

May 2025

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

## COMMANDER'S CORNER



### May is Military Appreciation Month!

**VE Day** (May 8): Victory in Europe Day - the day that Germany surrendered to its Allies in World War II

**Armed Forces Day** (May 18): This is the day set aside to honor the men and women who are currently serving in the United States military.

**Memorial Day** (May 26): Always the last Monday of May, this day is set aside to honor the more than 1 million men and women who have lost their lives defending America beginning with the Revolutionary War.

The Post will hold our annual Memorial Day Service at Magnolia Cemetery, (3131 W Gulf to Lake Hwy, Lecanto) at 9:30AM. Meet at the Post at 9AM and caravan to the cemetery or meet us at the cemetery. We will be honoring Arnold Vern Allen, our Post's namesake, and Rueben Haire Jr, 1984/1985 Department Commander and our second Post commander, and all the Veterans laid to rest there. Following our service, we will place flags on all the Veterans' graves.

Later in the day, we will have music from 1PM to 3PM with R&R (Kevin Dunn & Jack Grella), followed by our annual Memorial Day Picnic at the Post at 4PM. And at 5PM, we will update our Post Family picture. Please wear a red shirt.

The Bloodmobile will also be at the Post. If you can, please consider donating in honor of a Veteran. Please join us May 14, for our quarterly Flag Retirement Service at 9AM.

Final nominations and elections for 2025/2026 will take place at the May meetings. Please plan to attend your American Legion Family's meeting and participate in the election process.

For God and Country

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

## AUXILIARY UNIT 166



May is Poppy Month!

The Red Poppy symbolizes our honor to those who served and to those who died for our country in all wars. Wearing a red poppy is a reminder to every one of the sacrifices that Veterans have made while protecting our freedom. Our Unit will be distributing poppies at the Post over Memorial Day weekend, at the Walden Woods Memorial Day Service, all day at Margarita Grill on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and May 26<sup>th</sup>, and at Art's Dinner on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10 a.m. till 1PM. More locations are pending at this time.

Currently our Unit has 2 fundraisers:

- **Patriotic Quilt Raffle:** The beautiful quilt was donated to us by Sherri Betts. Proceeds from this raffle will go to support our Veterans and our Community Service programs. There are a limited number of tickets and once they are sold, we will draw the winning ticket. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available at the Canteen.
- **Norwegian Dawn Cruise:** The ship sails from the Port of Tampa on February 8, 2026, returning to Tampa on February 15, 2026. Port of Calls are Belize, Honduras, Coast Maya, and Cozumel. A deposit of \$250.00 is due May 8 to guarantee our special rate. However, you can book after May 8, just no guarantee of our price. Final payment is due Oct. 8, 2025. All bookings come with at least 2 perks. Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more details.

Questions or to book the cruise, please contact **Shandelle Johnson (813/408-1247)** All American Legion family members and their friends are invited to join us.

All proceeds from this cruise will go to help replenish the AEF (Auxiliary Emergency Fund).

Service not self

Debbie Ballew, President ALAFL 166

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

## SQUADRON 166

I want to thank everyone who has come out for Race Night. Starting in June, Race Night will move to its permanent time: the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month. Please mark your calendars and join us – it is a lot of Fun!

As a reminder, instead of car races, we are having horse races in May to coincide with the Kentucky Derby! It is also a fundraiser for the Sherriff's Youth Ranch Summer Camp. We will have a pasta and meatball dinner at 4:30PM, between our races and the Kentucky Derby Race. Tickets for the dinner are available for \$10.00 at the Canteen. Please help us send two children to camp this summer!



For God and Country

Randy Parrish

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



## ALR CHAPTER 166

I want to thank everyone who participated and supported our Charity Poker Ride on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. We raised over \$2500.00 that will be used to support our Veterans and our Community. Special thanks go to the Crystal River Eagles, the Crystal River Eagle Riders, American Legion Post 77, ALR Chapter 77, and IRRU for their donations and to everyone who participated in the raffles, both 50/50 and the lottery board!

I would like to invite all of you to join us on May 24<sup>th</sup> at Crystal Harley for the annual fundraiser for Wreaths for Fallen Heroes sponsored by the IRRU Riders. The funds raised are used to purchase wreaths which are placed at the National Cemetery in Bushnell at Christmas.

### Charity Poker Ride



For the Cause, not the applause  
Dwight Dejean, Director

**Contact Information:** (352)587-7773; [ddejean1957@yahoo.com](mailto:ddejean1957@yahoo.com)

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Julie Llewellyn, ALA  
 Robert Lilliott, Legionnaire  
 Timothy Gatto, SAL  
 Stephen Gavitt, Legionnaire  
 Merle Gavitt, Legionnaire  
 Maureen Hoffman, ALA  
 Ronnie Mabry, SAL  
 John Vreeland, Legionnaire

## 2024- 2025 OFFICERS & MEETING TIMES

### Legionnaires Membership Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at 10:00AM

Commander: Bob Ballew	Judge Advocate: Frank DiGennaro
1st Vice Commander: Dwight DeJean	Executive Committee r: Marie Conti
2nd Vice Commander & Adjutant: L. Haynes	Executive Committee: Tom Brown
Sgt-at-Arms: Jane Mundis	Executive Committee: Bud Costello
Finance Officer: Darrell Walters	Executive Committee: David Kaczanowski
Chaplain: Bill Rowe	Executive Committee: John Surprise
Historian: Tom Piazza	Executive Committee: Kevin Myhill
	Service Officer: Paul Herrick

### Auxiliary Unit 166 Membership Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 10:00AM, lunch follows

President: Debbie Ballew	Sergeant-At-At-Arms: Sheri Walters
Vice President: Cindy Haines	Executive Committee: Ida Maslinski
Secretary / Treasurer: Dee Costello	Executive Committee: Judy Salo
Chaplain: Lola Strickland	Executive Committee: Vicky Eley
Historian: Julie Rowe	Executive Committee: Jan Habich

### SAL Squadron 166 Membership Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at 10:00AM

Squadron Commander: Randy Parrish	Treasurer: Mark Wagnitz
Vice Commander: Ernest (Buzz) Chainey	Chaplain: Bill Cloke

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

Director: Dwight Dejean	Sergeant-At-Arms: Tom Brown
Assistant Director: Bob Ballew	Road Captain: Pam Murrin
Secretary / Treasurer: Debbie Ballew	

## 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

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

**Monthly Sunday Dinners:** September through June

## APRIL EVENTS

**May 3: SAL Fundraiser with Horse Races(2PM) and Pasta and Meatball Dinner (4:30PM)**

**May 5: Cinco de Mayo Margaritas & Karaoke with Buzzsaw Entertainment (5PM – 8PM)**

**May 14: Flag Disposal Ceremony (9AM)**

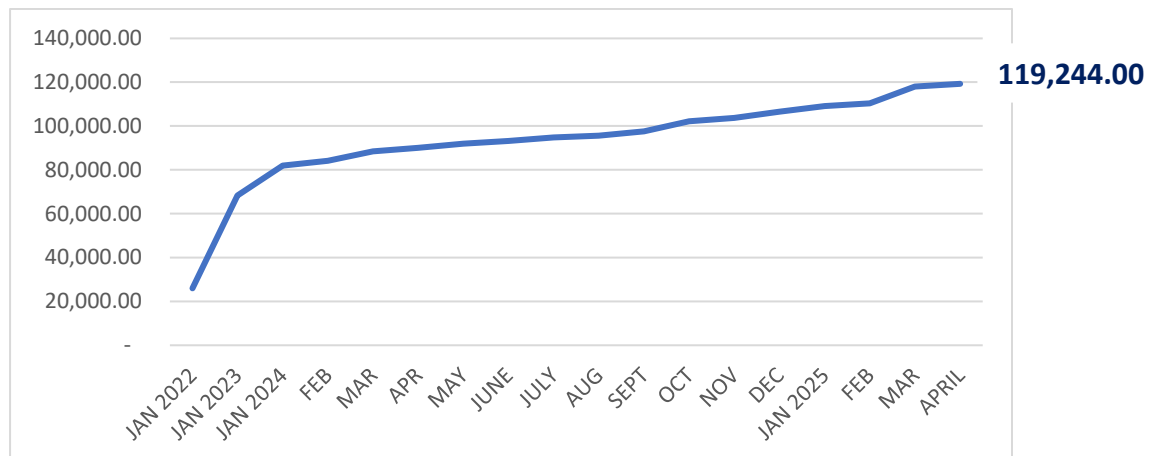
**May 19: Karaoke with Buzzsaw Entertainment (5PM – 8PM)**

**May 26: Memorial Day Activities including Blood Mobile (9:30AM – 4PM)**

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

## BUILDING FUND AS OF

**An increase of \$7,675.44 - Thank you, members, for your continued support!**





## POST PHOTO ALBUM

### Last Chance Band – April 23, 2025



### Katerine (Miss Kitty) Evans; 87th Birthday Celebration



## POST FAMILY FUNDRAISERS AND EVENTS

### ALA Unit 166

#### 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*

***Thank you for your support!***

#### ALA Unit 166 Cruise



**Feb. 8-15, 2026**

Sailes from Port of Tampa

Port of Calls: Belize, Honduras, Coast Maya, and Cozumel

**Pricing:** Based on two passengers & includes port charges and taxes but not gratuities (\$140.00 per person)

**Optional Insurance:** \$75.00 for inside & Ocean Cabins. Balcony rates will be quoted upon booking

#### Cabins

- **Inside:** \$1567.72; with beverage package & internet
- **Oceanview Window:** \$1886.82; with beverage package & internet
- **Balcony:** Rates are the prevailing rate on the day you book; includes beverage package, internet, specialty dining and shore excursion credit.

**Deposit:** \$250.00 due May 8, 2025; final payment Oct. 8, 2025

Contact Shandelle Johnson (813/408-1247) for deposit & questions

Proceeds to benefit Auxiliary Emergency Fund

### Post Events

#### FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

**Wednesday - May 14  
11AM**

Please join us as we retire the Flags  
of our Country that have become  
worn and tattered

American Legion Post 166  
4520 S Suncoast Blvd  
Homosassa, FL

Unserviceable Flag Drop  
Off Box located in front of  
the Post. Flags may be  
dropped off anytime

#### MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

**Monday May 26, 2024**

**9:30AM Remembrance Service**

Magnolia Cemetery

3131 W Gulf to Lake Hwy, Lecanto, FL 34461

9:00AM Caravan to Cemetery

**10AM – 4PM Bloodmobile**

**1PM – 3PM Music**

R&R (Kevin Dunn & Jack Grella)

**4:00PM - Picnic at the Post**











Grilled Sausages, Corn on the Cob, Baked Beans  
Get tickets at the Canteen with a \$8.00 donation to the  
Building Fund - Limited number of tickets

**Poppies Available at Post**



# May 2025 – Military Appreciation 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
					<b>RED-SHIRT FRIDAY</b>	 <p>10:30AM ALR Mtg</p> <p><b>SAL Derby Day</b> Fundraiser - Races &amp; Dinner</p>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		<p>10AM Executive Committee Mtg</p> 			<b>RED-SHIRT FRIDAY</b>	 <p>10:00AM AL Mtg</p>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			<p>9AM Flag Retirement</p>  <p>10AM ALA Meeting Lunch Follows</p>		<b>RED-SHIRT FRIDAY</b>	 <p>10:00AM SAL Mtg</p>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	 <p>5PM – 8PM</p>				<b>RED-SHIRT FRIDAY</b>  <b>POPPY DAY</b>	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	<p><b>Memorial Day</b> Service Music Picnic at Post Poppies Bloodmobile</p>				<b>RED-SHIRT FRIDAY</b>	