



January 2024

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



Commander's Corner

Happy New Year! Another year in the books and a new one begins!

First I want to welcome back our seasonal members. We have missed you and I am pretty sure you are not missing the weather back home.

If you have not renewed your membership for 2024, now is the time as 2023 membership cards will expire on December 31, at midnight. As a reminder, Florida law requires that anyone who is in the Post, must be an American Legion Family member or be signed in by a member and that member must accompany their guest at all times.

Starting January 1st, everyone will be asked to show their card when entering the Post and if you do not have a current card, you will not be able to purchase a drink or play the games. Renewals can be made at the Canteen or online.

In addition to membership cards expiring so will key cards. If you have not had your card updated this year, leave it at the Canteen to be updated and you should be able to pick it up in a few days. There is no charge. For those who do not have a key card, there is a one-time fee of \$5.00 for the card and can be purchased at the Canteen.

Be Proud – Show Your Card!

For God and Country

Bob Ballew, Commander

Auxiliary Unit 166

Happy new Year everyone! It is hard to believe we are almost in 2024.

We celebrated the season with a Holiday Luncheon on December 14th at Seagrass Restaurant and enjoyed each other's company. It was a beautiful day and we were able to sit in the screen room overlooking the Homosassa River. Thank you to Jan for coordinating this event and to everyone that was able to attend.



Our AEF (Auxiliary Emergency Fund) is growing! Special thanks to Sherri for all her hard work in growing the Fund , as well as Julie for making key chains for purchase.



Seven lap robes were delivered to James Haley Veterans Hospital for the patients.



Operation Homefront school supplies has ended. We collected 2,784 toys from Dollar Trees, located in Bushnell, Brooksville, and Homosassa. The toys were then distributed to two underprivileged children's Christmas parties and to all four of the Armed Forces recruiters for enlisted families. Thanks to Dorene for chairing this program and to her and Judy for making weekly trips to the stores to pick up the toys and then deliver them.



Dorene delivering toys for one of the Children's Christmas Party

We are looking forward to working with the Veterans Homeless Shelter now that it has moved to Homosassa.

Service not Self
Debbie Ballew, President

The Sons of the American Legion

I am happy to report that our meeting attendance has INCREASED! If you have not attended a meeting yet, I encourage you to join us on the third Saturday of the month and help us work our mission:

- To support Veterans and their families,
- To promote Patriotism and Americanism
- To promote programs that benefit Youths

Did you know that membership is birth to death? Children can be members. They can participate with the ALA junior program and learn about the American Legion and even earn patches. Think about gifting your grandchildren a membership, just \$11.00 per year (birth to age 18). It's a great way to introduce them to the SAL program.

For God and County
Curtis Woods, Squadron 166 Commander

AL Riders Chapter 166

Several of our Riders joined other rider groups at the Harley Davidson Dealer on Sunday, December 19th, to ride to the National Cemetery in Bushnell FL. to place Christmas wreaths on veterans graves. The weather was a challenge on a bike, as it had rained all day and night prior to the ride, and it was a cold wet morning but it was worth it. The police escort helped us travel safely to the cemetery.

We deliver to isolated sections of the cemetery that don't normally have wreaths. Placing the wreaths at the grave site is a humble experience. As the wreath is placed on a site, the Veterans name is said aloud, so the Veteran is never forgotten.

If you weren't able to participate this year, I hope you will plan on it next year. Cars are welcome to join us.



For the Cause, no the applause
Bob Ballew, Asst. Director

Welcome
to our
New Members

- Jana Brown, ALA
- Diane Carper, ALA
- Jill Desmond, ALA
- Keith Edwin, Legionnaire
- Diane Esposito, ALA
- Janice Handley, ALA
- Gary Lindsay, Legionnaire
- Judith Kellogg, ALA
- Edward may, SAL
- Marabeth Maupin, ALA
- Lucille Peters, ALA
- Clifford Ward, Legionnaire
- Janet Webb, ALA
- Cheryl Weller, ALA



Kenneth Weaver, Legionnaire

BE THE ONE

- To **ASK** veterans in your life how they are doing
- To **LISTEN** when a Veteran needs to talk
- To **REACH OUT** when a veteran is struggling





Every Tuesday

5:30PM: Pie Slice Sale

\$5.00 suggested donation to the Building Fund

Queen of Hearts

6:15M: 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 and Guests

The Bonz Game

3 chances to roll 5 of a kind

\$1.00 to play

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

Open to Members and Guests

Every Friday is Red Shirt Friday

Wear Red to Support the Deployed

Noon to 7PM: Purchase your first drink & receive a chip for the same drink, excludes specialty drinks

Friday, January 5: First Friday Clam Chowder

2PM – 6PM: Make a \$5.00 donation to the Building Fund and receive a cup of Clam chowder

Wednesday, January 10: Last Chance Band

3PM to 6PM

Sunday, January 21: Monthly Sunday Dinner

4:00PM: Chili with fixings, salad, corn bread & dessert

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	Dwight DeJean
2 nd Vice Commander/ Adjutant	Lincoln Haynes
Finance Officer	Darrell Walters
Sergeant-At-Arms	Jane Mundis
Chaplain	Bill Rowe
Historian	Tom Piazza
Past Commander / E Board	Marie Conti
Judge Advocate / E-Board	Frank Digennaro
Executive Board Member	Tom Brown
Executive Board Member	Bud Costello
Executive Board Member	David Kaczanowski

American Legion Auxiliary

Monthly Meeting: 2nd Wednesday at 10:00AM New Date

President	Debbie Ballew
Vice President	Judy Salo
Secretary	Julie Rowe
Treasurer	Dee Costello
Chaplain	Vicky Eley
Historian	Cyndy Haynes
Sergeant-At-Arms	Sherry Walters
Executive Committee	Marion Healy
Executive Committee	Jan Habich
Executive Committee	Lola Strickland

The Sons of the American Legion

Monthly Meeting: 3rd Saturday at 10AM (Sept-June)

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

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	Bill Sonnycalf
Historian	Tammy Chainey

Tribute to Commander Robert Scott



Past Commander Robert Scott was born in Athens, West Virginia. He served three years with the U.S. Army, First Cavalry Division, and joined the National Guard after his discharge from the Army.

He received his bachelor's degree in art from Blue Field State College. During his working career, he was the director in the art department with Blue Field Television

Bob was also a photographer and an artist, specializing in pencil drawings.

Bob was a nineteen-year member of the American Legion and during that time he held positions at several Posts, including Commander of Post 166 twice. He also held positions at the District level and volunteered as Chaplain for several years.

Bob became commander of Post 166 for the first time in 2012. At that time, Post membership had shrunk drastically and the Post came close to coming to an end. The District reached out to Bob and asked him to become Commander. He accepted the challenge but it was not easy without a Post Home. He and his wife Sandy spent many evenings at different restaurants waiting for members to come to a meeting. And slowly they came – some were American Legion members wishing to transfer to a local Post, and others wanted to be a part of the American Legion Family. Membership grew. After serving one year as Post Commander, he turned the Post over to a new Commander.

The next commanders picked up where Bob left off, and membership continued to grow,

The second time Bob got the call from the District to help was in 2021, when then current Commander Rick Starkey passed from Covid. At that time, the 1st Vice had resigned and the Post was left without leadership. And Bob stepped up again to help.

It was a devastating time for our members and Commander Scott was there to help pull everyone together. He spent 1½ years as commander, growing and uniting the membership before health issues caused him to take a leave of absence. He was later forced to give up his position as Commander due to his health.

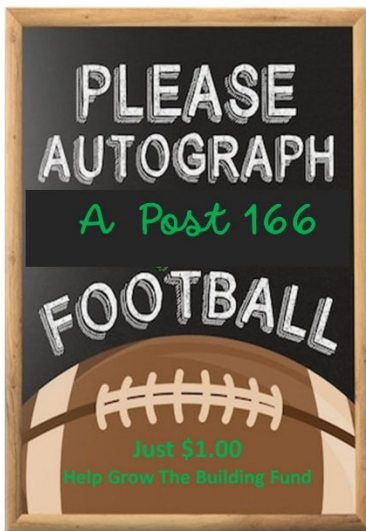
While a member at Post 166, he started the Post newsletter and named it the Phoenix, representing the Post rising from the ashes. He asked that we never change the name and we will honor his wishes.

We, the members of Post 166, will always be indebted to him for his leadership when the Post needed it most.

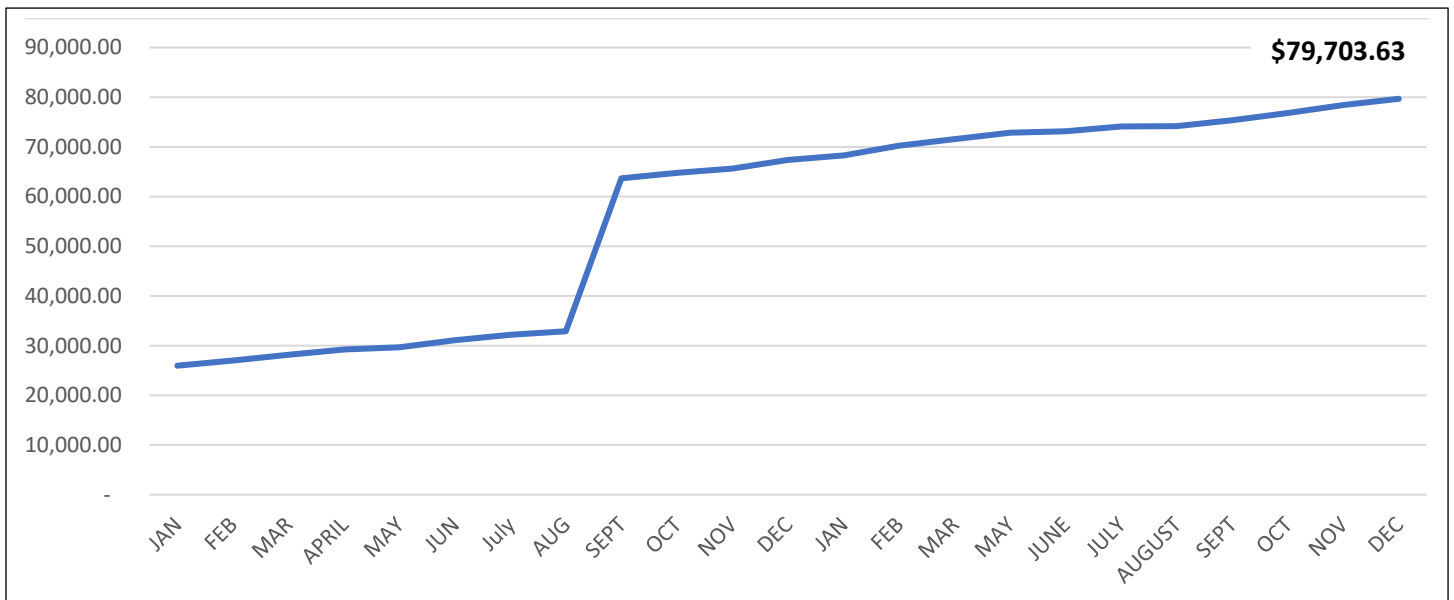
May He Rest In Peace

BUILDING FUND EVENTS

Pie Sales Every Tuesday Night – Thank you Phyllis Surprise



Building Fund Balance (12/30/23)

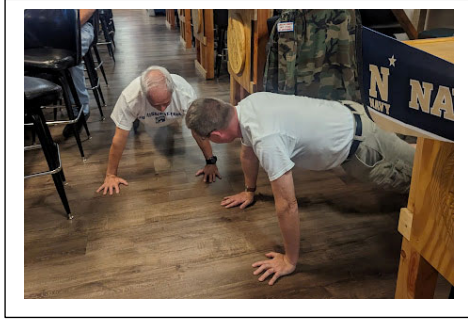


Post Photo Album

Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance



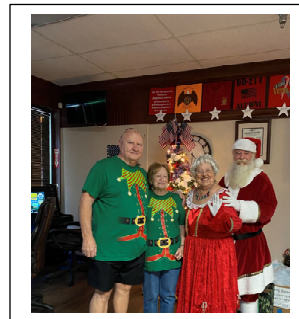
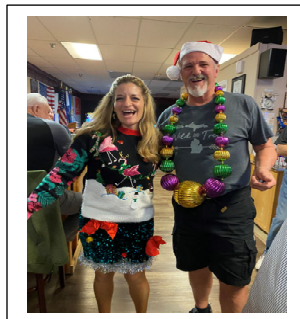
Army Navy Game



Monthly Sunday Dinner



Christmas Eve



January 2024

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Happy New Year!	10AM Executive Board Mtg 6:30PM Queen of Hearts Followed by 50-50 Raffle & Bonz Game Slice of Pie Sale			Red Shirt Friday*	10:30AM ALR Mtg Epiphany
7	11	12	10	11	12	13
		6:30PM Queen of Hearts Followed by 50-50 Raffle & Bonz Game Slice of Pie Sale	10:00AM ALA Mtg 3PM-6PM Last Chance Band		Red Shirt Friday	10AM AL Mtg Wild Card Playoffs
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Wild Card Playoffs	MLK Day	6:30PM Queen of Hearts Followed by 50-50 Raffle & Bonz Game Slice of Pie Sale			Red Shirt Friday	10AM SAL Mtg District Meeting Bellevue Divisional Playoffs
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Monthly Sunday Dinner - Chili Divisional Playoffs		6:30PM Queen of Hearts Followed by 50-50 Raffle & Bonz Game Slice of Pie Sale National Pie Day			Red Shirt Friday	
28	29	30	31			
AFC/NFC Championship Game		6:30PM Queen of Hearts Followed by 50-50 Raffle & Bonz Game Slice of Pie Sale				

***Red Shirt Friday**

*Wear a red shirt on Friday between noon and 7PM, purchase your first drink and receive a chip for the same drink.
Specialty drinks excluded*