

January 2026

The American Legion Family of Post 166 Doing Things All Year

## MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER



I hope everyone's holidays were great this year. Now it is on to a new year, and I expect it to be a busy one!

I know everyone is wondering what is going on with the new Post property. We are currently working with Swiftmud on a permit. This process may take up to 8 weeks. Once we receive that, we will begin looking at the cost of the next steps; clearing the land, construction, septic and water. I will keep everyone updated as we progress.

The Legionnaire dues will increase by \$3.00 to \$48.00 effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, as the American Legion, Department of Florida, has raised their dues to us by \$3.00. For those who may not be aware of the dues structure, we pay most of the dues we receive to the Dept. of Florida and to the National Headquarters. If you have not renewed, I encourage you to do so before the end of the year and save \$3.00.

I am very proud to announce that at the District Meeting in December, all District 4 Post Commanders were presented with a **Race to the Top 2025** flag ribbon. We are the only District in the entire American Legion that achieved the goal - the largest percentage increase over the final previous year's membership as of March 31, 2025. The competition was divided into five categories based on the membership of the district without regard to geographic location. Only four districts finished over 100% but District 4 finished with an additional 226 members or 106.33%. Our Post did its part! We finished at 101.20%. Thank you for renewing and let's get to 100% before January 1, 2026.

We will proudly add this to our Flag at the next meeting on January 10, 2026!

For God and Country

Bob Ballew, Post 166 Commander

Contact: 727/432-7220 [rballew931@gmail.com](mailto:rballew931@gmail.com)

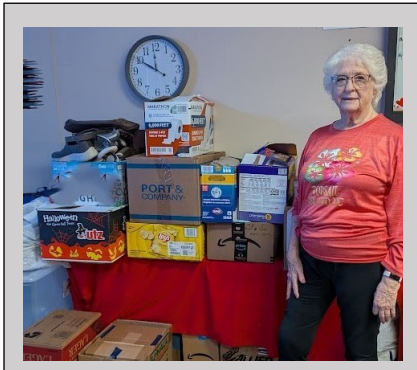
## AUXILIARY UNIT 166

**Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!**

### Food and Clothing Donations

Thank you for your continued donations! This month, thanks to our members, we were able to donate 101 clothing items to the Outreach Program in Old Homosassa and 38 sweatshirts and jackets to the Cold Weather Shelter as well as 6 blankets and a sleeping bag and other clothing. We also collected 120 pounds of food for the Citrus County Veterans Coalition Food Pantry.

Thanks, are in order also for the medicine bottles everyone donated. In January, we will be preparing "care bags" for the homeless. Those bottles will hold cotton swabs, bandages and more.



Outreach Program



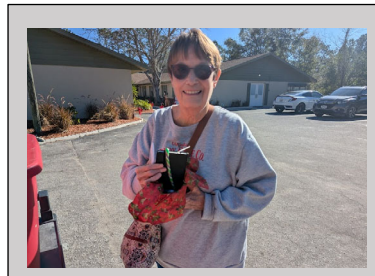
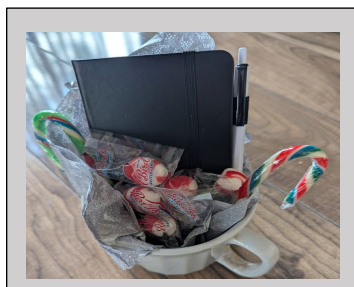
Cold Weather Shelter



CCVC Food Pantry Coalition Food

### Sugarmill Manor Assisted Living Center

Members put together Christmas gifts for the residents of Sugarmill Manor Assisted Living Center and delivered those to the residents. We were able to visit with almost everyone there. The residents were all very appreciative of the gift and our time visiting. We will be doing more with the residents in the future.



I would like to thank Legionnaires Tom Brown and Byron Pelcher for their help; Tom, always delivering the heavy food to the CCVC Food Pantry, and to Bryon for his help delivering presents at Sugarmill Manor.

Service not Self

Debbie Ballew, President ALAFL 166

**Contact information:** 727/432-7230; [ALAFLunit166@gmail.com](mailto:ALAFLunit166@gmail.com)

## ALR CHAPTER 166

On December 14<sup>th</sup> we participated with Wreaths for Fallen Heroes, sponsored by IR-RU Social Club. This is a very emotional day! There were 400 participants, including 182 motorcycles. Everyone began assembling at 9AM at Crystal Harley Davidson. We left there at noon for the Bushnell National Cemetery with a police escort for the thirty-six mile trip to the Cemetery. Once there, everyone split up and went to sections of the cemetery that did not have wreaths (Wreaths Across America distributed their wreaths the day before us). As we lay the wreath, we say the Veteran's name out loud, so they will not be forgotten. When you see the Cemetery covered in wreaths, it gives you chills, and it brought tears to a lot of us out there.



### Post 166 Monthly Basket

January, we will be sponsoring the Post's Monthly Basket. Please stop in and purchase a ticket. All proceeds will go to support our Veteran and Community Programs.

### Seeking New Members

We are looking for new members to help with our programs. Our dues are just \$25.00 a year, you must be a member of Post 166 Legion family or a member of a Post family that does not have a Riders group. We meet on the first Saturday of the month at 10:30AM and once the meeting is over, we go to lunch and a fun ride. We sponsor 2 rides per year and participate in as many local rides as we can.

### Plaque Update

Our Plaque is gone again! Clermont ALR 55 came and snatched it a few weeks ago. Once it warms up again, we will head over there retrieve and bring it home. We might even capture a few others while we are out.



For the cause, not the applause

Dwight Dejean, ALR Chapter 166 Director

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

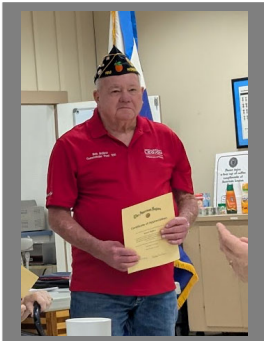


## CANTEEN SPECIALS

January's drink special is **The Snowbird**. Just \$2.75. Hope you enjoy it  
If you haven't come in on a Sunday afternoon yet, we invite you to join us at Bloody Mary Bar.



## Congratulations Commander Ballew



Congratulations are in order for the Commander.

At the District 4 meeting on 12/14/25, Commander Ballew was one of four Post Commanders recognized at the meeting.

District 4 Commander Darcy Bockman Wright presented him with a certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service and Assistance which contributed to the advancement of The American Legion programs and activities

Congratulation Commander!

## DID YOU KNOW?

**R.E.D.** stands for "Remember Everyone Deployed." Wearing a **Red** shirt on Friday is a way to show support for military personnel who are serving overseas.

The tradition began in 2005 with an email that went viral calling on all Americans to wear **Red** every Friday to show support for the deployed troops. By 2006, **R.E.D. Shirt Friday** had caught on.

So, when you put on your **Red** Shirt on Friday and come to the Post for your free drink (after purchasing one) take a minute to remember, it is not about that free drink, it is about showing support for those who are deployed.

Wear your **R.E.D. Shirt** proudly, so that our deployed Service members know that we support them.  
**Until they all come home!**

## SQUADRON 166

Hope everyone had a good Christmas.

Don't forget the Races on January 21st. Come out and have fun.

For God and Country

Randy Parrish, Squadron 166 Commander

**Contact Information:** (614)570-8561; [rparrish51@yahoo.com](mailto:rparrish51@yahoo.com)

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Kristie Bonino, ALA**  
**Richard Davis** Legionnaire  
**Brad Haggard, SAL**  
**Frank Hentschell, SAL**  
**Marlene Jacobs, ALA**  
**Walter Lareau, Legionnaire**

**Robert Richards, Legionnaire**  
**Thomas Sisk, Legionnaire**  
**Cassey Tran, Legionnaire**  
**Douglas Sherman, SAL**  
**Robert Young, Legionnaire**

## POST EVERLASTING

Roger Preble

## JANUARY EVENTS

**We need your support for our Events. It takes a lot of volunteer hours to make our Events happen and they can only be successful if you participate. To volunteer, email us at [americanpost166@gmail.com](mailto:americanpost166@gmail.com). Your Post needs you!**

**January 2:** 2PM - 6PM First Friday Clam Chowder – donate to the Building Fund for a bowl of Chowder

**January 7:** 5PM - 8PM First Wednesday Karaoke

**January 12:** 4PM - 7PM Music by Bruce Cole

**January 21:** 5PM SAL Races

## MONTHLY EVENTS

**First Friday** of the Month: 2PM to 5PM **Clam Chowder**

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

**Third Wednesday** of the Month: 5PM **SAL Race Night**

**Every Tuesday** of the Month **Queen of Hearts:** 6:15PM ticket sales close; 6:30PM Drawing,

**50/50 Raffle** follows and then it's **The Bonz Game:**

**Every Friday** is **R.E.D. Shirt Friday:** Purchase your 1st drink; receive a chip for the same drink, excluding specialty drinks.

## **2025- 2026 OFFICERS & MEETING TIMES**



### **Legionnaires**

**Membership meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at 10:00AM**

Commander: Bob Ballew

1st Vice Commander: Dwight DeJean

2nd Vice Commander: Tom Brown

Sgt-at-Arms: Jane Mundis

Finance Officer: Darrell Walters

Chaplain: Bill Rowe

Historian: Tom Piazza

Judge Advocate: Frank DiGennaro

Past Commander: Marie Conti

Executive Committee Member: Ernie Chainey

Executive Committee Member: Bud Costello

Executive Committee Member: John Surprise

Executive Committee Member: Kevin Myhill

Adjutant: Dwight Dejean



### **Auxiliary Unit 166**

**Membership meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 10:00AM**

President: Debbie Ballew

Secretary / Treasurer: Dee Costello

Sergeant-At-Arms: Kandy Pelton

Executive Committee: Julie Rowe

Executive Committee: Barb Tripp



### **SAL Squadron 166**

**Membership meetings: 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:00AM**

Squadron Commander: Randy Parrish

Vice Commander: Ernie Chainey

Treasurer: Mark Wagnitz

Chaplain: Bill Cloke



### **ALR Chapter 166**

**Membership meeting : 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month at 10:30AM**

Director: Dwight Dejean

Assistant Director: Bob Ballew

Secretary / Treasurer: Debbie Ballew

Sergeant-At-Arms: Mark Wagnitz

Road Captain: Tom Brown

Chaplain: Paul Herrick

Historian: Marcy Hammond

## POST FAMILY FUNDRAISERS

### SAL RACE NIGHT



**Every Third Wednesday  
Of the Month**

**Betting Window opens at 5PM**  
**Bet as much or as little as you please**

**Six Heat Races**

**Winners of each heat will  
Compete in the Final Race**

*Proceeds to benefit American Legion Charities*

### American Legion Auxiliary Unit 166 Cruise February 8-15, 2026



#### The Norwegian Dawn

##### Schedule

**Sunday:** 4PM Departs Tampa  
**Monday:** Day At Sea  
**Tuesday:** 7AM- 4:30PM  
Cozumel, Mexico  
**Wednesday:** 10AM – 5:00PM  
Harvest Caye, Belize  
**Thursday** 7AM – 5PM  
Roatan (Bay Islands), Honduras  
**Friday:** 7AM – 4PM  
Costa Maya, Mexico  
**Saturday:** Day at Sea  
**Sunday:** 7AM Disembark

##### Information

**Cabin rates** starting at  
\$1567.72 (2 persons)  
Inside, Oceanview and  
Balcony  
**Gratuities** \$140.00  
**Travel Insurance**  
(optional): \$75.00 each  
**Perks:** Beverage Package,  
Internet, Dining & Shore  
Excursion. Receive 2 perks  
with Inside & Oceanview  
cabins & 4 with Balcony

**Book Now and Lock in your Rate!**

**For more information and to book your cruise**  
**Contact Shandelle Johnson, Travlin Dreams Travel**  
**813/408-1247 – Use code American Legion Auxiliary #166**

### On-Going Lottery Board Raffle



**Tickets: \$5.00**

**Drawing:** When all tickets are sold

**Prize:** \$100 bill + \$100.00 in Scratch off tickets

*A Fundraiser for the Building Fund*

## POST 166 WEEKLY / MONTHLY EVENTS

**KARAOKE NIGHT**  
FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 166**  
4520 S SUNCOAST BLVD, HOMOSASSA SPRINGS

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

HOSTED BY  
**BUZZSAW ENTERTAINMENT**

**FIRST FRIDAY**

**Jane's Famous  
Clam Chowder**

**Donate To  
The Building Fund**

**Receive A Cup of Clam  
Chowder & Crackers**

### AMERICAN LEGION POST 166



**QUEEN  
OF  
HEARTS**

**Drawing Every Tuesday Night**

**6:30 PM**

**Tickets: \$1.00 each**

**Tickets Available All Week**



## JANUARY EVENTS

# Bruce Cole

January 12 \* 4PM – 7PM





## POST PHOTO ALBUM

### Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Service



### Christmas Party



## MONTHLY CALENDAR

# January 2026

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 2PM -5PM Clam Chowder <b>RED-SHIRT FRIDAY</b>	3  10:30AM ALR Mtg Fun Ride Follows
4	5	6 10AM Executive Committee Mtg 	7 KARAOKE NIGHT 5PM – 7PM	8	9 <b>RED-SHIRT FRIDAY</b>	10  10:00AM AL Mtg 10AM ALA ABC School Post 58
11	12 4PM – 7PM Music with Bruce Cole	13 	14  10:00AM ALA Mtg Lunch follows	15	16 <b>RED-SHIRT FRIDAY</b>	17  10:00AM SAL Mtg
18	19	20 	21 5PM SAL Race Night 	22	23 <b>RED-SHIRT FRIDAY</b>	24
25	26	27 	28	29	30 <b>RED-SHIRT FRIDAY</b>	31

### Football Schedule

01/10-1/12 Wild Card Round  
01/17-18 Divisional Round  
01/25 Conference Championship  
02/08 6:30 PM Superbowl LX

### Coming Events

02/12 3PM Star Fire, One guest per member please  
02/08 Superbowl Watch Party  
02/14 Valentine's Day Event  
02/15 Department Visit