

GATOR EXPRESS

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

2023-2024 OFFICERS

Commander- Lee Swerczek; 1st Vice Commander- Janet Rein,
2nd Vice Commander - Keith Woodward, Finance Officer—Joe
McGrorty, Post Service Officer: David George, Chaplain - Bill
Streuber ; Judge Advocate - Derrel Morgan; Sergeant-at-Arms -
Robert Mero; Historian— Mike Thomas; Adjutant - Rick
Bernard

MAY 2024

POST COMMANDER COMMENTS

As we enter the Month of May I want to take a moment and look back at all we have accomplished over this past year. Last May I accepted the responsibility of being the Commander, my predecessor, Orval Mills had made great strides during his tenure to right the ship and set a course for success. We had come out of 3 very difficult years for the Post and last year was the first stable year we had in several years. This past year we have made great strides to become more visible in the community and do more within the confines of our building for our membership and community.

The building equipment was starting to show its age, we successfully replaced 4 major appliances and repaired the walk in. Most all of you know this was made possible by the fund raiser we have going on with the bricks for the patio. The funds raised by that fundraiser has helped us have the most solvent year in a decade. Please continue to promote and support brick sales, if every member of the Legion bought just one brick, we would raise over \$8000 for the post. If you have been to the post in the last week or two you will notice a brand new 8-foot privacy fence around the back area. There is more work to be done to replace the equipment and structural items of the 20th century in our building, the 2 fire exit doors need to be updated to building code, as soon as we have a comfortable amount of savings, I will petition the executive committee to consider replacing those doors.

As some of you have heard we are currently taking donations for the mural that is being created by the AIMS elementary school students. If you would like to donate to this, please contact the Post. Additionally, we only have 3 weeks left of the Rifle Raffle, \$10 of every ticket goes to the post, please consider purchasing one.

Maintaining the building, equipment and ensuring we are supporting the 4 pillars of the American Legion is not an inexpensive venture. We are making ends meet and providing amazing support to our community, children, and Veterans. With your help we can continue to make Post 166 the best American Legion in South Carolina. I look forward to building on the success we had in 2023/2024 and working with each of you to provide a quality of life for our Veterans, Children and Community that is 2nd to none.

Lee Swerczek
Post Commander



MEMBERSHIP

**** RENEWAL RATE FOR POST 166 is 100 % - HOORAY ! ****

This achieved rate is overwhelming and we have garnered our projected goal ! THANK YOU'All SO MUCH who have renewed :)

The American Legion is here to assist our Veterans needs, and their families.

MEMBERSHIP IS OUR LIFEBLOOD

The continued effort to recruit others is still ongoing, and by recruiting three new members you will receive a "BE THE ONE" pin, and a \$15.00 certificate to use in the Post canteen.

There are three ways to renew: 1) stop by the Post 166 office to renew with cash, check, or bank check, ; 2) pay on-line at my.legon.com;
3) mail your renewal to the Post.

I sincerely appreciate your effort in making POST 166 a vibrant community involved unit - let's keep this on-going.

Janet Rein
1st Vice Commander



AUXILIARY REPORT

Welcome to Poppy Month

I am going to start off with thanking those that helped with the setup, food prep and clean up for Don and Carol Pace's 50th Wedding Anniversary. Also thank you to Post 166 for their help in making their special day one to remember. Many wishes for many more years to come Don and Carol.

Next a big thank you to those that provided help with set up, the wonderful food and clean up for our Potluck Dinner which was a BIG success! Thank you to everyone who came out and supported us because without your support we could not do the things we do for Post 166, our Veterans, military and military families which is our Mission!

May is Poppy Month with May 24th being National Poppy Day so you will see us around distributing poppies and seeking your donations. Please support us by donating what and where you can. We are doing our Flanders Field again and will have it set up at the Post by the time you receive your May newsletter! We will also have Poppy canisters set out so please drop your extra change in! Every donation helps! We are also raffling off a poppy blanket for \$5 per ticket and will have it on display at the Post with tickets for your convenience during the month. We have several different Poppy pins available for a small donation also. See me if interested.

May is our second round of nominations and voting for the 2024-2025 officers and encourage all Auxiliary members in good standing to be at our May 6th meeting at 7pm to vote. Please make sure to have your 2024 membership card with you to be able to vote.

We are oh so close to 100% membership and encourage those who have not sent in your renewal to PLEASE do so as soon as possible. We would love to make 100% again this year and we can with everyone sending in their renewal!

Please check on our Veterans, any military and military families along with your friends and neighbors that may be needing help. Pray for those that are sick, homebound or may have lost a loved one. If you know of anyone in distress, please take the time to listen and guide them get the help they need. BE THE ONE!

Our next meeting will be June 3rd at 7pm.

For Service Not Self

Gloria Evans-Hill, President



ALA Unit 166 Membership and Palmetto Girls State info for the May 2024 Post Newsletter

Welcome our newest members, Wendy Clevenger, Jennifer Nsheiwat, and Tammy Rabgobin to Unit 166. We now have 166 members for 2024. We are very close to 100% membership!

Unit 166 is sending 12 delegates to ALA Palmetto Girls State in June. Thank you to all who participate in Auxiliary events to raise the funds to be able to pay the full tuition for each delegate.

Poppy Quilt Raffle. Tickets for our handmade quilt are \$5.00 each. The drawing for the quilt will be held on May 26th. Tickets are available from any Auxiliary member. See the flyer for pictures and more information.

Louise Dixon, Vice President and Membership Chairman

ATTENTION



BLUE PLATE DINNER SPECIALS

LAST PAGE OF NEWSLETTER



SAL Squadron 166 NEWS

A message from the Commander:

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of squad 166. I would like to thank the SAL for their continued support. I will continue to represent squad 166 as commander, and look forward to the year ahead of us.

In June the SAL be selling raffle tickets for a very special Fourth of July package. Please see Ronald Todd for details and tickets starting in June.

Also, in June is the annual SAL fish fry. We look forward to seeing everyone again. Please make plans to attend.

Summer is always a busy time of year. Please volunteer when you can, remember, it's the members that make the post group.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
JASON VAN HEUMEN
COMMANDER
SAL SQUAD 166



TAPS

It is my duty to report with great sadness that Legionnaire:

E. CORPREW REED

Has reported to the Supreme Commander.

The Legion family greatly grieves the loss of this Comrade.

May Almighty God give his family comfort and strength during this period of need.

The Legion family sends their love and support during this time of grief.

Lee Swerczek

Post Commander



www.patriotguard.org

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

(C) 843-530-0998

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
CALENDER BOX ON THE CLUB SIDE.
ALL ORDERS ARE PRE-PAID.

COMMERATIVE BRICKS
AVAILABLE
FOR PURCHASE

CONTACT OFFICE AT:

843-553-5454 FOR INFO / PURCHASE



POST SERVICE OFFICER

Did you Know???

As of January 2000, every eligible veteran receives a military honors funeral ceremony.

VA burial benefits include:

A gravesite in any of our national cemeteries with available space

Opening and closing of the grave

A burial liner provided by the government

A headstone or marker

Perpetual care of the grave site

Just let your funeral director know you want to request a military honors funeral

Acting Post Service Officer

Janise Jensen

843-553-5454



National Poppy Day May 24,2024

The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms.

This year the American Legion Auxiliary Goose Creek Unit 166 is creating a Flanders Field using artificial red poppies. The poppies can be purchased from Unit 166 for a donation of \$5.00 or more. The donation will include a poppy with a tag reading "In Memory Of" and their Veteran's name. The Poppy will be placed in our Goose Creek "Flanders Field" at the American Legion Post 166 beginning May 1st, where they will remain until May 27th, Memorial Day. On May 28th the flowers may be collected to take home, or donated back to the project for next year. Proceeds from the poppy project will fund programs for veterans.

The form below can be detached and left at the American Legion Post 166 Canteen or mailed to ALA Unit 166 , P.O. Box 147, Goose Creek, SC 29445 with your donation.

Please make checks payable to "American Legion Auxiliary Unit 166"

Amount of Donation: \$ _____ Check _____ Cash _____

Donor Name: _____

Donor Address: _____

Phone No. _____ email _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

Branch of Military: _____

2022 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 166 Poppy Project

P.O. Box 147, Goose Creek, SC 29445

"No Veteran Left Behind"

CONGRATULATIONS

The following Legionnaire have achieved membership milestones for the 2024 membership year.

20 YEARS

THOMAS E. JENNINGS

NATHAN J. HODGES Jr

Your support of the Post is most appreciated by all of us.

Lee A. Swerczek, Post Commander



***WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ***

Welcome to our new members: Richard E. Hippey Don Majewski, Richard and Vickie Trowbridge, Troy W. Deason, Vincent Peele, Michah C. Provoe Arron Miller and Ricky Gregg.

Attending the General Membership Meeting, 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7PM is a great way to get introduced to your Post.

Janet Rein, 1st Vice Cmdr.
Membership Chairman



**American Legion Riders
Post 166**

**Invites You To Attend Our
Spaghetti Dinner**



When: May 16, 2024

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

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

Help Support Our Veteran Programs



KIA TRIBUTE TACK PINS

ARE NOW ON SALE FOR \$7.00

SEE BARTENDER FOR PURCHASE

HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN



“MAY”
IS
“POPPY
MONTH”
AUXILIARY
UNIT 166
HAS POPPY
PINS
2 FOR \$5.00
DONATION



OLD NAVY

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST
 HARD BOILED EGGS, CORN BEEF HASH, MINCED BEEF
 OR CHIPPED BEEF ON TOAST, BAKED BEANS

SAT. MAY 18th 08:00 – 10:00

COST IS ONLY \$8.00

TIME TO SWAP SEA STORIES & OTHER LIES

-SORRY-

NO PERSONNEL OR SEABAG INSPECTIONS
SO ALL YOU SHIPMATES

&

WANNA BE SHIPMATES

FREE TO ALL CURRENT TCS MEMBERS

COME ENJOY SOME TERRIFIC CHOW WITH US



LEGION RIDERS

1. Warm weather is finally here, beware of motorcycles on the road.
2. ALR Chapter 166 will host the Picking at the Post on May 2nd at 6:00 PM with our so popular Chilly Dogs, come and enjoy.
3. On May 3rd our Chapter will conduct an escort and transfer of two unclaimed Veteran remains from the Charleston Coroner's Office to a location in Blackville, SC. This a joint mission with ALR Chapter 6, Columbia SC who will escort them to their final resting place.
4. On May 4th ALR Chapter 166 is volunteering to conduct clean up and maintenance of Shepperds Grove Cemetery in Cottageville, SC.
5. On May 11th our Chapter will conduct our monthly meeting at 12:00 noon at the post and the last round of Officers nominations and voting
6. On May 16th ALR Chapter 166 will have our famous Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser at the post, come join us for a delicious meal and camaraderie.
7. On May 18th ALR Chapter 166 Officers will attend the ALRSC Summer Convention in Columbia, SC

H. Devarie, Jr. ALR Chapter 166
 Director 843-377-6899



****POST 166 HONOR GUARD****

The ranks of our Honor Guard have been reduced substantially since this time last year. One member recently passed away and 3 others are sidelined on a long-term basis by various physical ailments. Perhaps we are aging out to a degree. The other members have stepped forward and worked hard to meet our commitments but we are becoming stretched and in need of new members.

You are invited to join us. We are an Honor Guard, not a drill team. Our manual of arms is basic and easy to learn. We outfit & train you. All we ask in return is some of your time and a positive attitude.

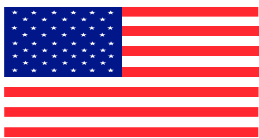
You will get far more out of the experience than you can imagine. If you are retired and are looking for something meaningful, we may be just what you are seeking. We are Veterans working together to honor other Veterans. With a Post membership of about 1,100, we hope this invitation will attract another 5 to 10 members, male and female, to participate.

Post 166 Honor Guard is one of very few such units across the state and it has been recognized for our work several times. We have supported the Post and our Veterans for many years. Today, we are asking for your support. For more information, contact me at 843-789-3597 or via e-mail at Thomdav2@att.net.

For the Guard,
Mike Thomas



****HONOR GUARD NEEDS YOU****



“THANK YOU”

Carol and myself would like to thank all who came out to 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration on April 7th.

It was a great turn out and we hope all enjoyed. We especially want to say thank you to Commander Lee and President Gloria for the refreshments provided by both the Legion and Auxiliary Unit, also to Bat Masterson for the music as well as Lori for ensuring the bar was well stocked and attended.

Once again thanks to all who attended and a “Special Thanks” to all who brought gifts. Hope to see y’all in April 2074.

Don and Carol Pace

Post 166 Chaplain's Report

V.A.V.S. Report

1. Ralph H. Johnson VAMC

- * Masks are relaxed, but still required where/ when appropriate.

2. Specialty Clinics

- * Masks are relaxed, but still required to be worn when /where appropriate.
- * Goose Creek Clinic
 - Normal operation (nothing to report)

3. Volunteer Service

- * New volunteers are being accepted.
 - COVID-19 Vaccinations are no longer being required: however, you must sign the Memo Wavier for VAMC Liability, and be on file. (See Bill Streuber for Waiver)
 - Must get Flu Vaccine every year.
- * V.A.V.S. Quarterly Meeting - Monday, March 25 at 13:00 WebEx*

4. Volunteer Report

- * April's Volunteer Activity - North Charleston Clinic no visit scheduled*

* May's Activity

- Nothing scheduled at this time.
- Chaplain will be working on visiting veterans at local Assisted Living Centers.
- More information to be provided.

* Activity Report

- Visiting Report

<u>Volunteers</u>	<u>Veterans</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Donations</u>
13	363	60	874.2	\$273.17

- Volunteer Service Report

<u>Volunteers</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Services Rendered</u>
1	249	2,590	Reminder Phone Calls

Chaplain's Report

1. Sickness and Distress

- * If you are in need of the Post Chaplain please contact Bill Streuber at (843)469-8154 or westreuber@homesc.com.

2. Cards Mailed Out

- * Sympathy: None
- * Get Well: 4 (Frank Riddle; Paul Shilling; William Simpson; William Simpson)
- * Thinking of You: None

3. Memorial Services

- * Nothing to report.

4. Chaplain's Administration

- *Nothing to report

William E. (Bill) Streuber,
V.A.V.S Chairman / Post Chaplain



40 & 8 REPORT

This month's promenade will be held on May 28th. It will be second round of nominations and elections. Make sure you have a 2024 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 3 – 5. Make sure your registration is in, then come out and support your Voiture. Grande Promenade is scheduled for July in Murrell's Inlet. 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.



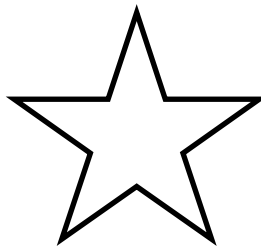
Brian (Bat) Masterson
Chef de Gare

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 27th. If you would like to honor a friend or relative please contact me at (843)553-5454 or e-mail at:

adjutantpost166sc@outlook.com with the name, rank, branch of service and conflict in which they gave their all.

Rick Bernard, Adjutant



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.

Lee Swerczek, Post Commander



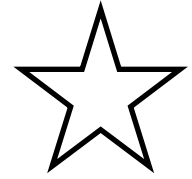
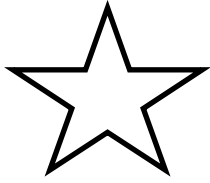
LOTS OF ACTIVITIES
THIS MONTH
COME JOIN THE FUN



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*

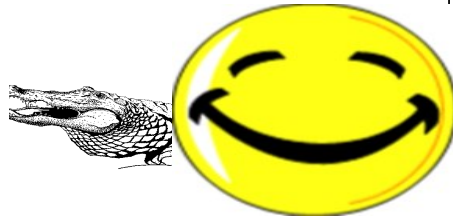
ALUMINUM CANS ; PLEASE BRING YOUR EMPTY ALUMINUM CANS ONLY TO THE POST FOR RECYCLING. THEY SUPPORT OUR JROTC PROGRAM.

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.

Lee Swerczek,
Post Commander



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

Over forty years experience

MICHAEL HODGE
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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

LEE SWERCZEK, POST COMMANDER



COME DINE WITH US

CABANE 1067

The date of the Gator Wreck is May 3-4. The hospitality room will be from 12-4 at the Wingate by Wyndham, 9280 University Blvd., Charleston, SC. If you can bring food, please contact Joyce Willis.

Elections will be held on May 28th at 7PM. If you would like to hold an office, please attend this important Rendezvous.

Hope to see you there.



For God and Country,
Kathy Ahner, La Presidente

PROOF OF SERVICE REQUIRED

The American Legion Membership Application

LEGION

(Name) _____ (Date of Birth) _____
 (Mailing Address) _____ (Phone Number) _____
 (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____
 (E-mail) _____ Male Female (Gender) **\$55.00** (Dues)

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.
Please check appropriate service era and branch of service below

<input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> Panama	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> Korea	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only)
<input type="checkbox"/> WWII	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts	

30-009 Signature of applicant _____ Date _____ Name of recruiter _____

Receipt of Dues
(Please Print)

From _____ for 20____ Post # _____
 Recruiter's Name _____
 Recruiter's Signature _____
 Recruiter's Phone # _____



COME DINE WITH US

GOOD FOOD

GREAT TIMES

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.



Shipmates:

Shipmates: Another heads up for the month.

We will have our Old Navy Breakfast on Saturday 18 May. Will need assistance on that morning starting at 0600 to put on breakfast starting at 0800. We normally have a good turn out, so please come out and participate for support of the crew.

The crew unit lapel pins are available for purchase at \$5.00 each. They came out looking very nice for cap or vest attachment. Please think about getting one or more.

Please let one of us know if someone is sick or distressed, and if we can help in any way.

Remember to check out our website for any changes/additions/deletions that you would like to see. We have just renewed, so the perfect time is now.

Tin Can Sailors of Goose Creek

If you know of anyone that is eligible for our crew, let them know about us, and I have business cards available if you would like some to hand out.

Dean Skipper



AMERICAN LEGION



MURAL

PLEASE HELP MAKE THIS A REALITY. THIS MURAL WILL BE IN FRONT OF THE POST NEXT TO THE COMMERATIVE PATIO. DONATIONS CAN BE MADE AT THE POST OR MAILED TO: AMERICAN LEGION POST 166, PO BOX 147 GOOSE CREEK SC 29445.

FLYERS FOR ALL EVENTS

AVAILABLE ON LINE AND AT THE POST



POST OFFICERS 2024 –2025

With no opposition the following Legionnaires have been elected by proclamation to office for 2024 – 2025.

Post Commander: Lee Swerczek, 1st Vice Commander: Janet Rein

2nd Vice Commander: Michelle Hunt, Finance Officer: Joe McGrorty

Post Service Officer: Janise Jensen, Chaplain: Bill Streuber, Judge Advocate: Derrel Morgan

Sergeant at Arms: Robert Mero, Historian: Mike Thomas

Executive Committee: George Thompson, Bill Simpson, Orval Mills, Keith Woodward,

Ross Lohr, Bobby Horne, Jim Rowan, Don Pace, Brian “Bat” Masterson, Doug Meadows, Bill Graves, Bob Rockwood, Mike Motta and Mariela Anderson

Rick Bernard was reappointed as Post Adjutant.

2024 - 2025 Officers will be installed at this month’s General membership Meeting, Wednesday May 15h, 1900, (7PM)

All Legionnaires are encourage to attend.



Rick Bernard, Adjutant

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 166 Poppy Quilt Raffle



Front of the quilt



Back of the quilt



signature of the quilter



Poppy Quilt Raffle

Tickets cost \$5.00 each.

Drawing will be held on Sunday,
May 26, 2024 at 10:00 am.

The handmade quilt will be on
display during Breakfast on
Sunday.

Purchase tickets from Auxiliary
members, at the canteen, and
during Breakfast on Sunday.

Need not to be present to win the
quilt.

MEMORIAL DAY

2024

MONDAY MAY 27TH

3PM

GUEST SPEAKER

“STACY PEARSALL”

AT THE POST

**FOLLOWED BY SOCIAL HOUR
AND A BANQUET FOR**

**OUR WWII AND KOREAN WAR
*VETS***

“JOIN US”

FOR MORE INFO: CALL 843-553-5454



MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS

**WILL BE PLACED AT
CAROLINA MEMORIAL
GARDENS**

SAT.MAY 25th

EXACTLY AT 8AM

**PLEASE MEET AT THE
GARDEN OF VALOR
LOCATED IN THE BACK
RIGHT HAND SIDE**

PUBLIC WELCOME

FOR MORE INFO

CALL 843-553-5454

Rick Bernard, Adjutant



LAST CHANCE

RIFLE RAFFLE

Tickets now on sale for Dept.

Annual Raffle

52 GUNS

Will be given away between JULY 10th through August 4th

TICKETS JUST \$25.00 EA

See bartender or office to purchase

***TICKETS ARE LIMITED* CALL 843-553-5454 FOR TKTS**

***CUT OFF DATE FOR PURCHASE MONDAY MAY 27TH**

