

February 2025

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

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Pictured: 4th District Comander Doug Hockenberry, Post 166 Commander Bob Ballew, National Commandr James LaCoursiere, Jr., Post 166 Commander Marie Conti and Past Department Commander Michael Raymond.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Meet and Greet with our 2025 American Legion National Commander, James LaCoursiere, Jr. As he came in the door, his first comment was "Wow - look at all the people here today!" It was a proud day for our Post!

The Four Chaplains Service is usually held in February at our Post. However, due to only a few members attending in the past, we have decided to take a different route this year, and feature the Four Chaplains' story in this newsletter. Please take the time to read about the sacrifices of these great men.

March starts the 2025-2026 Officers nomination process. Each famly will appoint a Nominating Committe in February. Nominations from the Committees will be announced at the March meetings. and nomination from the floor will be taken as well. Nominations will continue at the April and May meeting and elections will take place at the May meetings following any nominations made at that meeting. You are also able to self nominate. I hope you will consider volunteering for a position so our Post Family can continue to grow! New faces and ideas are always welcome!

For God and Country

Bob Ballew, Post 166 Commander

Contact information: (727)432-7220; rballew931@gmail.com

AUXILIARY UNIT 166

Thank you to everyone who has brought warm clothing, pillows, blankets, and food for those in need. Those items were donated to the Cold Weather Shelter. During January we were able to make 3 drop offs. Please continue to drop off any items for the Cold Weather Shelter. It will continue to be a cold winter here!



Totals: 83 pieces of warm clothing, 51 blankets, comforters, sheets, and towels, 13 pillows, 22 knitted hats, 50 pairs of gloves, 40 pairs of socks, 3 pairs of shoes, tangerines, apples, bananas, 2 cases of water, crackers, bottles of juices and juice boxes, as well as paper plates and plastic cups.



Before



After

Thirty pounds of food donations were collected during January for the Citrus County Veterans Coalition Food Pantry: We had help from our American Legion family - the Sons of the American Legion weighed and boxed the food and it was delivered to the food pantry by the Legionnaire Tom Brown.

Service not self

Debbie Ballew, President ALAFL 166

Contact information: 727/432-7230; ALAFLunit166@gmail.com

SQUADRON 166

February is here, hope everyone is good.

We have a meeting on February 15th at 10Am to vote on changes to our Constitution and By-laws. I would like to see a good turnout. We will have donuts and coffee.

Just a reminder that if you have not paid your dues, please do so.

For God and Country

Randy Parrish, Squadron 166 Commander

Contact Information: (614)570-8561; rparrish51@yahoo.com

ALR CHAPTER 166



Capture the Plague Update

Our Plague is finally home! We rode down to Post 7, in Clearwater on Sunday, January 5th and retrieved our plague. Due to some back injuries and rain and cold weather, our trip to rescue the plague had been delayed for several months. It turned out to be a great day to ride with temperatures in the high 50's and mid 60's. We also stopped at several Posts on our way back. Unfortunately, other Chapters had already captured their plagues.

For you, who are unfamiliar with the Capture the Plague game it is played by participating ALR Chapters. The goal is to go to a participating ALR Chapter, "capture their plague" and bring it to your home Post. Then that Chapter must ride to your Post to retrieve the plaque. It's a lot of fun and a great way to visit other Posts and meet their American Legion Family members

Currently all Chapters are participating in a "Pick a Bike" raffle. The winning ticket will be worth \$25,000.00 towards a new or used motorcycle purchase from Bert's Barracuda Harley Davidson. Tickets are \$20.00 each or 6 for \$100.00. The drawing will be held on April 12, 2025 at 3:30PM at OCC located at Bert's Barracuda HD in Clearwater. See any ALR Chapter 166 members for tickets.

For the Cause, not the applause

Dwight Dejean, Director

Contact Information: (352)587-7773; ddejean1957@yahoo.com

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

As a group Veterans are fortunate to have many options which may be available to them to assist with their many various needs. The VA has many which vary from disability claims to assistance for those unfortunate to be in financially unstable conditions. Additionally, the American Legion has assistance options. There are, of course, eligibility parameters for the varying programs and claims. The Post Service Officer is here to assist with navigating some of the requirements, researching those benefits available within the construct of need and request, and establishing contacts with those who are in position to represent Veterans as they pursue claims and requests. If we don't have an answer we will find it together.

Congratulations to the members of Post 166 for choosing to have a Service Officer. It is a recognition and manifestation of one of our primary reasons to be here; assisting Veterans.

For God and Country

Paul Herrick

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THE FOUR CHAPLAINS



George Fox



Alexander Good



Clark V. Poling



John P. Washington

The Four Chaplains were Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed. All were Army Chaplains and each of them was drawn to the armed forces by the tragedy at Pearl Harbor, wanting more than anything else to serve God by ministering to men on the battlefield. They all felt great disappointment at being relegated to service in a rear area but when the moment came, they did not hesitate to put others before themselves, courageously offering a chance of survival with the knowledge of the consequences.

The Four Chaplains were assigned to the USAT Dorchester, part of a convoy of three ships escorted by Coast Guard Cutters Tampa, Escanaba, and Comanche. The ship left New York on January 23, 1943, headed to Greenland, carrying approximately 900 men.

During the early morning hours of February 3, 1943, the USAT Dorchester was torpedoed by a German submarine U-223 off Newfoundland in the North Atlantic. Three torpedoes were fired. The one that hit the USAT Dorchester struck the starboard side, amid ship, far below the water line. The ship's Captain alerted the crew that the ship was taking water rapidly and sinking. He gave the order to abandon ship and in less than 20 minutes, the ship sank. 672 young men died as it sank to the bottom.

Those shipmates who were sleeping without clothing, rushed topside where they were confronted first by the freezing air and then by the knowledge that death awaited. Men jumped from the ship into lifeboats, over-crowding them to the point of capsizing. Other rafts drifted away before soldiers could get in them. Through the pandemonium, the four Chaplains brought hope. They gave up their gloves to those without. They passed out life jackets. When there were no more life jackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs (knowing it was their only means of survival) and gave them to four frightened young men.

The four chaplains were last seen on the deck of the USAT Dorchester with their arms linked and their heads bowed in prayer as ship sank.

Each chaplain received The Purple Heart and The Distinguished Service Cross posthumously, and in 1960, a special "Medal for Heroism", was presented to their next of kin – an award intended to have the same weight as The Medal of Honor. They were true heroes!

2024- 2025 OFFICERS & MEETING TIMES

Legionnaires membership meetings: 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:00AM

Commander: Bob Ballew
 1st Vice Commander: Dwight DeJean
 2nd Vice Commander & Adjutant: L. Haynes
 Sgt-at-Arms: Jane Mundis
 Finance Officer: Darrell Walters
 Chaplain: Bill Rowe
 Historian: Tom Piazza

Judge Advocate: Frank DiGennaro
 Executive Committee Member: Marie. Conti
 Executive Committee Member: Tom Brown
 Executive Committee Member: Bud Costello
 Executive Committee Member: David Kaczanowski
 Executive Committee Member: John Surprise
 Executive Committee Member: Kevin Myhill

Auxiliary Unit 166 membership meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00AM, lunch follows

President: Debbie Ballew
 Vice President: Cindy Haines
 Secretary / Treasurer: Dee Costello
 Chaplain: Lola Strickland
 Historian: Julie Rowe

Sergeant-At-Arms: Sheri Walters
 Executive Committee: Ida Maslinski
 Executive Committee: Judy Salo
 Executive Committee: Vicky Eley
 Executive Committee: Jan Habich

SAL Squadron 166 membership Meetings: 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:00AM

Squadron Commander, Randy Parrish
 Vice Commander: Ernest (Buzz) Chainey

Treasurer: Mark Wagnitz
 Chaplain: Bill Cloke

ALR Chapter 166 membership meeting : 1st Saturday of the month at 10:30AM. fun ride follows

Director: Dwight Dejean
 Assistant Director: Bob Ballew
 Secretary / Treasurer: Debbie Ballew

Sergeant-At-Arms: Tom Brown
 Road Captain: Pam Murrin
 Chaplain: Bill Sonnycalf

MONTHLY EVENTS

We need your support for our monthly Events. It takes a lot of volunteer hours to make our Events happen and they can only be successful if you participate.

Every Tuesday: Queen of Hearts

6:15PM: Queen of Heart ticket sales close

6:30PM: Queen of Hearts Drawing

\$1.00 per Ticket

Winning ticket holder receives 70% of the posted amount **if present**; if not present, winning ticket holder receives 50% of above amount

Members only; must present current membership card if drawn

50/50 Raffle: Following the Queen of Hearts

5PM Tickets Sales Open

7 tickets for \$5.00, no limit

3 Drawings Held

1 – 50% of Ticket Sales

2 – 10 Pull Tabs

3 – 5 Pull Tabs

Must be present to win, open to members & guests

The Bonz Game: Following the 50/50 Raffle

\$1.00 to play; 3 chances to roll 5 of a kind.

Winner receives a chip redeemable for 2 beers, wine or well drinks or one chip for top shelf drink. Excludes specialty drinks.

Open to members and guests

Red Shirt Friday: Purchase your 1st drink; receive a chip for the same drink, excludes specialty drinks

First Monday of the Month: 5PM to 8PM: Karaoke with Buzzsaw Entertainment

First Friday Clam Chowder: 2:30PM – 6PM October through April. \$5.00 donation to the Building Fund for a bowl

Monthly Sunday Dinners: September through June

Follow us: Facebook: [American Legion Post 166 Homosassa, Florida](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionPost166Homosassa); Website: Americanlegionpost166.com

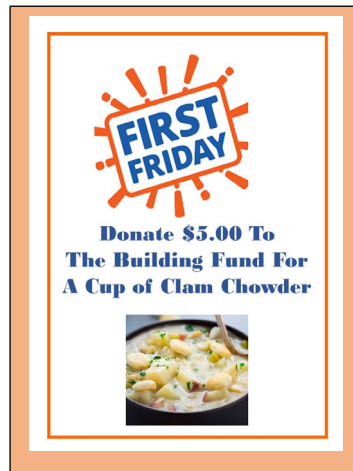
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Larry Ahrendt, Legionnaire
Joseph Cummings, SAL
Karissa Johnson, Legionnaire

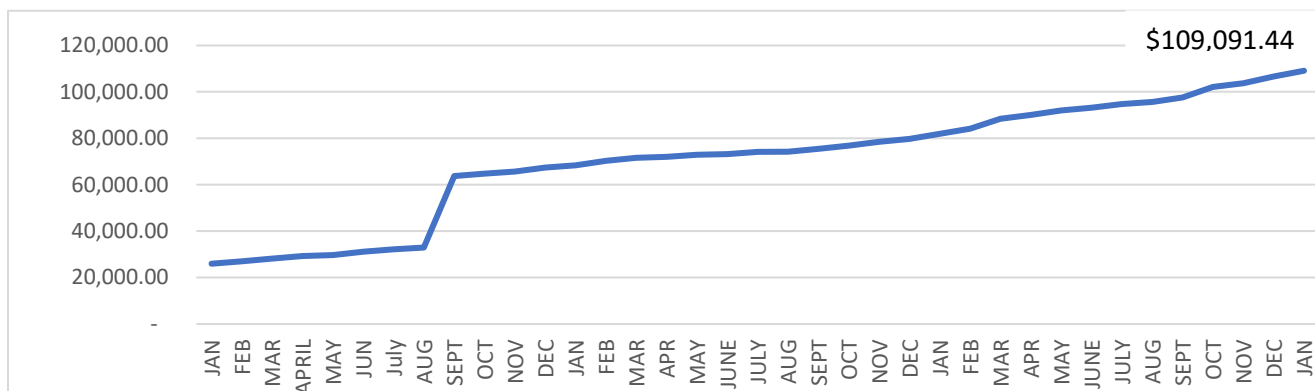
Boyd Lickfelt, Legionnaire r
Robert Pardee, SAL
Ronald Regis, SAL

Daniel Mc Cracken, SAL
Dennis Wyckoff, Legionnaire

FEBRUARY EVENTS



BUILDING FUND AS OF 01/28/25



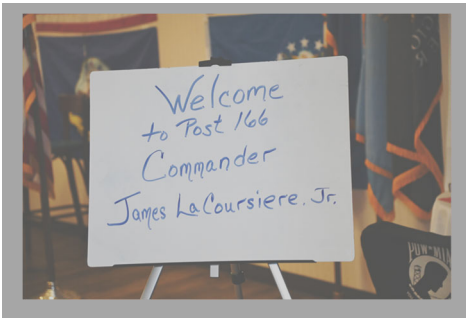
Thank you members for your continued support!

POST PHOTO ALBUM

Last Chance Band



National Commander Visit




Sunday Monthly Dinner



February 2025 - Americanism Month

American Legion Post 166 – 4520 S Suncoast Blvd, Homosassa - americanlpost166@gmail.com (352)765-3949

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						10:30 ALR Mtg Fun Ride Follows 
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	KARAOKE NIGHT with 5PM – 8PM Karaoke	10AM Executive Committee Mtg 			Red Shirt Friday 2PM – 6PM Clam Chowder	10:00AM AL Mtg  11AM Flag Retirement
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
 4:30- MN Stew 6:30 Kick Off			10AM ALA Meeting Lunch follows 		Red Shirt Friday  5PM Dinner ALR Summitt	10:00AM SAL Mtg  ALR Summitt
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	President's Day				Red Shirt Friday e	District Meeting Post 230 Hawthorne
23	24	25	26	27	28	
					Red Shirt Friday e	