

October 2021

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

#### **Commander Notes**

Commander Robert Scott has taken a leave of absence due to health issues. As First Vice Commander, I have assumed the duties of Commander while he recovers. This is my first time as a Commander. Up until I assumed the duties of Commander, I was Director of the Legion Riders, Chapter 166 and I served one year as Finance Officer.

I am a Navy veteran, having spent two years of active duty on the Destroyer Tender, USS Dixie, and four years as a reservist. I am proud to be a member of the American Legion for 47 years.

I want to thank everyone for their help and support as I adjust to this new endeavor. If you have any concerns you would like to discuss, give me a call at (727) 432-7220. You can also find me most evenings at the Post.

We have had a busy September at the Post. It is great to see everyone come out for the events. The one that really comes to mind is the Cheeseburger in Paradise which was sponsored by the Auxiliary. We had more people in the Post than I have ever seen there. All the tables and bar stools were full. We set up a table in the lobby, it was full as well as the picnic tables out back, the chairs out front and even a few people sitting at Fish Tales' tables enjoying cheeseburgers.

We also had a nice showing for the 9/11 remembrance, and our blood drive. Thanks to everyone who donated whole blood, double reds, platelets, and plasma. The folks at the Bloodmobile tell me that our donations will go a long way to help save lives. The next blood drive is scheduled for Veterans Day.

Once again, I want to assure everyone I will to keep the ship righted until the return of Commander Scott.

Please keep Commander Scott in your prayers as well as our members who are on sick call as well.

For God and Country Bob Ballew, Acting Commander, Post 166 727/432-7220 <u>rballew931@gmail.com</u>

#### **Auxiliary Presidents Message**

Good morning, afternoon, or evening. October, and hopefully a bit cooler weather has arrived and with it many new ideas and activities at our Post.

We welcome our new Acting Commander, Bob Ballew, and plan to support him in his new challenging role.

Already we have noticed the two new TV's and appreciate that our "older eyes" don't have to strain as much to watch the programs. Thank you to the two persons who donated the TV's and to those who got them up and running.

Thank you also to our amazing team of Auxiliary members and our Executive Committee. So many volunteer hours and activities to benefit our Post, our veterans, and our community. Our membership continues to grow each week and we eagerly look forward to meeting and greeting each new person that joins us.

We currently have two fund raisers going on: Mystery Bags available at the Post for \$1.00 each, with 50% of the proceeds donated to Post 166's Vet Relief Fund; and "Coupons for Troops". Bring in manufacturer's coupons found in the newspaper, and we will clip and mail them to an overseas base to help our active-duty families stretch their dollars. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

As we are out and about in our lives, please continue to mention that you are a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and that you are proud to tell what it is that we represent. As I heard in a meeting, not long ago, "if the American Legion were gone tomorrow, would your community miss you?" We want the answer to be Yes! Hope to see you at our next meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM.

For God and Country Judy Salo <u>myala166@gmail.com</u>

#### Looking Over the Fairing

I am happy to report we have a date for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ham and Hogs Ride, November 20<sup>th</sup> and the stops have been set! This ride is open to Trikes, Bikes, Roadsters, Street Rods, Trucks and Automobiles. The ride starts at our Post with breakfast and ends at our Post where there will be lots of raffle prizes and dinner. Entry to ride is one ham, preferably canned or smoked, or a donation of \$20.00 which will go to help Veterans in need enjoy a holiday meal. So, mark your calendars and we will see you Saturday morning November 20<sup>th</sup>. You will have a great time and help the families who need it, to have a nice Thanksgiving dinner.

#### Sons of the American Legion Squadron 166

It looks like most of our snowbirds have returned and will have our first meeting of the new fiscal year on October-23rd. Our squadron has been busy planning this year's Oktoberfest which will be held October 9<sup>t</sup> starting at 4PM and featuring Keven Dunn. We will be looking for the best "polka dancers" so start practicing! We will have Germain food and there will be at \$2.00 Sam Adams Oktoberfest Specialty beer available that day at the Canteen.

#### **Canteen News**

Fall is here and the Summer Drink Specials have ended. Our hours have returned to 12PM to 9:00PM daily. If you haven't already, try our Specialty Drinks: \$5 Rum Bucket, \$, and \$5 Sunday Bloody Mary and a new \$3.00 Specialty Drink coming in October.

We are currently looking for a volunteer bartender for 2 nights from 4 to 9. If you are interested, please see Michelle at the bar. The only requirements are a big smile, a happy personality, and a member of Legion family.

We also want to remind everyone that guests of members are always welcome to join us, but they must be accompanied by a Legion family member and signed in by the member. Additionally, by law, only members are permitted to play the machine games, pull tab machine or the Queen of Hearts raffle. We will also be requesting all members show their membership cards when ordering a drink starting Oct 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Service Officer Buzz's Report for October

I want to make all our veterans aware that the VA has authorized two new benefits:

- Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers for Veterans Therapy Act or the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act. This is a five-year pilot program to provide canine training to eligible veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. The bill also authorizes the VA to provide service dogs to veterans with mental illnesses, regardless of whether they have a mobility impairment. Eligible veterans are those who are enrolled in the VA health care system and have been recommended for participation by a qualified mental health care provider or clinical team. Veterans who participate in the program are authorized to adopt the dog they assisted in training if their health provider determines it
- Veterans Exposed to Burning Oil Wells and Burn Pits Are Eligible for Special Program. A new expansion of eligibility to healthcare and compensation benefits applies to veterans of the Persian Gulf War (Desert Shield and Desert Storm), as well as those who served during Operation Enduring Freedom in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations. The new expanded benefit applies to any veteran who served in the above-mentioned areas during the qualifying time frame and is also suffering from chronic asthma, rhinitis, or sinusitis. Veterans who think they may be eligible for this new expanded benefit should go to <u>VA's website</u> to apply for health care or file a claim for compensation benefits. Those who previously applied and were denied should apply again.

Additionally, I would also like to ask everyone to keep an eye on their fellow veterans. There has been an undue amount of stress imposed upon our veterans in the past month. We've seen the Taliban retake Afghanistan as the remaining U.S. troops withdrew. The speed of the Taliban's resurgence made it all the more shocking. It has also rekindled memories for veterans, especially from the Vietnam era, who saw similar occurrences. For those who need help immediately, the VA Crisis line is **800-273-8255**, and manned 24/7. They are there to help!

If I can assist a veteran or a veteran's family, please contact the Post at (352)765-3949 and I will call you right back. I am here to help with any needs that may arise.



### October 2021

#### Saturday Oct 2 – Sami's Run

Bike Run to benefit Citrus County's underprivileged children – Register at the Eagles Club or the first stop, Post 166. Breakfast available at the Post for riders at 11AM

### Sunday October 3 – Tailgate at the Post\*/ October Birthday Celebration

4:00PM: October Birthday Cake served

#### Monday October 4 – National Taco Day

3:00PM to 6:00PM: Taco in a Tortilla Bowl

#### Saturday October 9 – Oktoberfest

Sponsored by the SAL Squadron 166 4:00PM: Celebrate Oktoberfest with German style food and music by Kevin Dunn

#### Sunday October 10 – Tailgate at the Post\*

#### Wednesday October 13 – Navy's Birthday

3:00PM Celebrate 246 years of the US Navy and share USN stories with fellow veterans Appetizers and a Special Navy Cake

#### Saturday October 16 – Early Bird Dinner

4:00PM to 7:00PM: Free dinner for Early Bird Membership Renewal RSVP by October 10 – Signup sheet at the Post

#### Sunday October 17 – Tailgate at the Post\*

Sunday October 24 – Tailgate at the Post\*

#### Tuesday October 26 – Karaoke

Featuring "Buzzsaw Chainey" 6:00PM to 8:30PM

## Sunday October 31 – Tailgate at the Post\* Halloween

Trick or Treat at the Post & Enjoy the Game

#### \*Tailgate at the Post

Every Sunday during football season Food served at half time of the 1st game

#### **General Membership Officers**

Commander (on leave of absence) **Robert Scott** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice /Acting Commander **Bob Ballew** 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander /Acting 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Mark Long **Becky Badders** Adjutant Sergeant at Arms Jane Mandis **Finance Officer** Gary Rand Chaplain **Bill Rowe** Historian Tom Piazza Judge Advocate **Bob McDowell** Service Officers & Member at Large **Buzz Chainey Executive Board Members Dwight DeJean** and Gerald Majchrowicz

#### **American Legion Auxiliary Unit 166**

President	Judy Salo
Vice President	Open
Secretary	Sheri McDaniel
Treasurer	Debbie Ballew
Sgt. At Arms	Barb Tripp
Chaplain	Vicky Eley
Executive Board Members	Dorene Bettis
Janice Mc McGough and Erskileena Owe	ens

#### Sons of the American Legion Squadron 166

Commander	Greg Doody
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Curtis Woods
Treasurer	Gary Salo
Chaplain	Tony Doody
4	

#### **American Legion Riders**

Acting Riders Director	Greg Doody
Acting Assistant Director	Bob Ballew
Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Gary Salo
Sgt. At Arms	Open
Chaplain	Buzz Chainey
Historian	Tammy Chainey
Road Captain	Jerry Leuthauser

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### For the Latest Information

#### Check our Facebook page and Website

Facebook: American Legion Post 166 Homosassa, Florida Website: americanlegionpost166.com

October is Cancer Awareness Month - Help find a cure



Choice of One of Two Entrees: Spaghetti and Meatballs or Swedish Meatball in Onion Sauce Over Mashed Potatoes Salad & Garlic Bread Included in Both Meals Dinner FREE To All Members Who Paid Their 2022 Membership Dues Prior to October 1, 2021 All Others Just \$10.00 RSVP by 10/10/21

At the Canteen or Call (352)765-3949

Thauk You

To Butch Shinaberry – For donating a Big Screen TV Set

To **Joe Gustinis** – For donating a Big Screen TV Set, building/installing the new serving shelf and donating his 50/50 winnings to the Building Fund

To Bill Cloke - For the generous donations to the Events Fund

To Bill & Julie Rowe – For their donation of a Burn Barrel

To **All Our Members and Guests** – For the donations during August and September of 77 pounds of food and 302 pieces of clothing, as well as bedding, socks, and shoes made to Daystar Life Center to benefit families in need

#### Page 5

#### Welcome New Members (through 09/30/21)

Becky Badders, Legionnaire Martin Baker, SAL Patricia Baker, Auxiliary Russ Barton, Legionnaire Lana Barton, Auxiliary John Bass, Legionnaire Mary Bennet, Auxiliary Dick Bily, Legionnaire Dulcie Borgen, Legionnaire James Bzeker, Legionnaire Arthur Carnevale, Legionnaire Ronald Daigle, Legionnaire Frank Digennard, Legionnaire Barbara Dubose, Auxiliary William Dunn, Legionnaire Thomas Flannery, Legionnaire Eileen Flannery, Auxiliary Kenneth Frye, Legionnaire Terry Lynn George, Legionnaire Bonita Gonzalez, Auxiliary **David Griffiths** Ernest Guerra, Legionnaire Hope Guerra, Auxiliary Janice Habich, Auxiliary Tommy Halcomb, SAL Brigitte Hancock, Legionnaire Thomas Hartman, Legionnaire Lincoln Haynes, Legionnaire Marion Healy, Auxiliary Rita Helsell, Auxiliary Gerald Hill, Legionnaire Kimberly Horstman, Auxiliary Daniel Johnson, Legionnaire Alan Julian, Legionnaire David Kaczanowski, Legionnaire Gordon Kiedrowski, Legionnaire Lester Kline, Legionnaire Kenneth Koellkoffe, Legionnaire Kathy Koeppen, Auxiliary

Shirley Krupp, Auxiliary Debbie Lawrence, Auxiliary Marshall Lawrence, Legionnaire **Richard Leslie**, Legionnaire John Luehrsen, Legionnaire Jeanne MacBurnie, Auxiliary Steve Magnuson, Legionnaire Robert Mansel, Legionnaire Benjamin Mazza, Legionnaire Cornelia McCague, Legionnaire Stephen Miller, Legionnaire Jerome Mitchell, Legionnaire Barbara Mitchell, Auxiliary Dario Montero Jr, SAL Frank Omick, Legionnaire John Osborne, Legionnaire Gary Parker, Legionnaire Adam Pierce, Legionnaire Douglas Pope, Legionnaire Alfred Prevost Jr., Legionnaire David Rackett, Legionnaire Patricia Rackett, Auxiliary Gary Rand, Legionnaire Roberta Reddinger, Auxiliary Paul Ritle, SAL Richard Rockstad, Legionnaire Bill Rowe, Dual Member Julia Rowe, Auxiliary Sally Sauer, Auxiliary Dale Sax, Legionnaire Teresa Sedlar, Auxiliary Joel Stone, Legionnaire Benjamin Van Dam, Legionnaire Roger Van Dam, Legionnaire Jorge Velez, Legionnaire George Ward, Legionnaire Francis Wunder, Legionnaire Teresa Wunderlich, Auxiliary

#### EVENTS AT THE POST PHOTO ALBUM

#### Last Chance Band rockin the house!



**Rock N Roll Party** 



True Rock & Rollers – Winners of the Trivia Contest



Dave Hawkins

Kim Carey

Debbie Lawrence



## **Cheeseburgers in Paradise**









911 Remembrance – Never Forget!



Post 166 Members Donate Blood



#### **Membership Drive**





#### Air Force Birthday Celebration



**Our USAF Veterans Share their Memories** 



Jim Rowe

Gary Johnstone

Cindy Johnstone

Carol Phillips

Gary Rand







#### Key Lime Pie Day







## Karaoke with Buzzsaw Entertainment







# American Legion Post 166 – Homosassa FL October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month Consider donating to help put an end to Cancer forever!					1 6:30PM Queen of Hearts Drawing 50/50 Raffle	2 Sami's Run
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10AM ALR Mtg Bloody Mary Sunday Tailgate at the Post 3PM Oct Birthday	National Taco Day 4PM to 6PM Taco Salad in a bowl	10AM Post Eboard Mtg	Whacky Wednesday	Thirsty Thursday	6:30PM Queen of Hearts Drawing 50/50 Raffle	10AM General Membership Mtg 4PM Octoberfest with Kevin Dunn
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Bloody Mary Sunday Tailgate at the Post	Happy Monday	Tuesday Chose Day- Chose to be Happy	3PM to 6PM Navy's 246 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash	Thirsty Thursday	6:30PM Queen of Hearts Drawing 50/50 Raffle	4PM-7PM Early Bird Dinner at the Post
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Bloody Mary Sunday Tailgate at the Post	10:30AM ALA Młg*	Tuesday Chose Day- Chose to smile	Hunter's Moon	Thirsty Thursday	6:30PM Queen of Hearts Drawing 50/50 Raffle	Enjoy your weekend
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Bloody Mary Sunday Tailgate at the Post	Happy Monday	6PM to 8:30PM Karaoke with Buzz Day of the Deployed World Series Begins	National American Beer Day	Thirsty Thursday	6:30PM Queen of Hearts Drawing 50/50 Raffle	Have a Joyful Saturday
31						
Halloween – Trick or Treat at the Post Bloody Mary Sunday						
Tailgate at the Post						

ALA Members please note that the ALA Meeting has been rescheduled this month to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday – October 18. The time will remain the same at 10:30AM.

#### **Coming Events**

November 11 – Veterans Day November 20 – Hams n Hogs Ride December 12 – Ugly Sweater Christmas Party

#### Veterans Day Details

9AM to 5PM Blood Mobile 1:30PM Veterans Brunch 4PM to 6PM Veterans Dinner Veteran Care Packages

#### Remember Everyone Deployed (R.E.D) Shirt Friday Wear a Red Shirt, Purchase your first drink Receive your second same drink FREE

# Third Annual Hams & Hogs Saturday, November 20, 2021



# Trikes, Bikes, Roadsters, Street Rods, Trucks and Automobiles

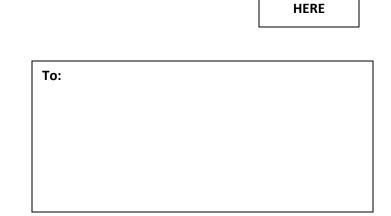
- Entry Fee: One ham, (canned or smoked) or \$20.00 donation for a Veteran's holiday meal.
- Registration: 10AM at Post 166 Breakfast Included
- Kick Stand UP/Start Your Engine: 11AM
- Stops:

American Legion 155 6585 W Gulf to Lake Hwy, Crystal River Skipper's Whiskey River 3451 E Louise Ln, Hernando, American Legion 237 6726 N Lecanto Hwy, Beverly Hills IRRU Social Club 922 US Hwy 41 S, Inverness Eagles Club 5340 W Grover Cleveland Blvd, Homosassa

 Ride ends at Post 166 with Raffle Drawings, Game Winners Announced, & Pulled Pork Dinner

**Charity Event for Veterans Coalition Food Bank** 

AMERICAN LEGION **POST 166** P. O. BOX 767 Homosassa FL 34446 Published Monthly THE PHOENIX The Voice of American Legion Post 166, Inc. **Published Monthly** Published by the American Legion Post 166 Opinions expressed herein are the opinions of the individual authors and not necessarily the opinions of the American Legion Post 166, Inc., The American Legion of Florida, or the American Legion National Organization



PLACE

POSTAGE



# The American Legion Family