



June 2025

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

COMMANDER'S CORNER

At this time of the year, all our American Legion Families are required to report how they have contributed to the American Legion Vision. So, this month you will hear from each of us on how we have impacted the mission.

The Legionnaires provided \$1300.00 in financial aid to four Veterans in need, loaned medical equipment to Veterans and their families, and Post Service Officer Paul Herrick assisted 27 Veterans. We donated \$1,150.00 for Children and Youth Programs, sponsored 2 boys to Boys State with assistance from the SAL and the ALR and provided the Lecanto ROTC with Scholastic and Military Service awards for 4 outstanding students.

The Post had 4 Flag Retirement Ceremonies which included 78 volunteer hours. As a side note we retired approximately 3600 flags last year. We also had 4 blood drives during the year 2024-2025.

We also donated \$5,320.00 to worthy causes for our Community and Veteran Affairs.

This fiscal year ends on June 30, and we will begin accepting Early Bird membership renewals through September 31. For renewing your 2026 membership early, the Post will supply a catered dinner as our way of saying thank you. Rest assured though, if you choose not to renew early, your 2025 membership valid through the end of the year.

I would like to congratulate the new 2025-26 Officers of our Post Family and thank them for volunteering. Below are the new Post Officers.

2025-2026 Post Officers

Post Officers

Commander: Bob Ballew
First Vice Commander: Dwight Dejean
Second Vice Commander: Tom Brown
Finance Officer: Darrell Walters
Sargeant-At -Arms: Jane Mundis
Chaplain: Bill Rowe
Historian: Tom Piazza

Executive Board Members

Ernest (Buzz) Chainey
Bud Costello
John Surprise
Kevin Myhill
Frank Digennaro

For God and Country

Bob Ballew, Post 166 Commander, **Contact information:** (727)432-7220; rballew931@gmail.com

AUXILIARY UNIT 166

2024-2025 Year-end Report

The ALA motto this year is “membership is the key” and we have definitely accomplished that with a 110.59% of our goal. As of 05/17/25 our Unit had 186 members, which included 2 juniors and 20 new members.

We collected food and clothing, largely donated by our Post Family members, and sorted, labeled, and distributed the items to several charities

- Bread of Life Program, sponsored by First Methodist Church of Homosassa (clothing)
- Hurricane Relief Program, sponsored by DayStar Life Center (clothing)
- Outreach Program, sponsored by Old Homosassa Baptist Church (clothing)
- Cold Weather Shelter, sponsored by Basics United Homeless Outreach (food and clothing)
- Citrus County Veterans Coalition Food Pantry (425 pounds food)

Additional donations include:

- Jessie’s Place, Citrus County Children’s Advocacy Center (100 teddy bears)
- Bridge 4 Veterans Shelter (cooked meals, laundry soap, coffee, water)
- Operation 300 (Cash donation)
- Sabrina Graybeal Medical Fund (Cash donation)
- Dept of Florida AEF (cash donation)
- Fire Station #3 (monthly delivery of cookies)
- Troop Box (cookies and other items)
- Homosassa Elementary School (school supplies)
- Underprivileged Children’s Christmas Party (toys)

We distributed 421 poppies and raised \$1, 777.62 which will go to help a veteran and a veteran’s family.

We are sponsoring a Girls State candidate this year for the first time in 2 years.

The new fiscal year is coming fast! Our Unit will be planning our 2025-2026 projects at our June meeting.

Congratulations to our 2025-2026 Officers!

President: Debbie Ballew
Secretary/Treasurer: Dee Costello
Sargeant-At -Arms Kandy Pelton

Chaplain: Lola Strickland
Executive Committee: Barb Tripp
Executive Committee: Julie Rowe

Service not self

Debbie Ballew, President ALAFL 166

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

SQUADRON 166

As a new Squadron Commander, I want to thank everyone who has helped me!

I am very proud of the things we have accomplished this year.

We participate with the Flag Retirement and stay until all flags are burned and the fire is extinguished. In addition, we purchased 2 banners and posters to advertise to public what we are doing.

We hosted a Pasta and Meatball dinner and used the proceeds for the Sherri's Youth Ranch Summer Camp. We raised enough money to send 2 youths to camp this summer.

Together the ALR and the SAL sponsored a boy from the Lecanto High School ROTC for Boy's State. I was able to attend the end of year Ceremony where the Boys State award certificate was given out.

We also started a new ongoing fundraiser, Race Night, to benefit the 4 pillars of the American Legion. The game consists of 7 car races and starting in June, it will be held on the third Wednesday of the month. The betting window opens at 5PM.

And last but certainly not least, we donated \$5,000 to the Post's Building Fund.

I look forward to a great year ahead as we grow together and make our SAL the best it can be. Our meetings are on the third Saturday of the month at 10AM and last approximately 30 minutes. I encourage all SAL members to join us.

Elections were held on May 16, and the Officers listed below were elected. Congratulations to our new team!

2025-2026 SAL Officers

Squadron Commander: Randy Parrish

Squadron Vice Commander: Ernest (Buzz) Chainey

Treasurer: Mark Wagnitz

Sgt-At-Arms: Tony Doody

Chaplain: Bill Cloke

For God and Country

Randy Parrish

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

ALR CHAPTER 166

I am proud to share the news that the American Legion Riders Chapter 166 made charitable donations this year in the amount of \$7,136.20. This included: Soldiers Outdoor Freedom, Wreaths Across America, Walk Across Citrus, CCVC (Citrus County Veterans Coalition), Jessie Place, two Underprivileged Children's Christmas Parties (Johnny Stanko and Sami's Ride), The Grief Center, 50 legs, Take Stock in Children, Wall of Honor, Autism Awareness, and Wreaths for Fallen Heroes.

We rode 10,302.80 miles with 432 hours invested in supporting the American Legion Riders.

We sponsor two fundraisers each year. In the fall, the Hams and Hogs ride, which is in its 6th year and our Spring Charity Ride, previously the Derby Day Ride. Due to the many activities on Derby Day, we decided to move the ride to another day.

The Hams n Hogs Ride was established to ensure that every Veteran in need would have a Thanksgiving meal. 100% of the profits from this ride go to the CCVC (Citrus County Veterans Coalition) Food Panty who provides food to struggling Veterans. In the last 4 years we have hosted this event, we have raised \$12,376.20.

We are rebranding the Hams and Hogs Ride in 2025 to the Oktoberfest Ride. The Ride will be held on October 25, 2025. Proceeds will continue to be donated to the Citrus County Veterans Coalition's Food Panty. As with the Hams n Hogs ride, we will have a raffle for donated gift cards and other items, as well as 50/50 and a lottery board raffle.

Our Spring Charity Ride, formerly the Derby Day Ride, proceeds are donated to various charities throughout the year. Next year, we plan to hold it a little earlier in the year.

Plaque Update

Our plaque is still in Jacksonville Beach. We are planning a ride soon to bring it back home. Hopefully this time, we will have it more than 24 hours before it is snatched again.

Our new 2025-2026 Officers:

Director: Dwight Dejean

Sergeant-At-Arms: Mark Wagnitz

Assistant Director: Bob Ballew

Road Captain: Tom Brown

Secretary / Treasurer: Debbie Ballew

Chaplain: Paul Herrick

Historian: Marcy Hammond

For the Cause, not the applause

Dwight Dejean, Director

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Robert Green, Legionnaire
William McKeown , Legionnaire
Jo Managan, ALA
Donna Sanders, ALA

2025- 2026 OFFICERS & MEETING TIMES

Legionnaires Membership Meetings: 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:00AM

Commander: Bob Ballew	Executive Committee/Judge Advocate: F. DiGennaro
1st Vice Commander/Adjutant D. DeJean	Executive Committee: Tom Brown
2nd Vice Commander: Tom Brown	Executive Committee: Bud Costello
Sgt-at-Arms: Jane Mundis	Executive Committee: John Surprise
Finance Officer: Darrell Walters	Executive Committee: Kevin Myhill
Chaplain: Bill Rowe	Past Commander: Marie Conti
Historian: Tom Piazza	Service Officer: Paul Herrick

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

President: Debbie Ballew	Historian: Open
Vice President: Open	Sergeant-At-Arms: Kandy Pelton
Secretary / Treasurer: Dee Costello	Executive Committee: Barb Tripp
Chaplain: Lola Strickland	Executive Committee: Julie Rowe

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

Squadron Commander: Randy Parrish	Sergeant-At-Arms : Toy Doody
Vice Commander: Ernest (Buzz) Chainey	Chaplain: Bill Cloke
Treasurer: Mark Wagnitz	

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

Director: Dwight Dejean	Sergeant-At-Arms: Mark Wagnitz
Assistant Director: Bob Ballew	Road Captain: Tom Brown
Secretary / Treasurer: Debbie Ballew	Chaplain: Paul Herrick
Historian: Marcy Hammond	

The logo features the words "BE THE ONE" in a bold, sans-serif font. "BE" and "ONE" are in blue, while "THE" is in red and smaller, positioned between "BE" and "ONE". The text is set against a white rectangular background.

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.

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

50/50 Raffle: Following the Queen of Hearts

5PM Ticket 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 & guest

The Bonz Game: Following the 50/50 Raffle

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

The 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, excluding specialty drinks

First and Third Monday of the Month: 5PM to 8PM:

Karaoke with Buzzsaw Entertainment

Third Wednesday of the Month: SAL Race Night 5PM

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

Monthly Sunday Dinners: September through May

JUNE EVENTS

June 2: Karaoke with Buzzsaw Entertainment (5PM – 8PM)

June 12-14: Department Convention

June 16: Karaoke with Buzzsaw Entertainment (5PM – 8PM)

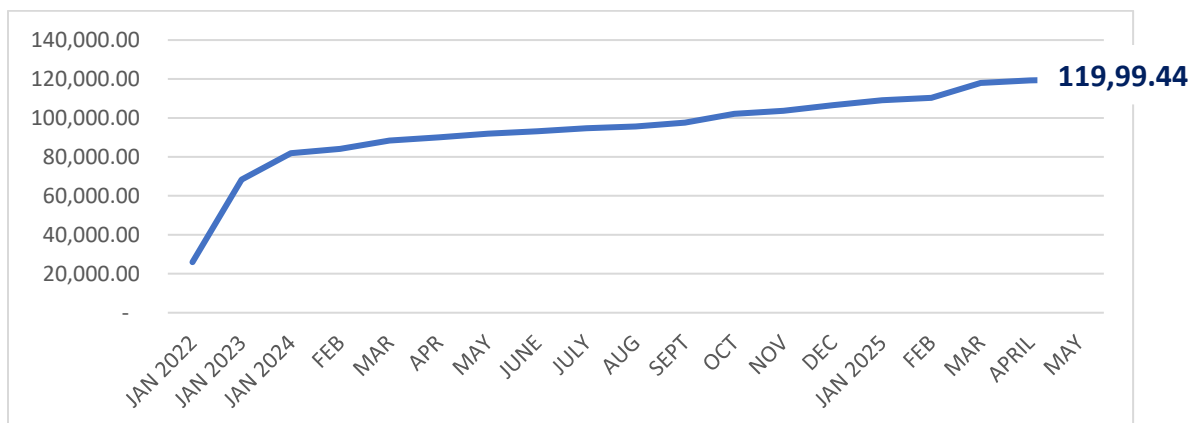
June 18: Race Night (5PM)

June 28: 11AM Installation of 2025-2026 Officers (Sugarmill Country Club)

Follow us: Facebook: [American Legion Post 166 Homosassa, Florida](#); Website: [Americanlegionpost166.com](#)

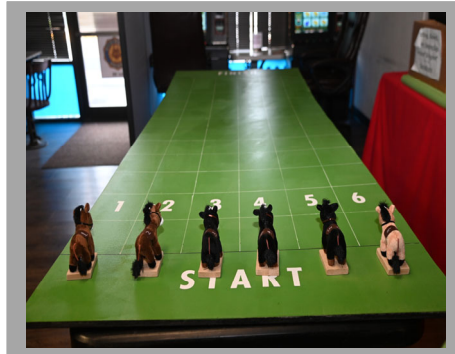
BUILDING FUND AS OF

Thank you, members, for your continued support!



POST PHOTO ALBUM

SAL Deby Day Fundraiser – May 3, 2025 - Benefiting the Sherriff's Boys Ranch Summer Camp

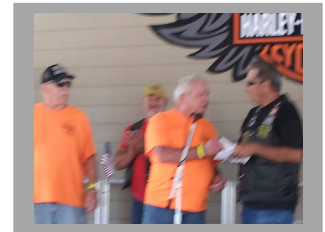


Flag Retirement May 15, 2025

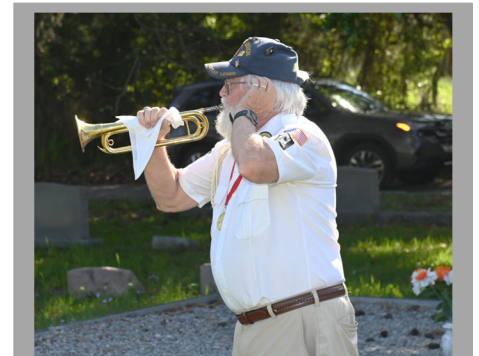


POST PHOTO ALBUM

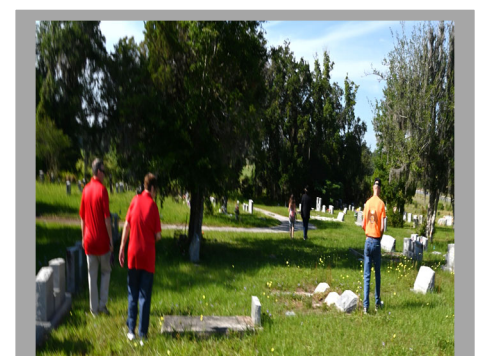
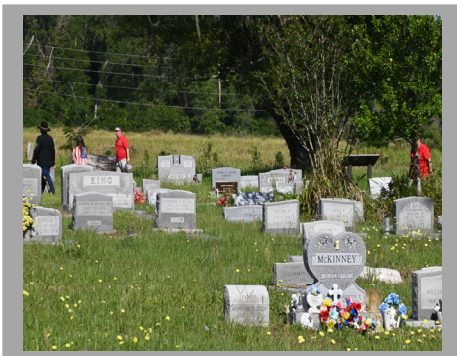
Donations by Post Families to Wreaths for Fallen Heroes, LLC



Memorial Day – Magnola Cemetery



Planting Flags on Veterans Graves



POST PHOTO ALBUM

Memorial Day Picnic at the Post



POST FAMILY FUNDRAISERS AND EVENTS

Patriot Quilt Raffle

Tickets \$5.00 Each

**Proceeds Will Be Used To
Benefit Veterans And
Our Community**

Sponsored By Auxiliary Unit 166

**Quilt Courtesy Of
Sherry Betts**

*Limited number of tickets
Drawing will be held when they are sold
See the Bartender for Tickets
Please Include Name & Number On Ticket*

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**

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



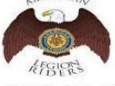












**Winners of each heat will
Compete in the Final Race**

Proceeds to benefit American Legion Charities

POST JUNE CALANDER

June 2025 – PTSD Awareness Month

American Legion Post 166 – 4520 S Suncoast Blvd, Homosassa - americanpost166@gmail.com (352)765-3949

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	 5PM – 8PM Karaoke	10AM Executive Committee Mtg 			 RED SHIRT FRIDAY	 10:30AM ALR Mtg Fun Ride Follows
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			 10:00AM ALA Mtg Lunch Follows	Dept Convention	 RED SHIRT FRIDAY Dept Convention	 10:00AM AL Mtg Dept Convention
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	 5PM – 8PM Karaoke		10:00AM ALA Mtg 5PM SAL Race Night 		 RED SHIRT FRIDAY	 10:00AM SAL Mtg
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
					 RED SHIRT FRIDAY	11AM Installation of Officers – Sugarmill Woods Country Club RSVP
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
		10AM Executive Committee Mtg 			 RED SHIRT FRIDAY 4 th of July 4PM Hot Dog Bar	