

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 1st, 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

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 Country 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



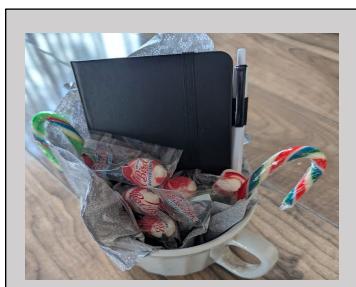
Cold Weather Shelter



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

ALR CHAPTER 166

On December 14th 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

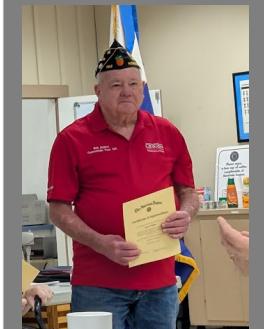
Contact Information: (352)587-7773; ddejean1957@yahoo.com

CANTEEN SPECIALS

January's drink special is **The Snowbird**. Just \$2.75. Hope you enjoy it
If you haven't come in on a Suday 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

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. 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: 2nd 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: 2nd 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



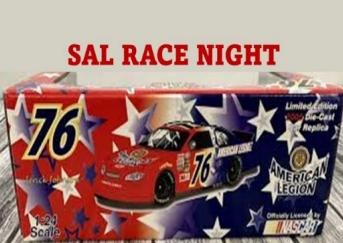
ALR Chapter 166

Membership meeting : 1stSaturday 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	2PM -5PM Clam Chowder RED-SHIRT FRIDAY	3  10:30AM ALR Mtg Fun Ride Follows
4	5	6 10AM Executive Committee Mtg 	7 KARAOKE NIGHT 5PM – 7PM	8	9 RED-SHIRT FRIDAY	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 RED-SHIRT FRIDAY	17  10:00AM SAL Mtg
18	19	20 	21 5PM SAL Race Night 	22	23 RED-SHIRT FRIDAY	24
25	26	27 	28	29	30 RED-SHIRT FRIDAY	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