



September 2023 The American Legion Family of Post 166 Doing Things All Year Long

## Commander's Corner

# BE THE ONE

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. The number of people taking their own life is staggering. It's not just veterans, it's everyone, but veterans lead the numbers. The American Legion website reports that it is estimated that between 17 and 22 veterans or servicemembers take their lives each day. That's more than 6,000 annually. The rate of suicide for veterans is more than 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults.

We can all BE THE ONE. Be The One by taking the time to reach out, to listen, and to share help resources (call 988 and press 1; ext. 838255 or visit the VA Crisis Line website).

September 11th marks twenty-two years since the unthinkable attack on our Country. The attacks killed nearly 3,000 people and was responsible for the War on Global Terrorism whose veterans have the greatest percentage of all veteran suicides. We will mourn those lost and remember the heroes of the day at the Post on 09/11/23 at 10AM. Come for a continental breakfast at 9:30AM.

And on a happier note –the new Air Conditioning at the Post is scheduled for installation this week. However, with the approaching storm, the installation may be delayed. I want to thank everyone for their understanding during this time and to those who continued to come in despite the temperature, and helped keep the door open, a very big THANK YOU.

September Events are scheduled and will take place once the air condition installation is completed. My hope was that we would be able to resume Events beginning September 1<sup>st</sup> with the Queen of Hearts and Friday night activities. But once again, everything is dependent upon the new air conditioning installation. Once the installation is complete, you will be notified by email and it will be posted to Facebook. I look forward to seeing everyone again very soon.

**For the General Membership**, please plan to attend the meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. The updated Constitution and By-laws will be reviewed followed by a vote to accept.

For God and Country

Bob Ballew, Commander



## Auxiliary Unit 166 Update

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our Island Summer Party, due to the air conditioning problems at the Post. Although the situation should be corrected soon, it did not leave us enough to put on a quality Event. We will reschedule it at a future date. Thank you for your understanding.

Our summer break is just about over and we will have our first meeting of the new fiscal year on **September 12<sup>th</sup>**. **This is a new date**. Our meeting was originally scheduled for 09/11 but the Post will be hosting a 911 Remembrance Ceremony that morning. I hope you can make it!

I would like to thank all of our members and our membership chairman, Dee Costello, for our membership numbers this past year. We were presented with a plaque for achieving 105%, finishing the year with 165 members, up 20 members from 2022. Thank you again!

*Service not Self*

Debbie Ballew, President

## The Sons of the American Legion

Welcome back from summer break. The September meeting is 09/16 at 10AM. Greater participation is needed this year. The meetings are kept short for your convenience. Please plan to attend and help your SAL help our veterans!

## Looking over the Fairing

Our annual Hams n Hogs Ride will be held on Nov. 4th this year, marking the fifth year we have sponsored this Charity Ride. As always, 100% of the proceeds will be donated to the Citrus County Veterans Coalition Food Pantry. Entry fee is per person; either \$15.00 or a ham, ensuring that our Veterans in need will have a holiday meal. We invite everyone to join us - Trikes, Bikes, Roadsters, Street Rods, Trucks and Automobiles are all welcome! More details to come in the future.

Buzz Chainey, ALR Director

## Projected Events

### **Events will take place after AC installation**

**September 1:** Early Bird Membership Renewal Drive

2:00PM to 4:30PM (will take place as scheduled)

**September 6:** Adopt A Highway (will take place as scheduled)

9:00AM Meet at the Elks Parking lot

Brings water, sunscreen, and a grabber

**September 9:** Oldies Night with Joel & Lynn

4PM to 6PM

**September 11:** 9/11 Remembrance Service

9:30AM Continental Breakfast

10:00AM Remembrance Service

**September 16:** Flag Retirement

8:00AM Located in the front parking lot

**September 17:** Monthly Sunday Dinner

4:00PM Smoked Brisket, sides, and a roll

Meal ticket required – Purchase at Post for \$10.00

**September 18:** Air Force Birthday

Snacks for USAF Veterans

**September 23:** ALAFL Department President's visit

8:30AM Breakfast followed by projects

ALL ALA members are invited

**September 28:** Karaoke with KJ Buzz

5:00PM to 8:00PM

**October 5:** Early Bird Dinner

5:00PM Catered by Art's Dinner

### **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 to win 2 beer/wine/well drink chips; or 1 call/top shelf chip

### **For the Latest Information, follow us on**

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

Website: [americanlegionpost166.com](http://americanlegionpost166.com)

## Monthly Meetings and Officers

### American Legion Post 166

**Executive Board Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 10AM**

**General Membership Meeting: 2nd Saturday at 10AM**

Post Commander	Bob Ballew
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Dwight DeJean
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Ernest (Buzz) Chainey
Adjutant	Lincoln Haynes
Finance Officer	Darrell Walters
Sergeant-At-Arms	Jane Mundis
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	Cyndy Haynes
Sergeant-At-Arms	Sherry Walters
Executive Committee	Marion Healy
Executive Committee	Jan Habich
Executive Committee	Lola Strickland

### The Sons of the American Legion

**Monthly Meeting: 3rd Saturday at 10AM (Sept-June)**

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

### 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 Sonnyclaf
Historian	Tammy Chainey

Welcome  
to our  
New Members

### **The American Legion**

Philip Blauvelt  
Eric Ebosh  
Emile Forcier  
Larry Jones  
Davis Floyd  
Donald Forsyth  
Mark Henriquez  
Larry Jones  
Laurie Lang  
David Ochs  
Craig Petersen  
Mark Petersen  
Thomas Schmidt  
Allen Smith  
Charles Wicker  
Fred Williams  
John Woodward

### **The American Legion Auxiliary**

Charlotte Blauvelt  
Jamie Curran  
Sandra Dixon  
Christine Forsyth  
Susan Kent  
Donna Moyer  
Patricia Norbert  
Susan O'Neill  
Deborah Petersen  
Penny Peterson  
Bonnie Teska  
Janice Tyler  
Kristine Walker

### **The Sons of the American Legion**

Paul Angel  
Donald Bognetti  
William Lasich  
Robert McMahan  
Richard Roy  
Joel Steele  
Robert Tompkins  
Donald Tribbet  
Edward Wicker

### BUILDING FUND EVENTS

#### September Basket



**Scotch, crackers, nuts & olives ,Patee,  
Ginger Ale & fig spread**

Donated by Robert McMahan

Tickets available at the Canteen: 2 for \$5.00

Drawing: 09/30/2023

Do not have to be present to win

#### Monthly Sunday Dinner



**Smoked Beef Brisket, sides, roll & dessert**

Dinner: September 17th – 4PM

Tickets: \$10.00 available at the Canteen

Please purchase by Friday, September 15

Limited tickets available at the door

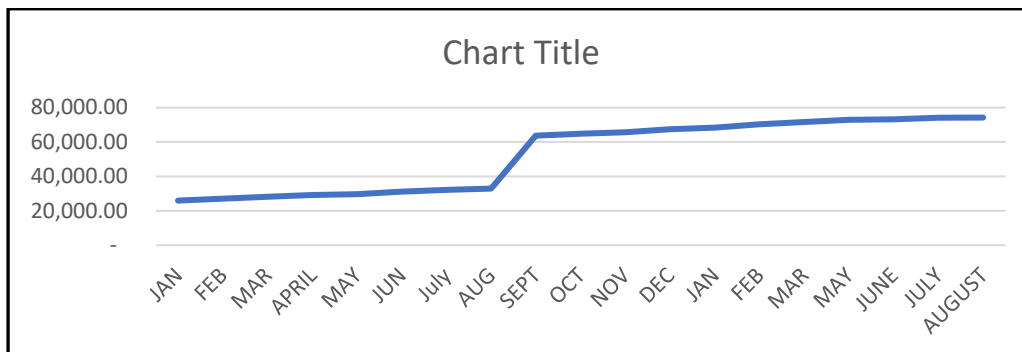
All tickets with August date will be honored

*If you are interested in helping with a monthly dinner  
please contact Debbie ([debballew1@yahoo.com](mailto:debballew1@yahoo.com))*

#### **Pie Sales Every Friday Night – Thank you Phyllis Surprise**



#### **Building Fund Balance (08/29/23)**



# September 2023

## Suicide Prevention Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Red Shirt Friday 6:30 Queen of Hearts/50-50 Raffle 2-4:30PM Early	10:30AM ALR Mtg  VJ Day
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Labor Day	10AM Executive Bd Mtg	Adopt a Highway 9AM Meet At Elks		Red Shirt Friday 6:30 Queen of Hearts/50-50 Raffle	10AM AL Mtg 4-6PM Oldies Night with Joel & Lynn
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	9:30AM Continental Breakfast 10AM 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony	10:30AM ALA Mtg			Red Shirt Friday 6:30 Queen of Hearts/50-50 Raffle POW/MOA Remembrance Day	8:00AM Flag Retirement 10AM SAL Mtg American Legion Day
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
5PM Monthly Sunday Dinner For the Building Fund	Air Force Birthday			National Day of Peace	Red Shirt Friday 6:30 Queen of Hearts/50-50 Raffle	8:30AM ALA President Dee's Visit
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	5-8PM Karaoke				Red Shirt Friday 6:30 Queen of Hearts/50-50 Raffle	

September 21-25: Vietnam Traveling Wall, Ernie Mills Park Sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans Gathering. Open 24/7

October 5: 5:00 PM Early Bird Dinner for members who renewed before 10/01/2023 – Must Sign up at Canteen or Facebook for ordering purposes, please.