

September 2025 The American Legion Family of Post 166 Doing Things All Year Long

COMMANDER'S CORNER

There are two dates that stand out this month – Patriots Day and POW/MIA Recognition Day.



Patriots Day named for a day that we will never forget – Tuesday September 11, 2001! We all remember exactly where we were when we heard the news that four passenger airliners had been hijacked. It began at 8:46AM and ended at 10:25AM. Two hijacked planes struck the World Trade Center Towers, one crashed into the Pentagon, and one was brought down in a field in Pennsylvania thanks to the courageous efforts of passengers and crew members who fought back against the hijackers.

We will pay our respects on 09/11/25 at 11:00AM at the Post with a remembrance service followed by a light brunch. I hope you will attend.

WE must remember! WE must never forget

The **Bloodmobile** will be on-site as well. I hope you will consider donating blood in honor of those who lost their lives that day.

POW/MIA Recognition Day is always the third Friday in September. It is a day of remembrance and hope for the safe and speedy return of all American Prisoners of War, those that are still Missing in Action, and the return of the remains of all Fallen Soldiers. All American Legions and other Veteran Organizations have a POW/MIA table, also known as the Missing Man Table in honor of those who have not returned home yet. Please see the following page for the meaning of the POW/MIA Table.

We will have our quarterly Flag Retirement Ceremony at 8:00AM on Friday Sept. 12th. I know it is early, but it's still hot and gets hotter with the burning of the flags.

For God and Country

Bob Ballew, Post 166 Commander

Contact: rballew931@gmail.com

MIA / POW Table Meaning



The table is set for one. The chair is empty – they are not here.

The table is round to show our everlasting concern.

The cloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms.

The black napkin represents the sorrow for those still missing.

The single red rose in a vase reminds us of the lives of these Americans and their loved ones and friends who keep the faith while seeking answers.

The yellow ribbon around the vase symbolizes our continued uncertainty, our hope for their return, and a demand for proper accounting of those who are not among us today.

A slice of lemon on the plate reminds us of their bitter fate, captured or missing in a foreign land while serving our country.

Grains of salt on the plate remind us of the countless fallen tears of families who continue to long for answers.

An inverted glass symbolizes their inability to share a toast.

The lighted white candle reflects hope that our missing will return some day.

The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain us and those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God.

They are missing..... REMEMBER

AUXILIARY UNIT 166

Operation School Brigade



Education Chairperson Judy Salo has been working with our local Dollar Store and Homosassa Elementary School. Each year we participate in this program sponsored by Dollar Tree where customers donate school items. Judy then picks them up, sorts them, and delivers the supplies to Homosassa Elementary School. This year we delivered 8 boxes of school supplies to some very happy teachers!

ALA 7 Day Cruise to Support the Auxiliary Emergency Fund

There is still time to sign up for our 7-day ALA cruise on the Norwegian Dawn. It's going to be a fun time, leaving out of Tampa with stops in Cozumel, Belize, Honduras, and Costa Maya. See the flyer on the Fundraiser Page for more details. Contact our Travel Agent Shandelle Johnson at 813/408-1247 to book the cruise.

Plant Sale benefitting Bridge 4 Veterans

PLANT SALE

Saturday, September 27th
9:30AM – 4PM

Featuring Plants, Herbs & Seeds

Prices starting as low as 50¢

**All proceeds to benefit
Bridge 4 Veterans**

Sponsored by ALA Unit 166
4520 S Suncoast Blvd, Homosassa

 A colorful illustration at the bottom of the flyer showing several potted plants, including yellow flowers, purple flowers, and green herbs, along with some seedlings in trays.

Please join us on Saturday, September 27th for our first annual plant sale. We will have many different types of plants, herbs, and seeds available for sale. Tables will be set up outside of the Post from 9:30AM to 4PM. All proceeds from our fundraiser will be donated to Bridge 4 Veterans, a nonprofit organization formed in June 2021 to help get homeless Veterans out of the woods and off the streets. Their group home is located right here in Homosassa, and we try to support them by dropping off meals and any supplies they may need. We hope to see everyone at the fundraiser for Bridge 4 Veterans!

Service not self

Debbie Ballew, President ALAFL 166

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

ALR CHAPTER 166

Capture the Plaque Update



Our plaque is home!

Three of us went to American Legion Douglas V. Passen Memorial Post 35 located in Mt. Dora to bring our plaque home. We spent a few hours there then returned home with our Plaque and it is now on our wall where it belongs!

ALR 166 Oktoberfest Ride



Please mark your calendars to join us on our Fundraiser Ride that benefits the Citrus County Veteran Coalition Food Pantry. This is the seventh year we have sponsored a ride to raise money for this organization. Everyone is invited to join us - Trikes, Bikes, Roadsters, Street Rods, Trucks and Automobiles.

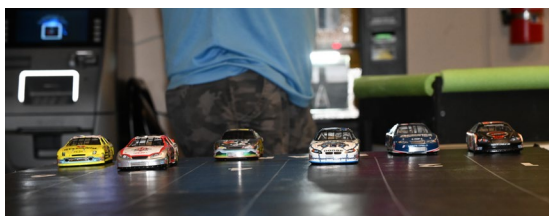
The Citrus County Veterans Coalition (CCVC) runs the Food Pantry. All Veterans with an honorable discharge, their spouses, and dependent children are eligible to receive free food. Our goal is to ensure that any Veterans who are in need will not go hungry.

For the Cause, not the applause

Dwight Dejean, ALR Chapter 166 Director

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

SQUADRON 166



Thank you all for making Race Nights successful! Race Night is held on the Third Wednesday of the month.

As a reminder all proceeds of this event go to support the four pillars of the American Legion

For God and Country

Randy Parrish, Squadron Commander

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Timothy Brennan, Legionnaire

Ernest Chainey, Legionnaire

Raymond Colhouer, Legionnaire

Peter Condit, Legionnaire

Mark Cram ,SAL

John Crosky ,SAL

Kenneth Dodge, Legionnaire

William Ellis, Legionnaire

Brian Ellis, SAL

Joseph Fara, SAL

Clyde Hamilton, Legionnaire

James Hawn, Legionnaire

Mark Huff, Legionnaire

Todd Khas, SAL

Lee Lechleidner, SAL

Joseph Malho, SAL

John McLaughlin, Legionnaire

Russell Medeiros, Legionnaire

Brandon Miller, Legionnaire

Mike Nyhus, Legionnaire

Victor Rintrona, Legionnaire

Stephen Romanek, Legionnaire

David Shattuck, Legionnaire

Michael Smith, SAL

Donald Stange, Legionnaire

Robert Stanley, Legionnaire

Alfred Storms, Legionnaire

Randy Thomas, Legionnaire

Richard Weir, Legionnaire

Mathew Woods, Legionnaire

Note: 2026 ALA members cannot be processed until 09/01/25. Their names will appear here next month

POST EVERLASTING

Alfred Carter Evans



Rest in peace, our dear friend!

Al or ACE as he like to be called was a special man. He was an Air force Veteran and a 39 year member of the American Legion.

Al believed in giving back and he did that by volunteering on Tuesday night to sell 50/50 raffle tickets.

He transferred to our Post when Post 166 found a permanent home and Al claimed the first bar stool for his own so he could talk to everyone as they passed by to find a seat.

He will be missed!

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

Chaplain: Lola Strickland

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 : 1st Saturday 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

SEPTEMBER 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.

Sept 10: 5PM-8PM Island Post Pickers Band

Sept. 11: 11AM Patriots Day Service with brunch; 8:30AM – 4PM Bloodmobile

Sept 12: 8AM Flag Retirement

Sept. 27: 9:30Am – 4PM ALA Plant Sale Fundraiser for Bridge 4 Veterans

Sept. 30: Last day to pay 2026 membership dues and be eligible for Early Bird Dinner

Every Tuesday: Queen of Hearts: 6:15PM: Queen of Heart ticket sales close; 6:30PM Drawing;

The Bonz Game: Following the 50/50 Raffle

Every Friday: 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: 5PM SAL Race Night

POST FAMILY FUNDRAISERS / EVENTS

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

First & Third Monday

Karaoke



5 to 8 PM

**Featuring
Buzzsaw
Entertainment**



**Wednesday
September 10th
5PM – 8PM**

**A little bit of Country
A little bit of Blue Grass**



Please join us at
American Legion Post 166
at 11AM on September 11
as we remember what
happened that day

Brunch follows

10AM – 4:30PM
Bloodmobile on si

WE WILL NEVER FORGET

FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

**New Date and time
Friday – Sept. 12**

8:00AM

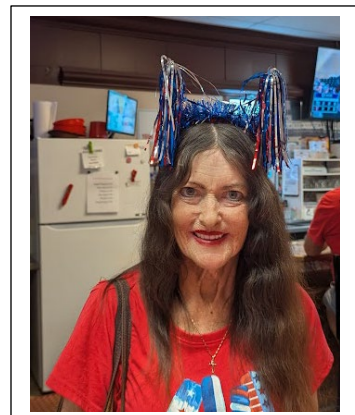
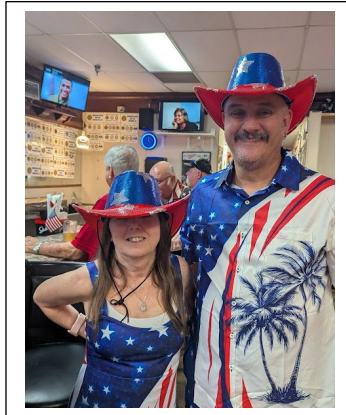
**Please join us as we retire the Flags
of our Country that have become
worn and tattered**

**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

POST PHOTO ALBUM

Fourth of July Patriots



Crystal Daggers



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

September 2025

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day 4PM Cheeseburgers in Paradise - Celebrating Jimmy Buffett	2 10AM Executive Committee Mtg 	3  5PM – 8PM	4	5 	6  10:30AM ALR Mtg Fun Ride Follows
7	8	9 	10  10:00AM ALA Mtg Lunch follows 5PM 8PM Island Post Pickers Band	11  10AM – 4:30PM Blood Mobile 11:30AM Memorial Service - Brunch	12  8:00AM Flag Retirement	13  10:00AM AL Mtg 10 AM District Mtg - Post 149
14	15  5PM – 8PM	16 	17 5PM SAL Race Night 	18  USAF BD #78	19  	20 MIA POW Day  10:00AM SAL Mtg
21	22	23 	24	25	26 	27 9:30AM – 4PM Plant Sale ALA Fundraiser
28 	29	30 Last day to renew to be eligible for Early Bird Dinner 				