

## **GATOR EXPRESS**

American Legion Post 166  
116 Howe Hall Road/P.O. Box 147  
Goose Creek, SC 29445  
843-553-5454  
www.alp166sc.com

### **2025-2026 OFFICERS**

Commander– Jim Rowan; 1st Vice Commander- Janet Rein; 2nd Vice Commander: Dave Coates; Finance Officer: Lee Swerczek; Post Service Officer - Janise Jensen; Chaplain - Bill Streuber; Judge Advocate - Richard Trowbridge; Sergeant-at-Arms - Robert Mero; Historian– Mike Thomas; Adjutant - Rick Bernard

# **MAY 2026**

## **\*POST COMMANDER COMMENTS\***

Every month when I sit down to write newsletter comments, I try to make positive remarks. This month I have so many I don't know where to start.

If you haven't noticed, in the foyer there is a framed proclamation from the South Carolina legislature praising American Legion Post 166 for our community service (The Four Pillars) and our accomplishments over the years. Thank you to Mike Thomas and Lee Swerczek.

Also, the Manager, Lori Farrow made a special effort to set up a "Sock Hop" aimed at the age group of most of the members fall into. The band played all the hits from mostly the 60s'. Even if you didn't want to show off your dancing skills or lack there of, you would have enjoyed the music from your era.

You may have heard me remark that we need volunteers to make our Post better and more welcoming for everyone. The more members of the Legion family who get involved the better. This includes other groups involved with the Post.

Thank you to Bobby Horne for volunteering to keep the Post well landscaped. If noticed, the grounds look great. He has also volunteered to take care of maintenance items too.

So it seems to me that things are getting better at the Post, your Post officers are trying their best. If you have suggestions or questions, ask, volunteer, participate, it's your Post too! Thank you everyone!

Jim Rowan, Post Commander

### **>> POST 166 LEGION RENEWALS <<**

**\*\* POST 166's RENEWAL RATE is over 93% \*\***

The recruitment of NEW members, and DMS transfer have upped our numbers. The Post encourages members to RECRUIT, RECRUIT & RECRUIT by wearing Legion hats, shirts, etc. and inform fellow veterans what we are about. If you recruit three (3) new members you will receive a "BE THE ONE" pin for your effort and a tremendous THANKS....

American Legion (107 years), is the veteran organization that fights for our rights as to education, GI Bill or other, Health Benefits, VA claims, vocational rehab, and disability - and goes to Congress for legislation to protect us - THE VETERAN !

### **THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT !**

You can renew by cash, check, money order, bank check, and on-line at [Mylegion.org/](http://Mylegion.org/) Contact me if you have any questions or concerns at the Post, or call (843) 553-5454.

Regards -

Janet Rein, 1st Vice Commander



## **\*AUXILIARY REPORT\***

May brings Poppy Month for Auxiliary members.

April was a busy month for our Unit. We had a successful Potluck Dinner and want to thank everyone for coming out to support our fundraising. All the dishes were amazing and memorable. We held an Initiation and reception for new members.

May has several opportunities to remember and honor our Veteran community. You can volunteer to distribute Poppies, place flags on Veterans Graves, and attend the Memorial Day ceremony at our Post.

In membership our unit has reached 93% of our goal for 2026. We are only 9 renewals or new members away from our goal for 2026. If you have not paid your 2026 dues or want to transfer or reinstate your membership, get in touch with Louise Dixon.

Please take a moment to welcome our newest members to ALA Unit 166 Cherie Allegood, and Tina Smith. We look forward to working with both of you.

Important dates for **May** are:

4th – Unit Meeting at 7:00 pm Second round nominations, Election of officers & Installation

15th -16th – Department of SC Spring Convention in Columbia

22nd – National Poppy Day

23rd – Flags placed on veteran's graves at Carolina Memorial Gardens

25th – Memorial Day program at the Post

Save the date for our **June 1st** meeting at 7:00 pm. See you there!

For God and Country,

Louise Dixon, President and Membership Chairman

adixon6173@att.net

(843) 343-1483



## **\*HALL RENTAL\***

**For Hall Rental information contact:**

**Lori Farrow: Club Manager at 843-343-0681.**



## Legion Riders - "Leading the Way, Bringing Energy & Enthusiasm to the Post!"

To my fellow Legionnaires,

May is the month where all the entities of the American Legion elect officers to represent the Post and support the mission of the American Legion "For God and Country!" Embrace the process and support the officers "Elected" by the Legion family.

**Change** is the process of transitioning from a current state to a new, desired future state. While **Resistance** is an "Emotional, Behavioral" **pushback** opposition to individuals or organizations that exhibit against the change. "*We've always done it that way!*" – signals resistance to change, comfort in existing habits, making old habits obsolete. Challenge with curiosity rather than criticism. Be part of the future state, do not always live in the past. Let us **ALL** grow together!!

### This month in Military Motorcycle's Dynamic History.

World War II brought the military motorcycle to its prime. No longer confined primarily to dispatch duties, these machines became versatile tools for a myriad of tasks:

- **Reconnaissance:** Agile and quiet, motorcycles were perfect for scouting ahead of main forces, gathering intelligence, and identifying enemy positions without drawing undue attention. Their ability to quickly traverse varied terrain made them invaluable for probing defenses and reporting back.
- **Military Police (MP) Duties:** From traffic control on busy supply routes to escorting convoys and high-ranking officers, MPs on motorcycles were a common sight, maintaining order and facilitating movement.
- **Rapid Deployment:** Small units could be quickly moved to hot spots, flanking enemy positions, or securing key objectives before heavier vehicles could arrive.
- **Anti-Tank Roles:** Some motorcycles, particularly those with sidecars, were even adapted to carry light machine guns or anti-tank weapons, adding a surprising punch to their arsenal.

Iconic models emerged from this conflict, forever etched in the annals of military history. The Harley-Davidson WLA, affectionately known as the "Liberator," became synonymous with American forces, seeing service across every theater of war.

As Motorcycle Riders we have a unique means of showing you our support with the "Roar" of our engines, and the "Sound of Freedom!" With the wind in our face riding our Steel Ponies.

1. On Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 6-9pm. The Post will be hosting a "Bike Night," and the theme of the event will be "Wear your favorite sports team attire." There will be parking changes for this event, due to the motorcycles and the Riders "Safety." Come out and see the bike show, support the Post, and hear the roar of the "Steel Ponies."
2. We look forward to another blessed year at the Post and providing support wherever we can. Our next meeting is on Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 0930. The meeting is "**OPEN**" to the public, come join us & forge new memories.

### SHOW UP, SHOW OUT AND REAP THE REWARDS OF PARTICIPATING!

Post 166 Riders will continue to serve and support our members, veterans, and the community. We ride during the month attending and supporting various events throughout the state. Last year we rode over 60K miles. We will see you on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month for breakfast or at our Monthly meetings.

Brad Levander  
Director, ALR Chapter 166



**POST OFFICER 2026 –2027  
NOMINATIONS**

The following Legionnaires have been nominated for officer for 2026 – 2027.

Post Commander: Jim Rowan,

1st Vice Commander: Janet Rein and Doug Meadows

2nd Vice Commander: David Coates,

Finance Officer: Lee Swerczek

Post Service Officer: Janise Jensen

Chaplain: Bill Streuber,

Judge Advocate: Richard Trowbridge

Sergeant at Arms: Robert Mero,

Historian: Mike Thomas



Election of officers will be conducted at this month's General membership Meeting, Wednesday May 20th, 1900, (7PM) along with the selection of the fifteen (15) Executive Committee. All Legionnaires are encourage to participate.

**\* INSTALLATION / AWARDS BANQUET\***

The Post will be having a **Awards Banquet** for Legion Year 2026 –2027 Legion, Auxiliary, Riders and SAL Officers on **Saturday June 6th**. Social hour will begin at **5PM**, program at **6PM** and dinner around **7PM**. Socializing is encouraged after the dinner. All are encouraged to come and enjoy the evening and support those who will be honored. All Legion Family Members are encouraged to attend this evening of fun and festivities.

Thank You,

Rick Bernard, Post Adjutant



**\*40 & 8 REPORT\***

This month's promenade will be held on May 26th. It will be second round of nominations and elections. Make sure you have a 2026 card and come out and make your voice heard. Installation will be in June.

Membership is still not where it should be, so; if you know any of the delinquent ones, It's a Golden time to contact them and encourage renewal as soon as possible.

The Gator Wreck is May 1- 3. Make sure your registration is in, then come out and support your Voiture.

Grande Promenade is scheduled for July. I will update as more info becomes available.

I would still like to see more participation in our Voiture activities in the coming year. This is your Voiture, Help make it all it can be.



Brian (Bat) Masterson, Chef de Gare



**\*BLOOD DRIVE\***  
**TUESDAY MAY 11th**  
**12-4PM**



**\*OVERFLOW\***

**\*PARKING\***

IS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE  
MAGISTRATE COURT  
PARKING LOT  
BEHIND THE POST  
>ENTER POST<  
PROPERTY  
THROUGH THE GATE  
IN THE FENCE

**\*DON'T PARK IN RESERVED SPOT\***



**\*ATTENTION\***

Executive Committee  
Meeting will be held at  
7PM.

**\*Tues. May 12th\***

General Membership MTG  
7PM

**\*Wed. May 20th\***

**\*ELECTIONS\***

**\*VOTING 10AM TO 7:30PM**

Please plan accordingly.

Rick Bernard  
Adjutant

## **\*DOG TAGS\***

The Post is asking for the names of relatives or friend who paid the ultimate sacrifice in combat so we can have dog tags made to be hung on our Solider Cross on Memorial Day, Monday May 25th. If you would like to honor a friend or relative please contact me at (843)553-5454 or e-mail at adjutant@post166sc@outlook.com with the name, rank, branch of service and conflict in which they gave their all.

Rick Bernard, Adjutant



[www.patriotguard.org](http://www.patriotguard.org)

South Carolina Patriot Guard Riders  
Charlie "Doorman" Ford  
Ride Captain

(C) 843-530-0998

[rrcharlief@aol.com](mailto:rrcharlief@aol.com)

We Are Here to Honor Your Fallen Veterans.

***\*THIS IS A FREE SERVICE\****

Just Use Web Site For Our Services Or To Join  
Thank You

## **SHOW YOUR PRIDE\***

WEAR A POST SHIRT/HAT  
ORDER FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE  
CALENDAR BOX ON THE CLUB SIDE.  
ALL ORDERS ARE PRE-PAID.



**MAY 22nd  
NATIONAL POPPY  
DAY**

**\*9-11 2026\*  
SUNDAY MAY 3rd  
9-11**

**\*COMMITTEE MEETING\*  
2:30PM**

**Don Pace  
Americanism Chairman**

**\*FACE  
BOOK\***

**The new  
page is  
simply  
entitled  
"American  
Legion  
Post 166**

**\*POST SERVICE OFFICER\***

Let us not forget to help our homeless veterans at Patriot Villas. Patriot Villas is a facility that houses our homeless veterans. They are asking for:

Laundry pod, sponges, dish soap, instant coffee regular, sugar, creamer, toilet paper, grits, Oatmeal, Ketchup, Mayo & Mustard, salt & pepper, spam / Vienna Sausages, canned Chicken / Tuna, Fruit Cups /Canned Fruit, Popcorn / Crackers, Pork n Beans, complete Hormel Dinners, Corned Beef Hash, canned lima Beans, peas , corn, green beans, Shelf Milk, Juice, canned soda,

We have a drop tub at the entrance to the post where you can bring your donations.

Also, if you or someone you know needs help filing for a claim, I am in the office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Janise Jensen  
Post Service Officer, 843-553-5454



# American Legion Riders Post 166

Invites Everyone to Attend  
Our Spaghetti Dinner  
(includes Dessert & Tea)



When: May 14, 2026

Where: American Legion Post 166  
116 Howe Hall Road  
Goose Creek, SC

Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
Cost: \$8.00



All Proceeds Help Support Our Veteran Programs

**\*KENTUCKY\***

**\*DERBY\***

**SAT. MAY 2nd 3PM**

**\*SNACKS\***

**\*DRINKS SPECIALS\***

**\*WEAR YOUR\***

**\*DERBY HAT\***



## **\*SAL SQUADRON 166 NEWS\***

**A message from the Commander:**

**At our April meeting, elections were held for all positions. I would like to congratulate the newly elected officers. Commander Jason van Heumen, First vice, Commander Steve Lowe, 2nd Vice Commander Gerhard Valbert, Finance officer Clyde Chandler Historian J P Sgt at arms Lou Raucci Chaplin David Kliborne, Adjutant Pat McClusky. I'm excited and looking forward to another great year for Squad 166. It is my privilege to the serve as Commander for another term. The annual SAL Fish Fry will be held June 20, 2026. Please save the date. We can't wait to see you! If interested in our gun rifle, please speak to Jimmy Brown or RT.**

**For God and Country**

**Jason van Heumen**

**Commander Squad 166**





## Chaplain's Report Bill Streuber

April 2026

### I. Sickness and Distress

- † During the month of April, I sent out a couple of get-well cards.
- † If you know of any members who are in sickness or distress, please notify me at (843)469-8154 or email me at westreuber@homesc.com.

### II. Prayers

- † If you would like me to pray for you or family members, please text me or email me and I will include them in my devotional time.

### III. Spiritual Health

- † If anyone is interested in any special programs that I can develop to assist with spiritual growth, please let me know. I would be very happy to do this.

### IV. Events

- † The Post will put flags on the graves of our fallen brothers and sisters on Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Plan to say a prayer before we begin putting out flags.
- † Memorial Day Service at the Post on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

### V. Veterans Administration Voluntary Service (V.A.V.S.)

- † We cooked a dinner meal at the Fisher House on Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - Will plan another meal this quarter.
- † V.A.V.S. Quarterly Meeting
  - Attended March 23 at 13:00 by WebEx.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bill Streuber*

Post 166 Chaplain

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### FLAG DROP BOX

There is a flag drop off box located in front of the Post. This box is designated for old worn out flags that need to be disposed of. If you have such a flag at home or at your business, you may come by anytime and drop it off in the Flag Retirement Box or bring it inside and we'll make sure it is properly disposed in a proper manner.

Jim Rowan, Post Commander



**\*LOTS OF ACTIVITIES\***  
**\*THIS MONTH\***  
**\*COME JOIN THE FUN\***



## **\*MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES\***

Each year this American Legion Post place American Flags on the graves of Veterans buried in Carolina Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home on Rivers Avenue, N. Charleston. As in the past this Post normally has an outstanding participation for this event, we hope this tradition continues, as there are in excess of 3,000 to be placed. It is for this reason that your help is requested and will be greatly appreciated.

Flags will be distributed to volunteers beginning at 0800 at the Garden of Valor Section in Carolina Memorial Gardens on Saturday May 23rd 2026.

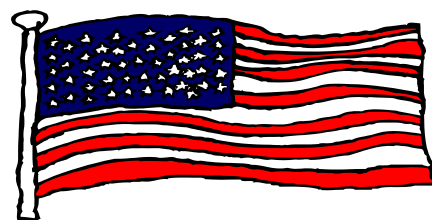
The Memorial Day Program is scheduled to commence at 11:00 on Memorial Day, Monday 25 May 2026 at the American Legion Post 166, Goose Creek. The program will include Post Honor Guard, guest speaker and wreath laying followed by a light refreshment buffet provided by the Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit 166.

Hope to see a good turnout for both events.

Remember the reason for Memorial Day

Thank you

Don Pace  
Americanism  
Chairman



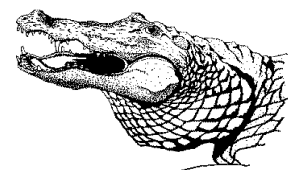
## **\* WELCOME NEW MEMBERS\***

Welcome to our new members: Chris Tolbert, Sarah Ihme, Robert I. McNeish, Jonathan D. TorresDelgado, Ronald Rock, Debra Finck, Roy Lee Lupo, Benjamin I. Griffin, Dennis Thompson, Brian Johnson, Joe McLenigan, Luther Williams Jr, Deborah Sharrow

Janet Rein, 1st Vice Cmdr.  
Membership Chairman



**ALP166SC.COM**  
**IS OUR**  
**\*WEBSITE\***



## **\*TIN CAN SAILORS\***

Shipmates,

I am extremely proud of everyone who helped prepare and execute the BBQ. We sold out in record time and still had people coming. The fundraiser netted us roughly \$1580 in profits.

We have selected Texas Roadhouse as the location for our upcoming Wives' Dinner. We will reach out once a time/date has been selected, it will likely be a luncheon. Wife/Date meals will be paid for by the unit, members cover their own meals. In an effort to increase our donations, I am looking into alternative forms of fundraising. Let me know if you have any input.

We have many members who are going through difficulties whether it be physical or mental troubles, life transitions, moving out of the area. We are here for YOU! If you need help or assistance or know someone who does feel free to reach out to myself, XO Russ Nichols, or the rest of TCS. South Carolina is in a severe drought and the weather is getting warmer, be sure to hydrate and take care of yourselves.

Very Respectfully,

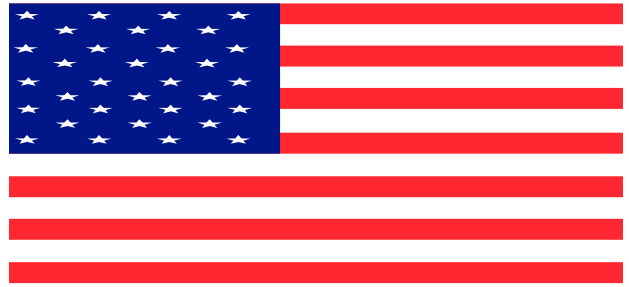
Richard Powell, Skipper

**PLEASE DONATE TO THE POST BY  
SHARING THIS LINK WITH FRIENDS  
AND FAMILY**

[HTTPS://WWW.PAYPAL.COM/DONATE/?HOSTED\\_BUTTON\\_ID=R876A3VN2U2D8](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=R876A3VN2U2D8)

**THANK YOU**

JIM ROWAN, POST COMMANDER



**\*BIKE NIGHT\***

**THURSDAY**

**MAY 21st**

**6-9PM**

**\*BIKE SHOW\***

**FOOD/FUN**



**COME DINE**

**WITH US**

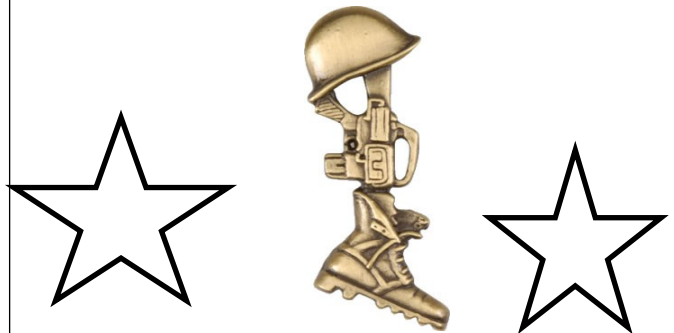
**\*GOOD FOOD\***

**\*GREAT TIMES\***

## **\*DOG TAGS\***

The Post is asking for the names of relatives or friend who paid the ultimate sacrifice in combat so we can have dog tags made to be hung on our Solider Cross on Memorial Day, Monday May 25th. If you would like to honor a friend or relative please contact me at (843)553-5454 or e-mail at [adjutantpost166sc@outlook.com](mailto:adjutantpost166sc@outlook.com) with the name, rank, branch of service and conflict in which they gave their all.

Rick Bernard, Adjutant



## **\*FREE BIRTHDAY MEAL\***

This is a special invitation to all members of the Legion Family. On your birthday, if we are serving food, (6 days a week), your meal is free. Just show your waitress your current membership card and ID card when ordering.

A special birthday present from the Post.



## \*HONOR GUARD\*

Hello Legion family,

I want to thank everyone for their support and encouragement during the latest command transition of the Honor Guard. Our first mission was to complete our presentation of Colors at the March race in Darlington and after 2 years of planning, I think it went very well and could not have been done without the dedicated team that made it happen.

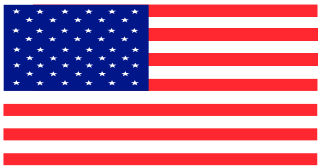
Our next and most important mission is membership, and we have a plan for that as well. If anyone would like to join us or know someone who would, please call me at :843-805-2666.

For the Guard,  
Lewis Harper, Captain.



## \*\*POST 166 HONOR GUARD\*\*

\*\*NEEDS YOU\*\*



## \*CABANE 1067\*

Hope everyone's Easter was joyous and all the eggs were found. Happy Spring.

Gator wreck is upon us on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Dames are encouraged to participate wherever possible. I know it's always been a success in the past. Let's make this one the same.

We have final nominations and elections at our next rendezvous on the fourth Tuesday.

La Presidente

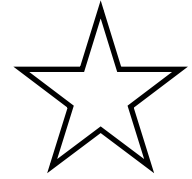
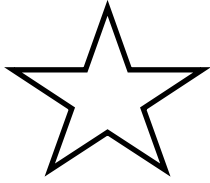
Terri Masterson



**\*VETERANS & ACTIVE DUTY\***

**\*MILITARY\***

**“ALL WELCOME”**



**\*BE THE ONE\***

**LEGIONNAIRES; RECRUIT \*3\* NEW MEMBERS,**

**GET A \*BE THE ONE PIN\***

**JANET REIN, 1st VICE. CMDR.**

**\*ATTENTION\***

**THE AUXILIARY ASKS YOU TO PLEASE BRING COUPONS TO SUPPORT MILITARY FAMILIES OVERSEAS**

**\*BOX IS IN THE BAR\***

**WANTED\***

**ALUMINUM CANS ; PLEASE BRING YOUR EMPTY ALUMINUM CANS ONLY TO THE POST FOR RECYCLING. THEY SUPPORT OUR JROTC PROGRAM.**

**\*BLESSING BOX\***

A Blessing Box has been set up in front of the Post next to the Flag Retirement Box. This box is for anyone who would like to donate nonperishable items for those in need in the local community. Items can be put in the box anytime. Let us show the community the American Legion Post 166 really does care.

Jim Rowan,  
Post Commander



HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT  
OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AT:  
AMERICANLEGIONPOST166  
GOOD INFO TO BE HAD.



Over forty years experience

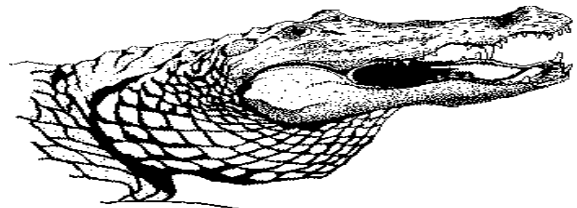
**MICHAEL HODGE**  
Licensed Master Plumber

22 Belmar Ave  
Goose Creek, SC 29445

Residential & Commercial  
Service, Repairs & Installations

843.412.9661

Hodgeplbg@aol.com



# AMERICAN LEGION POST 166 MEMORIAL BRICK SALE!



**BUY ONE,  
GET ONE FREE!**

**BOGO  
OFFER!**



*Honor Your Loved Ones or Your Own Service!*

**ONLY CHANCE THIS YEAR! ★**

## **BOGO SALE**

**TWO 4" x 8" BRICKS FOR \$100**

— SALE RUNS: MAY 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 – JULY 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 —

To Order: <https://polarengraving.com/alp166sc>

IN MEMORY OF  
JOHN SMITH  
U.S. ARMY



MARY & ROBERT DAVIS  
★ ★ ★  
FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

★ AMERICAN LEGION POST 166 • 116 HOWE HALL ROAD, GOOSE CREEK ★ ★ ★



**\*CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR ASSITANCE\***

**\*843-553-5454\***

