

July 2026

The American Legion Family of Post 166 Doing Things All Year

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER



This year we celebrate a milestone for our Country – **250 years of Freedom**. Although, it has not always been easy, we are free – free to disagree, free to make our own decisions, and free to do what we want as long as it does not infringe on the rights of others.

Thank you to all our Veterans for ensuring our freedom.

I hope you will celebrate with us at the Post on Saturday, July 4th from 2PM to 5PM for a FREE All-American Picnic. We will have hot dogs, fixings for any kind of hot dog you want, pasta salad, chips and cobbler, as well as raffles and games. The bloodmobile will be at the Post, too.

Congratulations, once again to our new Post Family Officers.

With their help, we should have a very successful year once again!

2027 Membership Renewals Begin July 1st.

Members who pay their 2027 dues before October 1, 2026 are “Early Birds” and will earn entry to a FREE Cookout at the Post on October 11th. We will not have a catered dinner this year due to the increase in food prices. You can renew your membership by mail, online, at the Canteen or at one of the Early Bird Membership Renewal Drives held on July 31st, August 7th and August 28th. 2027 dues are as follows:

- Legionnaires: \$48.00
- Auxiliary: \$45.00
- SAL: \$34.00

Checks, cash, and credit cards (\$1.00 fee) are accepted.

Wishing everyone a safe and wonderful summer!

For God and Country

Bob Ballew, Post 166 Commander

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

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Congratulations to the 2026-2027 Officers and Executive Committee Members of The American Legion Post 166



Left to Right

Past Northern Area Commander, Past District 4 Commander, American Legion Department of Florida Membership Chair for 2026-2027 and District 4 American Legion Riders Chair Doug Hockenbery, Historian Tom Piazza, Sergeant-At-Arms Jane Mundis, 4th District Chaplain Timothy Haley, Executive Committee Member Kevin Myhill, First Vice Commoner Dwight Dejean, Commander Bob Ballew, Chaplain Paul Herrick, Second Vice Commander Tom Brown, Finance Officer Darrell Walters, Judge Advocate Frank Degenero, Executive Committee Member Ernie Chainey, and District 4 First Vice Commander Walt Chessa

Not Pictured: Past Northern Commander and Past Post 166 Commander Marie Conti and Executive Committee Member Bud Costello

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Congratulations to the 2026-2027 Officers and Executive Committee Members of The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 166



Left to Right

Executive Committee Member Julie Rowe, President Debbie Ballew, Sergeant-At-Arms Michele Dejean, Treasurer Connie Brault, Chaplain Barb Tripp, and District 4 Auxiliary President Sture Edvardsson

Not Pictured: Historian Debbie Simmons, Executive Committee Member Russann Cram, Executive Committee Member Ida Maslinski, and Executive Committee Member Dee Costello

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

*Congratulations to the 2026-2027 Officers and Executive Committee Members of
The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 166*



Left to Right

Executive Committee Member Bill Rowe, Squadron Commander Randy Parrish, Past SAL Commander Squadron 166, Northern Area Detachment Vice Commander Denton 'Shay' Woods, Treasurer Mark Wagnitz, Executive Committee Member Doug Norman, Vice Commander Ernie Chainey

Not Pictured: Chaplain Bill Cloke , Sergeant-At-Arms Tony Doody and Adjutant Mark Cram

ALR CHAPTER 166

Congratulations to the 2026-2027 Officers of American Legion Riders Chapter 166



Left to Right

Sergeant-At-Arms: Mark Wagnitz, Past Northern Area Commander, Past District 4 Commander, American Legion Department of Florida Membership Chair for 2026-2027 and District 4 American Legion Riders Chair Doug Hockenbery, , Director Dwight Dejean, Assistant Director Bob Ballew, Secretary / Treasurer Debbie Ballew, Chaplain: Paul Herrick, Lloyd "Guido" Harmon, Historian: Marcy Hammond

Not Pictured: Road Captain: Pam Murrin

WELCOME NEW POST 166 FAMILY MEMBERS

Frederick Daniels, TAL

John Oldroyd, TAL

JULY & AUGUST EVENTS

July 4: 2PM - 5PM 250 Celebration with Free All American Picnic at the Post, raffles and games

10AM - 4:30-PM Bloodmobile on site

July 13: 5PM - 8PM First Monday Karaoke **New Date this month only**

July 29 4PM - 7PM Crystal Daggers

MONTHLY EVENTS

First Monday 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 the Queen of Hearts and then it's **The Bonz Game**

Every Friday is Shirt Friday - Rember Everyone Deployed: Purchase your 1st drink; receive a chip for the same drink, excluding specialty drinks.

On-going: **Lottery Board Raffle** for the Building Fund.

CANTEEN

Looks like a cure for the hot weather! Come in and check it out



DID YOU KNOW?



- The American Revolutionary War lasted for eight years – between April 1775 to September 1783.
- On April 12, 1776, North Carolina was the first colony to direct its delegates to vote for independence.
- On July 4, 1776, the United States officially declared its independence from the British Empire when the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence.
- The Declaration of Independence is made up of five essential parts; the Introduction, the Preamble (Prologue Statement of Rights), List of Grievances, Reproach to “Our British Brethren,” and the Conclusion or Separation Performed. Though Thomas Jefferson is considered the primary writer, the Declaration of Independence is not the work of a single person, but rather representative of the people.
- Fifty-six men signed the Declaration of Independence
- John Hancock signed conspicuously and in bold, allegedly in defiance of the British
- The youngest delegate to sign the Declaration of Independence was Edward Rutledge from South Carolina, at the age of 26.
- The Continental Congress renamed the nation on September 9, 1776.

2026- 2027 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: Paul Herrick

Historian: Tom Piazza

Executive Committee Member: Kevin Myhill

Executive Committee Member: Bud Costello

Executive Committee Member: Ernie Chainey

Adjutant: Dwight Dejean

Judge Advocate: Frank DiGennaro

Past Commander: Marie Conti

Service Officer: Paul Herrick



Auxiliary Unit 166

Membership meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00AM

President: Debbie Ballew

Secretary: Julie Rowe

Treasurer: Connie Brault

Sgt-at-Arms: Michele Dejean

Chaplain: Barb Tripp

Historian: Debbie Simmons

Executive Committee Member: Russann Cram

Executive Committee Member: Ida Maslinski

Executive Committee Member: Dee Costello



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

Sargeant at Arms: Tony Doody

Adjutant: Mark Cram

Executive Committee Member: Bill Rowe

Executive Committee Member: Doug Norman



ALR Chapter 166

Membership meeting : 1st Saturday of the month at 10:30AM

Director: Dwight Dejean

Assistant Director: Bob Ballew

Secretary / Treasurer: Debbie Ballew

Historian: Marcy Hammond

Chaplain: Paul Herrick

Sergeant-At-Arms: Mark Wagnitz

Road Captain: Pam Murrin

POST FUNDRAISERS

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

AMERICAN LEGION POST 166



**QUEEN
OF
HEARTS**

Drawing Every Tuesday Night

6:30 PM

Tickets: \$1.00 each

Tickets Available All Week

JULY EVENTS

AMERICA'S
250th
ANNIVERSARY

GIVE LIFE. GIVE BLOOD.

American Legion Post 166

4520 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa Springs, FL 34447

Saturday, July 04, 2026

10:00 am - 04:30 pm

July 1 - 7

\$25 e-gift card
and t-shirt for
all blood donors!

\$40 e-gift card and
t-shirt for all platelet and
double red cell donors.



colors may vary • while supplies last



LIFESOUTH
Community Blood Centers

Donors must be 16 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds and show
photo I.D. 16-year-olds require written parental permission.



JOIN POST 166 ON

4th of July

TO CELEBRATE

250

YEARS OF AMERICA

July 4 | 2 - 5 | Post Picnic

**Free All American Picnic - Includes Hot Dog, Fixing
Pasta Salad, Chips, & Dessert
Raffles & Games**

Crystal Dagger

Band

July 29th

4PM - 7PM

Rock & Country
from the 60's
to the 90's



Debbie & Chuck

COMING EVENTS

**Renew Your
Membership
Before
October 1, 2026**



Be eligible for the Early Bird Dinner

Renew your membership Online, Mail
At the Canteen, or at an
Early Bird Membership Renewal Drive on
July 31st, August 7th and August 28th

Renew at a Membership Renewal Drive
to be entered in a
Gift Card Raffle
One held at each Drive

More Details Coming Soon



American Legion Post Family 166

2027 Membership Cards Are Here



FREE
**Post Cookout
For Early Birds
October 11, 2026
2PM – 5PM**

2027 Early Bird Members: FREE
Guests and non-Early Bird Members \$10.00
RSVP (required) by October 4th at the Post or
americanpost166@gmail

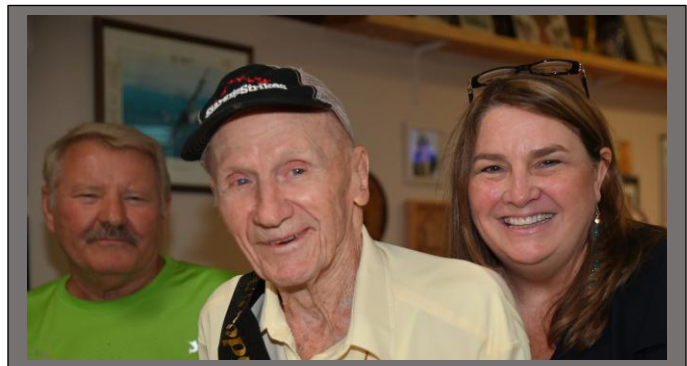
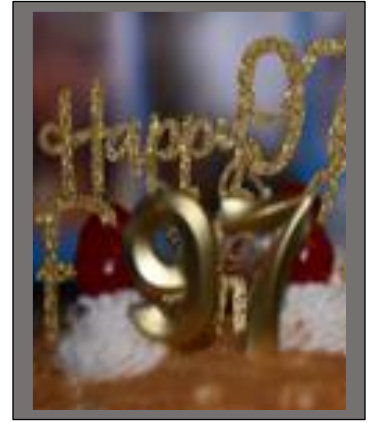
**Become an Early Bird by
Renewing your Post Family 166 Membership
Before October 1, 2026**

2027 Dues:

Legion: \$48.00, ALA: \$45.00, SAL: \$34

POST PHOTO ALBUM

Art Matusiak's 97th Birthday



POST PHOTO ALBUM

United States Army 251st Birthday



Father's Day



Thank you Chef Kevin Myhill and assistant Carol Myhill

POST PHOTO ALBUM

Last Chance Band



JULY CALENDAR

American Legion Post 166 4520 S Suncoast Blvd, Homosassa americanpost166@gmail.com (352)765-3949 July 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 RED-SHIRT FRIDAY	4 Happy Birthday USA -250 years 2PM – 5PM Picnic at the Post 10AM-4:30PM Bloodmobile
5	6 BE THE ONE DAY	7 10AM Executive Committee Mtg 	8  10:00AM ALA Mtg Lunch follows	9	10 RED-SHIRT FRIDAY	11  10:00AM AL Mtg
12	13 KARAOKE NIGHT 5PM – 8PM	14 	15 5PM SAL Race Night 	16	17 RED-SHIRT FRIDAY	18  10:00AM SAL Mtg
19	20	21 	22	23	24 RED-SHIRT FRIDAY	25 ALA Workshop -Altamonte
26	27	28 	29  4PM -7PM Crystal Daggers	30	31 RED-SHIRT FRIDAY 3PM – 6PM Early Bird Renewal Drive*	

Renew your membership at the Early Bird Renewal Drive and your name will be entered into a drawing for a Gift Card. Winner announced that day