this event in January and will have an exact date in the near future. I hope all of you will be able to attend and check out the grilling skills of Ed Nemeth and Curt Woods. There will also be entertainment and once that date is finalized, we will let you know.

Our next meeting is December 18th, and I hope to see more of the Squadron.

For God & Country

Greg Doody

Service Officer Report

- **VA Claims** – If you are frustrated by the response or lack of response of your claim like most of us are, know that the VA is working on it. It seems that due to many problems caused by the COVID pandemic, over 600,000 claims are waiting to be processed by the VA; 200,000 of which are considered "backlogged." In an attempt to remedy this, the VA is hiring and training 2,000 new employees. This will, of course, take some time, but help is on the way.
- **Persian Gulf War Veterans** – The Department of Veterans Affairs announced Oct. 27 the extension for the period of presumptive illnesses for Veterans until Dec. 31, 2026. The extension applies to chronic disabilities rated 10 percent or more that have resulted from undiagnosed illnesses. Extending the presumptive period will ensure that the benefits, can be fairly and fully administered.

To file a claim or learn more:

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-gulfwar.asp>



Holidays can be a tough time for Veterans
I am here for any Veteran in need!

Buzz Chainey, Post 166 Service Officer

Welcome New Members!

Patrick Bailey, Legionnaire
Ronald Dairgle, Legionnaire
Steven Delosh, Legionnaire
Harry Forbes, Legionnaire
Julie Forbes, ALA
Mark Henry, Legionnaire
Valerie Holland, ALA

Alan Kaprelian, Legionnaire
Steve Magnuson, Legionnaire
Christopher Mills, Legionnaire
Rodney Rogers, Legionnaire
Patsy Salisbury, ALA
Larry Stephens, Legionnaire

Looking over the Fairing

I want to thank all our American Legion Riders for the hard work that went into making our Third Annual Hams and Hogs Charity Run a success. We had a great group of riders participate!

We were able to donate 2 turkeys, 5 canned hams and 11 hams and \$3,000 (from cash donations and auction items) to the Veterans Coalition Food Bank. These donations will ensure a holiday meal for our less fortunate veterans.

Our day started with a fabulous breakfast of Ham Biscuits (Country and City), Eggs, and Banana Bread and Mini Fruit Muffins. Dinner was also very good; pulled pork, slaw, chips, and brownies (lots of brownies). Thanks for these meals go to Phyllis Surprise, Julie Rowe, Debbie Ballew and help from Judy Salo and Marion Healy with serving.

We received donations from several folks, including all five stops on our ride. The silent auction was a success, and all the Riders had the opportunity to win over thirty gift certificates and prizes.

I want to say a special thank you to the Eagle Riders, who always support us. It is appreciated!

Mark Your Calendars

Our next big event is "The Derby Ride" on May 7th, open to all Bikes, Trikes, Roadsters, Street Rods, Trucks and Automobiles. I hope all you can make it and remember it's never too early to start working on your Derby Hat.

Thank you

On behalf of the American Legion Riders Chapter 166, I would like to thank the following donors, who helped make this ride a success!

Advance Septic
ALR Riders #155
ALR Riders #237
American Legion #337
Angel's Heaven on Earth Salon
Annette Wild Hair Salon
Beauty & The Barber
Crystal River Eagles #4272
Crystal River Eagle Riders #4272
Doghouse
Eileen Flannery
Georgia Caldes
Great Clips
Grumpy Gators Bar & Grill
HNR Gunworks
IR-RU Social Club
Kelly's Half Shell Pub
Las Magueyes Spanish Restaurant
Love Chevrolet
Luigi's Family Restaurant
Margaritta Grill
Marine Corps League
Momma Country Kitchen
Rick Oldfield
The Biscuit Barn
The Breakfast Station
The Old Mill Tavern
Two Guys from Italy
Two Pops Sandwich Shop
Several Anonymous Donors

Until next time, Keep The Wind To Your Back!

Bob Ballew, Director
American Legion Riders Chapter 166

Thank You To Following Members For Their Donations to the Post

Dick Bily
Bill Cloke
Bud & Dee Costello
Bonnie Gonzalez
David Kaczanowski

Don & Kathy Koeppen
Richard and Cheryl Moulton
Phyllis & John Surprise
Theresa O'Brien



December

Friday, December 3 – First Friday

Featuring Jane's Clam Chowder

2:00PM to 5:30PM

Sunday December 5 – Tailgate at the Post*

December Birthday Celebration

3:00PM: December Birthday Cake served

Wednesday December 8 – Nat'l Brownie Day

Come in and enjoy a Brownie

Saturday December 11 – Ugly Sweater Christmas Party

4:00PM to 7:00PM

Featuring the BC Band

Ugly Sweater Contests, appetizers, and other activities

Sunday December 12 – Tailgate at the Post*

Sunday December 19– Tailgate at the Post*

Friday December 24 – Christmas Eve

Join us for Christmas Cheer & Christmas Cookies

Saturday December 25 – Christmas Day

Post 166 closed

Sunday December 26 – Tailgate at the Post*

Tuesday December 28– Karaoke

Featuring Buzzsaw Chainey

6:00PM to 8:30PM

Friday December 31 – New Year's Eve

Join us as we say goodbye to 2021

Every Friday –Queen of Hearts & 50/50 Raffle

6:15PM: Tickets sales close

6:30PM: Drawing for Queen of Hearts followed by 50/50 Drawing

*Tailgate at the Post

Every Sunday during football season

Food served at half time of the 1st game

*All American Legion Family Members And Their Guests
Are Welcome At Our Post
Guests Must Be Accompanied By And Signed In
By An American Legion Member*

General Membership Officers

Commander (on leave of absence)	Robert Scott
1 st Vice /Acting Commander	Bob Ballew
2 nd Vice Commander /Acting 1 st Vice	Mark Long
Adjutant	Becky Badders
Sergeant At Arms	Jane Mandis
Finance Officer	Gary Rand
Chaplain	Bill Rowe
Historian	Tom Piazza
Judge Advocate	Bob McDowell
Service Officers & Member at Large	Buzz Chainey
Executive Board Member	Dwight DeJean
Executive Board Member	G .Majchrowicz

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 166

President	Judy Salo
Vice President	Dee Costello
Secretary	Sheri McDaniel
Treasurer	Debbie Ballew
Sgt. At Arms	Barb Tripp
Chaplain	Vicky Eley
Executive Board Members	Dorene Bettis
Janice Mc McGough, Julie Rowe and Erskileena Owens	

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 166

Commander	Greg Doody
1 st Vice Commander	Curtis Woods
Treasurer	Gary Salo
Sgt-At-Arms	Ed Nemeth
Chaplain	Tony Doody

American Legion Riders

Acting Riders Director	Greg Doody
Acting Assistant Director	Bob Ballew
Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Gary Salo
Sgt. At Arms	Ed Nemeth
Chaplain	Buzz Chainey
Historian	Tammy Chainey
Road Captain	J. Leuthauser

For the Latest Information

Check our Facebook Page and Website

Facebook: American Legion Post 166 Homosassa, Florida

Website: americanlegionpost166.com



May God wrap his arms around those we lost in 2021

Steven Cheney, SAL

Steven McGrady, Legionnaire

Nona Presnell, ALA

Wayne Trimm, Legionnaire

Peter Vetri, Legionnaire

Karen Walsh, ALA

Ray Zapfel, Legionnaire

Sonny's Poem

What are you doing on Christmas day
 My soldier brother, so far away?
 Is there a battle going on in your mind
 To make you wonder what gifts you'll find?
 What will you be doing on Christmas morn,
 Knowing gift wrappings have been torn?
 Will you laugh and sing and dance,
 Or sit by a window and homeward glance?
 Oh, soldier brother smile and say,
 'I'll have a merry Christmas day.'
 Then if by chance you shed a tear,
 Shed it for life and a peaceful new year.

For my brother, Joseph A. Gonzalez III, 1957-1979)

Written by Brigitte Gonzalez-Hancock, Legionnaire



As of Tuesday, December 7th, 80 years will have passed since that fateful morning, and the young people who were enjoying a lazy Sunday in paradise before the bombs began to fall are old now, those who survive. They didn't want to be heroes — they just wanted to serve their country.

The bombs began to fall about 7:55 that morning. The attack lasted for about an hour and a quarter. By the time it was over, 2,403 American military personnel had been killed, and 19 U.S. Navy ships were destroyed or damaged, including eight battleships.

It is estimated less than 100 survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack are still alive, and those are in their late 90s or are centenarians. They are old and, as such, are seen as somehow irrelevant in our youth-obsessed society. But make no mistake, they are heroes.

As the dive bombers swarmed and the bombs fell, they fought gallantly, trying to inflict as much damage as possible on their attackers.

Pearl Harbor was a long time ago, granted, but its lessons resonate today. Pearl Harbor took place a long time ago in a place far, far away, but we can't forget its lessons or its impact.

Pearl Harbor was a damaging blow, one that knocked America to the canvas. But we got up, dusted ourselves off and dug deep, tapping our reserves of grit and resilience in leading the free world to victory. We remain a nation of grit and resistance, a fact we should no more forget than the events of Dec. 7, 1941.

Credit to Jeff Mullin | Enid News & Eagle

District 4 Meeting Date and Place Has Changed

The meeting will be held **January 30th**

Post 155

6585 W Gulf to Lake Hwy

Crystal River, FL 34429

All Legion Family members are invited and encourage to participate.

RSVP Via Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/events/920278618923997>

EVENTS AT THE POST PHOTO ALBUM

Trick or Treaters at the Post



Last Chance Band



Rest in Peace, Mike Tinsley

Marine Corp 246th Birthday Celebration



Memories Shared



Cake Cutting Ceremony



The Oldest

and

The Youngest

Veterans Day

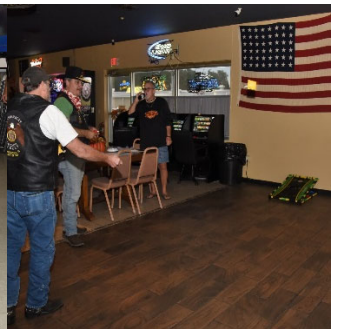


Third Annual Hams N Hogs Charity Ride

Riders




Games



Fun times



American Legion Post 166 Homosassa December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Thirsty Thursday	3 First Friday 2PM – 5:30PM Jane's Clam Chowder 6:30PM Queen of Hearts Drawing	4 10AM ALR
5 Bloody Mary Sunday Tailgate at the Post	6 <i>Monday Funday</i>	7 Pearl Harbor Day 10AM Post Eboard Mtg	8 National Brownie Day Come to the Post & enjoy !	9 <i>Thirsty Thursday</i>	10 6:30PM Queen of Hearts Drawing 50/50 Raffle AMVETS	11 10AM General Mtg 4PM Ugly Sweater Christmas Party With BC Band
12 Bloody Mary Sunday Tailgate at the	13 10:30AM ALA Mtg National Guard's	14 Choose Tuesday Choose to be Happy	15 <i>Wacky Wednesday</i>	16 <i>Thirsty Thursday</i>	17 6:30PM Queen of Hearts Drawing 50/50 Raffle	18 10AM SAL Mtg
19 Bloody Mary Sunday Tailgate at the Post	20 <i>Monday Funday</i>	21 <i>Winter Solstice</i>	22 <i>Wacky Wednesday</i>	23 <i>Thirsty Thursday</i>	24 Christmas Eve 6:30PM Queen of Hearts Drawing 50/50 Raffle	25 Post Closed 
26 Bloody Mary Sunday Tailgate at the Post	27 <i>Monday Funday</i>	28 6PM to 8:30PM Karaoke with Buzzsaw	29 <i>Wacky Wednesday</i>	30 <i>Thirsty Thursday</i>	31 New Year's Eve 6:30PM Queen of Hearts Drawing 50/50 Raffle	

12/19 - Wreaths For Our Fallen Heroes

ALR Chapter 237 Rider Event
Placement of Wreaths On
Veterans Gravesite At Bushnell
National Cemetery
See Flyer For More Details

12/11 - Ugly Sweater Christmas Party

4PM To 7:00PM BC Band
Ugliest Christmas Sweater Wins A
Prize
Raffles & Other Activities
Planned

12/24 -Christmas Eve

Join Us For Christmas Cheer &
Cookies

12/31 – New Years' Eve

Join Us As We Say Goodbye To 2021

01/01/22

Join Us For A
New Year's Day
Dinner, Southern Style
Starting At 4PM

**AMERICAN LEGION
POST 166**

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the opinions of the individual
authors.

**PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE**

To:



The American Legion Family