



March 2023

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



On March 15th, The American Legion will celebrate their 104th birthday!

For those who don't know the history, the American Legion was established on March 15, 1919, in Paris, France, by delegates to a caucus meeting from units of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) and adopted a tentative constitution. Those actions were confirmed and endorsed by a similar meeting held in St. Louis, MO, from May 8-10, 1919, and was chartered by Congress on September 16, 1919.

Both Caucuses appointed an Executive Committee of seventeen officers and men to represent the troops. The two national executive committees combined to be the initial governing body of the Legion, with the temporary headquarters in New York.

Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change, won hundreds of benefits for veterans, and produced many important programs for children and youth. The Legion's efforts resulted in the creation of the U.S. Veterans Bureau, forerunner of the Veterans Administration. and still today, the Legion continues to lobby for veterans benefits.

In December of 1943, National Commander Harry W. Colmery began writing the first draft of what became the "GI Bill of Rights" and on June 22, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, signed the original GI Bill, or Servicemen's Readjustment Act, into law. Eight million veterans go to school on the GI Bill, get better jobs, buy houses, and raise families. For every dollar spent on educating veterans, the U.S. economy eventually gets \$7 back.

For too many veterans, the war does not end when the guns fall silent. Last year, the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act was signed into law, providing health care and benefits to veterans with illnesses related to burn pits, atomic radiation, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures. This in part was due to Legionnaires worldwide who wrote, called, visited, and messaged lawmakers. They reminded Congress that elected officials should serve veterans as well as veterans have served America.

This year the American Legion will focus its advocacy efforts on mental health and veterans suicide, oversight of the Honoring Our PACT Act, addressing the Forever War, citizenship for honorable service, and more. Support this initiative: <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Campaigns/100852/Respond>

I hope you are as proud as I am to be a member of the American Legion!

For God and Country

Bob Ballew, Commander Post 166

Auxiliary Unit 166 Update

During the month of March ,we will be holding two fundraisers with all proceeds to be used for Veteran Charities.

On March 5th, we are hosting an Italian Night at the Post featuring a spaghetti dinner. The spaghetti will be served with a meat sauce, side salad, garlic bread and cannoli's for dessert. Dinner is available from 4PM to 6PM. In order to have the correct amount of food, we are requesting that anyone interested (and we hope that is a lot of you) to please RSVP, either through the Spaghetti Dinner Event Page on our American Legion Post 166 Facebook Page or at the Post. The cost for the dinner is \$8.00.

And on March 25, we will hold a Rummage Sale at Howard's Flea Market. We have not been assigned a table yet, but once we have the number and location, it will be posted on Facebook and at the Post. Please stop by our booth and help us help our Veterans!

Service not Self

Debbie Ballew, President ALA Unit 166

The Sons of the American Legion

I want to address the lack of participation at our monthly meetings. We have 55 members and we struggle every month to reach a quorum. In order to fulfill our mission of enhancing the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities, by our devotion to mutual helpfulness, we need all of us at meetings, helping map the way to accomplish this mission. Our meetings are short and to the point. It's 30 minutes once a month for 9 months, no meetings from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Please take the time to attend YOUR meetings. In the next three meetings we will take nominations from the floor for officers. Consider what you can do to make our Squadron the best!

For God and Country

Greg Doody, SAL,1st Vice Commander

Looking over the Fairing

First I would like to thank my fellow ALR for their confidence in me and electing me as our Director. I intend to do my best to move our Chapter forward.

Last month we rode with Chapter 237 on their annual ride to support Nature Coast Grief Center. The Post and the Riders each presented a check to John Roby, ALR Chapter 237 Director, for the cause.



After our monthly meetings, we take a fun ride. Each member has a chance to plan a ride. Last month, we took a ride to Post 383, in Old Town. They are a smaller Post off the beaten path and a very friendly group.



In March, we will participate with Chapter 155 on a ride to raise funds for a member with cancer and the with the Crystal River Eagle Riders 50 leg Charity Ride.

Plans are coming together for our Derby Day Ride on May 6th. The stops have been verified and we will finalize plans at our March meeting. This ride is open to bikes, trikes, street rods, trucks, and automobiles. Just \$15.00 per participant. Hope to see all of you on the ride this year!

Ride Safe

Buzz Chainey, ALR Director Chapter 166

Veterans Update

On March 12, our Post will sponsor a fundraiser for our Veterans Relief Fund. This event will be held in conjunction with Grumpy Gators. Our own DJ Buzz Chainey will provide the music and Grumpy Gators will provide a BBQ plate dinner for just \$8.00. There will be 50/50's, raffles, and a silent auction. with all proceeds going to the Fund. At 2PM, we will present electric scooters to four deserving veterans. A very special thanks to Indiana Butch for his generous donations through his "The Butch and Jean Konkle Foundation".

We need volunteers to help. If you can volunteer your time, please let Debbie know (727/432-7230) or send an email to americanpost166@gmail.com.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend what will be an awesome and rewarding day!

Veteran's Relief Fund Benefit

For American Legion Post 166
SUNDAY MARCH 12TH
1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM

At **Grumpy Gators**
4828 S. Suncoast Blvd
Homosassa, FL
352-503-2064

A GENEROUS DONATIONS BY
THE BUTCH & JEAN KONKLE
FOUNDATION AT 2:00

MUSIC, 50/50'S, BBQ \$8. PLATE, AUCTION, RAFFLES



Local Service Officers

Jim Dryer (315) 240-1442

Wanda Thomas (352) 257-0541

Meet Our Bartenders

Nancy Parrish



Nancy is our lead bartender. Her duties include ordering, scheduling, and other misc. duties. She is from Ohio and is a huge Buckeye fan, having graduated from Ohio State. She always wanted to move here and she and husband Randy purchased their home 6 ½ years ago and has been a part of the Sugar mill community now for 3 ½ years. Nancy loves to have a good time and enjoys golf, playing at least twice a week. She is a 4-year Auxiliary member under her brother, a navy veteran.

Nancy volunteers on the Wednesday night shift and Friday and Saturday day shifts.

Peggy Furness



Peggy is originally from Oneida, New York and relocated to Homosassa one and a half years ago because, as she says, "I hate the winter months!"

She and John have been happily married seven

Peggy has a 32-year-old daughter and a 30-year-old son, and is Gramma to a five-year old boy, who is her pride and joy!

She is a member of the Auxiliary under her grandfather.

Peggy is the volunteer bartender during the day shifts on Monday and Tuesday.

Jenna Flaherty



Jenna is originally from Michigan but has been in this area over 20 years.

She is an Air Force Veteran, who did one tour in 2009-2010 in Balad, Iraq.

She graduated from UALR-University of Arkansas at Little Rock, with a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Design. She has an eight-year-old daughter, Madison.

Jenna is a member of Post 166 and is the volunteer bartender on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

Pam Murrin



Pam moved to Florida from northern Illinois 42 years ago because she hated the cold. After living in Tampa and Paso County for a short time she moved to Homosassa because of how serene it was. Pam rides a Harley FLRT. She will be joining the Riders at our Post and she is a 14-year Auxiliary member, under her deceased husband Steven. Pam is a volunteer on Sunday's day shift.

Meet Our Bartenders, *continued*

Nancy O'Connor



Nancy moved to Homosassa 10 years ago from Chicago.

As a child, she visited the area with friends and fell in love with the area.

Nancy has 3 grown children and six grandchildren ranging in age for 5 to 11 years old. She lives in the Sugar Woods community. Her hobbies include playing pool and reading.

Nancy is a 4-year Auxiliary member and is our volunteer bartender on Thursday evening shift.

Cindy Haynes



Cindy spent most of her life in Northern Illinois, moving to the Sugarmill community two years ago. She attended Northern Illinois University and earned a bachelor's and Master's in Business Administration (MBA). She retired from Emerson Corp.

Cindy has two girls, one a recent graduate of nursing school, and the other, a junior at USF.

Cindy's hobbies include quilting, gardening, Karaoke, bowling with the "Sugar Babe" and volunteering.

Cindy is an Auxiliary member under her husband Lincoln and volunteers as a bartender during the Wednesday dayshift and the evening shift on Saturday and Friday; and on Friday evening, it's Team Haynes with Cyndy and Lincoln.

Lincoln Haynes



Lincoln is originally from a small town in Maine. He attended United States Military Academy at West Point and spent 11 years on active duty. He was stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington; Ft. Bliss, Texas; Germany; and Ft. Hood, Texas. He left the army as a Captain and in civilian life worked for Cessna Aircraft in Kansas and then with United Technologies in Illinois. After retiring at age 55, he and wife Cindy moved to Sugarmill. Lincoln has a 27-year-old daughter who resides in Colorado Springs, CO. His hobbies include hunting anything that flies, karaoke, and stamp collecting. He also volunteers with the Sugarmill Crime Watch Team. Lincoln is a 19-year member of the American Legion. He volunteers as a bartender on Friday evenings with his wife Cindy and on the evening shift on Sundays, when needed.

Thank you to all our Volunteer Bartenders – You are AWESOME!



First Friday March 3: First Friday

2PM to 6PM Clam Chowder

Donate to \$4.00 to the Building Fund &
Receive a cup of Chowder

Sunday March 5: ALA Spaghetti Dinner

4PM to 6PM RSVP at the Post or Facebook
\$8.00 proceeds benefit Veterans Projects

March 6: Adopt-Highway

9AM Meet at the Elks Parking Lot
Bring grabber, water, and sunscreen

Sunday March 12: Veterans Relief

Fundraiser at Grumpy Gators

1PM to 4PM: \$8 BBQ plate, raffles, silent auction
2PM Presentation

Thursday March 16: St Patrick Day

Celebration

4PM: Kevin Dunn
Raffles, Irish themed food

Tuesday March 21: Star Fire

3PM to 6PM

Monday March 27: Karaoke

5PM to 8PM featuring DJ Buzz Chainey

Saturday March 25: ALA Rummage Sale

9AM to 4PM: Howard's Flea Market
Proceeds benefit Veterans Programs

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

6:30PM: Queen of Hearts drawing
(American Legion Family Members only)

50/50 Drawing follows the Queen of Hearts
(American Legion Family and Guests)

The Bonz Game follows the 50/50 raffle
Three rolls of the dice to get all the same number
Win 2 beer, wine, or well drink chips; or 1 call or
top shelf chip

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	Mark Long
2 nd Vice Commander	Dwight DeJean
Adjutant	Jane Mundis
Sergeant-At-Arms	Jane Mundis
Finance Officer	Open
Chaplain	Bill Rowe
Historian	Tom Piazza
Judge Advocate / E Board	Bob McDowell
Past Commander / E Board	Marie Conti Executive
Board Member	Tom Brown Executive
Board Member	Bud Costello
Executive Board Member	David Kaczanowski
Executive Board Member	John Myers

American Legion Auxiliary

Monthly Meeting: 2nd Monday at 10:30AM

President	Debbie Ballew
Vice President	Judy Salo
Secretary	Julie Rowe
Treasurer	Dee Costello
Chaplain	Vicky Eley
Historian	Barbara Dubose
Sergeant-At-Arms	Open
Executive Committee	Dorene Bettis
Executive Committee	Barb Tripp
Executive Committee	Marion Healy

The Sons of the American Legion

Monthly Meeting: 3rd Saturday at 10AM

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

American Legion Riders

Monthly Meeting: 1st Saturday of the Month at 10:30AM

Fun Ride follows

Director	Buzz Chainey
Assistant Director	Bob Ballew
Secretary/Treasurer	Debbie Ballew
Sergeant-At-Arms	Tom Brown
Chaplain	Bill Sonnycalf
Historian	Barbara Debose
Road Captain	Jerry Van Tassel

**For the Latest Information
Check our Social Media Accounts:**

Facebook: [American Legion Post 166 Homosassa, Florida](#)

Website: americanlegionpost166.com

Welcome to our New Members

James Bosar, Legionnaire
 Joseph Capparelli, Legionnaire
 Sharon Dixon, ALA
 Robert Doucette, Legionnaire
 Gina Eden, ALA
 Samantha Gutzman, ALA
 Donald Koceja, Legionnaire
 Madeline Koceja, ALA
 Albert Lanoie, Legionnaire

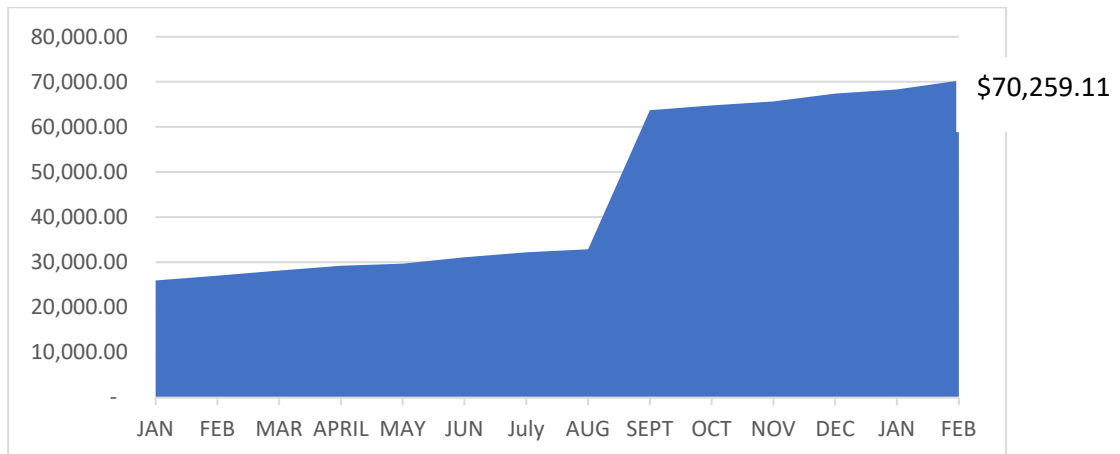
Edward Masek, Legionnaire
 Sherry Murray, ALA
 Ray Murrin, SAL
 Rene Poppe, ALA
 Dann Ridgeway, Legionnaire
 Michael Radford, Legionnaire
 Mark Sullivan, Legionnaire
 Laurel Smith, ALA
 Foster Troy, Legionnaire

March Building Fundraisers



**Basket tickets - \$5.00 or
 3 for \$10.00**

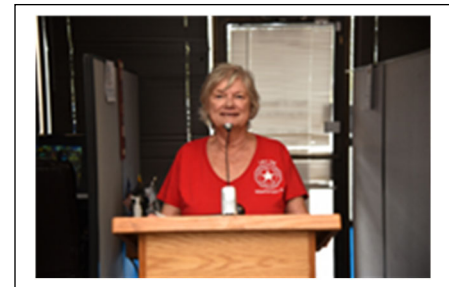
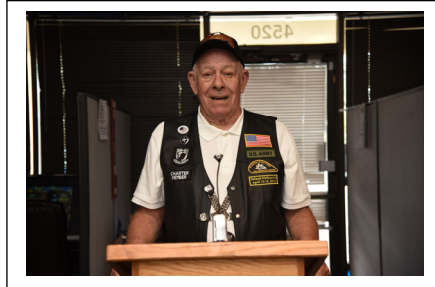
Building Fund as of February 27, 2022



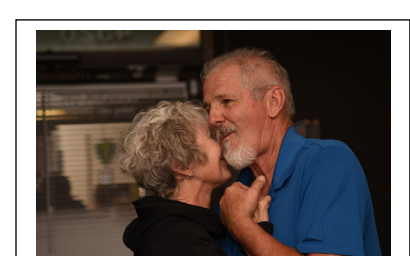
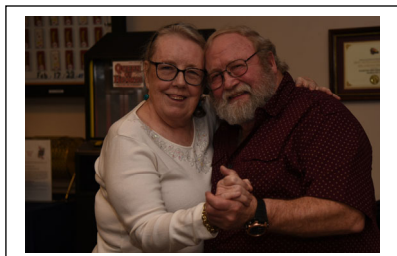
Thank You For Your Donations!

Post Photo Album

Four Chaplains



Valentine's Day and the Last Chance Band



March 2023, Post 166

Homosassa, FL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
					1st Friday 2PM– 6PM Clam Chowder Red Shirt Friday 6:30 Queen of Hearts 50-50 Raffle	10:30AM ALR Mtg Hug a GI Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
ALA Spaghetti Dinner 4PM to 6PM	Adopt-A-Highway 9AM Elks Parking Lot	10AM E Board Mtg			Red Shirt Friday 6:30 Queen of Hearts 50-50 Raffle	10AM General Membership Mtg 50 Legs Charity Ride
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1PM Veterans Relief Fund Event @ Grumpy Gators	10:30AM ALA Mtg			4PM St Patty's Day Party	St Patrick's Day Red Shirt Friday 6:30 Queen of Hearts 50-50 Raffle	10AM SAL Mtg
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		3PM Star Fire			Red Shirt Friday 6:30 Queen of Hearts 50-50 Raffle	9AM – 4PM ALA Rummage Sale @ Howard Flea Market
26	27	28	29	30		
	5PM – 8PM Karaoke with KJ Buzz Chainey		Vietnam Veteran's Day			