

# GATOR EXPRESS

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

## 2024-2025 OFFICERS

Commander- Lee Swerczek; 1st Vice Commander- Janet Rein,  
2nd Vice Commander - Michelle Hunt, Finance Officer:, Post  
Service Officer: Janise Jensen Chaplain - Bill Streuber ; Judge  
Advocate - Derrel Morgan; Sergeant-at-Arms - Robert Mero;  
Historian- Mike Thomas; Adjutant - Rick Bernard

# MARCH 2025

## \*POST COMMANDER COMMENTS\*

February was a very busy month for the Post, We plan to do a new member initiation ceremony at 2 PM culminating with a Birthday cake at 3 PM on 15 March to celebrate the American Legion Birthday, please make plans to join us. New this year, we will be conducting a District wide Flag Disposal Ceremony on 29 March, please make plans to join us for both of these American Legion ceremonies.

March is the first month of nominations for all Officers and Executive Committee members, if you are interested in running for a position, please reach out to either Orval Mills or Bill Simpson (election Committee Chairmen) to learn more about the process.

For God and Country

Lee Swerczek

Post Commander



### GATOR GOLD



AMERICAN LEGION  
POST 166 - GOOSE CREEK

### 2025 FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

“Gator Gold” is a new fundraising program which serves as a method for Post 166 to fund unexpected costs of a capital nature. These include infrastructure, building and mechanical sustaining costs or unexpected expenses. Please consider becoming a recurring donor by using the QR code



### \*1st VICE COMMANDER\*

### > Legion Renewals for 2025 <

Post 166 RENEWAL RATE IS OVER 88 %....

The Post 166 numbers are going up - getting closer to the goal of 100%. Recruitment of new members is still ongoing; ask your fellow veterans, friends and others....all help to support the programs within the Legion.

The American Legion boasts a great history of over 105+ years.

The GI Bill and Veterans Administration are two benefits that were forged into us- age for us - the VETERAN !

You can renew by cash, check, money order, bank check, and

on-line at Mylegion.com. Contact me if you have any questions or concerns at the Post, or call (843) 553-5454.<

THANKS & REGARDS, Janet Rein, 1st Vice Commander



## \*AUXILIARY REPORT\*

### LUCK IS IN THE AIR

Here we are in March already!! That means it's time for another one of our Baked Goods Auctions!! So, bring your sweet tooth and come bid on some wonderful, donated items. If YOU have a special item you would like to bake and donate please feel free to do so!! The requested items that have been asked for are pineapple upside down cakes, lemon pie, apple pie, chocolate cake, brownies with and without nuts and basically anything sweet! Hope to see you there March 11th .

Thank you to all who attended our Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance. We want to thank Lori, Canteen Manager, and her staff for their help. Thank you to Ann Kvam and everyone who helped set up and tear down in my absence due to surgery. Thank you to Bill Simpson for doing the 50/50, Janise Jensen and James Milton for manning the door and of course the Carolina Show Band for providing the music.

Hope to see everyone at our monthly meeting on March 3rd and our District meeting on March 8th. These two dates are a good way to learn what is going on in our Unit.

Again I would like to remind everyone to seriously think about running for office for the upcoming year. We need everyone to step up and help make Unit 166 succeed. Please contact me for any information I can give you on any office you might be interested in. **WE NEED YOU TO PARTICIPATE!** The first round of elections are in April and 2nd round and election is in May so don't wait!

Pray for anyone that may be ill, homebound or may have lost a loved one. **BE THE ONE** to reach out to anyone who may be in distress, **LISTEN** and try to help them find the help they need. **YOU** can make a difference! You never know when you may **BE THE ONE** that saves that person!

**THANK YOU** to all our Veterans, past, present and future for all you have given and are willing to give! **GOD BLESS YOU!**

Our next meeting will be April 7th at 7:00pm. Hope to see you there!

For Service not Self

Gloria Evans-Hill, President



## \*AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP\*

### Membership Update for March 2025:

2025 membership cards are here. You may pay your membership dues of \$50.00 (\$10.00 for Junior members) to the Unit by cash, check payable to ALA Unit 166, or pay National online ([www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org)) or by phone (317-569-4570). Remember your 2024 membership card expired on December 31, 2024.

We have reached 73% of our membership goal for 2025.

We welcome 2 new members to our unit this month: Regina Cifuni and Darlene Ruby, we are looking forward to meeting you both in person. Welcome!!

In service not self,

Louise Dixon, VP and Membership Chairman (843.343.1483)



## \*BOYS STATE\*

Once again the Post will be sending High School Students to Palmetto Boys State.

Donations are now being accepted and all are welcome. *Cost is \$300.00 per student.*

Donation can be mailed to the Post at  
American Legion Post 166  
P.O. Box 147  
Goose Creek, SC 29445

Thank You  
Lee Swerczek, Post Cmdr.



## \*TAPS\*

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

### DAVID GRAMINSKI

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



## \*BLOOD DRIVE\*

MONDAY MARCH 10th  
11:00 TO 3PM



## \*ATTENTION\*

BLUE PLATE  
DINNER SPECIALS

\*LAST PAGE OF NEWSLETTER\*



[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.

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

A message from the Commander:

The SAL grieves the loss of David Graminski and we offer our condolences, our thoughts and prayers.

David was a very generous supporter of the SAL. He wanted no attention and saw it no public thanks he would simply say “whatever you boys need.” Thank you Dave Graminski may you rest in peace.

The SAL is currently running our gun raffle now till our annual fish fry June 2025. Our next membership meeting is Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 7 PM. Please make plans to attend as always please volunteer one and where you can remember. It’s The members that make a post Great.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY  
JASON VAN HEUMEN  
COMMANDER



**\*POST SERVICE OFFICER\***

**DID YOU KNOW ???**

If you have a tan colored Military ID card, even if it says “*INDEFINITE*” on it, You need to get your card renewed. The new ID cards are white and have your picture on the front and the back along with more information in coding.

Janise Jensen  
Post Service Officer  
843-553-5454



**\*TIN CAN SAILORS\***

Shipmates,

We have a number of evolutions to prepare for and execute in the coming months. The Bull Session is scheduled for 12 April, make sure you're encouraging people to sign up and attend. If we don't have enough outside participation we may have to change plans. We will host a BBQ Fundraiser on 26 April, preparation will take place the days prior. Presold pork butts usually make up a large portion of our sales, I have a friend considering 3-4 butts alone, so let us know if you see them on sale. Last month myself, DISBO, and Orval sat down and did an audit of the TCS Account which passed with flying colors. We also noted we donated over \$6,000 to charities and non-profits last year! Bravo Zulu to you all and to DISBO Derrel Morgan for excellent record keeping. Spring is around the corner; this includes pollen, temperature changes, and daylight savings hours moving forward. All these can have affects on health so make sure you take proper precautions. As always have you have any issues or concerns feel free to reach out to me or XO Russ Nichols.

Very Respectfully Richard Powell, Skipper





**\*CONGRATULATIONS\***

The following Legionnaire have achieved membership milestones for the **2025** membership year

**25 YEARS**

**JAMES E. DAY**

**DAVID E. MORGAN**

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:

Joseph J. Ferreri III, Melissa Enos-Sims, Ben Lopez  
Kelvin L. Pringle, Joed Haddad, Boyd S. Hinton,  
Jim Lamb, Berton D. Griffin, Howard Thomas,  
Raymond M. Gajewski, Richard Ruby

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



**\*VETERANS\***

**HOME LOAN REP.**

**SUNDAY MARCH 30th**



**\*MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS\***

**MEMORIAL DAY IS MONDAY MAY 26th**

This is the day we remember our departed Comrades.

On Memorial Day weekend members of the Post and community visit the final resting place of Veterans at Carolina Memorial Gardens and place an *American Flag*.

This year is going to be no different, but however the Post needs help with the purchase of flags. Thirty-two (32) gross (144 flags per gross) are going to be needed to ensure all Veterans are remembered, cost is \$89.95 per gross.

At this time I am asking all tenant organization groups and anyone who can, please help us purchase these flags.

Donations for these flags can be dropped off at the Post anytime or mailed to:

**American Legion Post 166**

**P O Box 147**

**Goose Creek, SC 29445**

***Thank You For Your Support.***



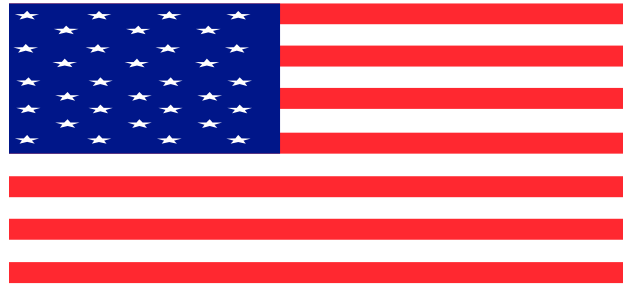
Lee A. Swerczek, Post Commander

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



# **\*RIFLE RAFFLE\***

**Tickets now on sale for Dept.  
Annual Raffle**

# **52 GUNS**

**Will be given away between JULY 8th through  
August 2nd**

**TICKETS JUST \$25.00 EA**

**\*See Bartender /Post Cmdr. or / Rick Bernard in office\***

**\*TICKETS ARE LIMITED\***

**CALL 843-553-5454 FOR TKTS**



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.



## \*LEGION RIDERS\*

1. ALR Chapter 166 would like to thank all the patrons that said present to enjoy the Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser last week, great turn out and great meal.
2. Our next meeting is 8 March 2025, 0930 at the bar side.
3. Some ALR Chapter 166 members will attend the Spring State Meeting on 15 March 2025.
4. Weather is improving, watch out for motorcycles.

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



USE THIS  
QR CODE FOR OUR  
\*WEBSITE\*



Please **COME BY THE** Post and see our commemorative Patio and Mural\*

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

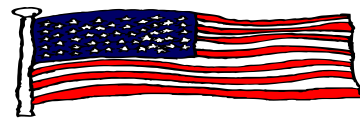
American Legion Post 166 has strived to maintain an honor guard since shortly after being chartered and today is one of just a handful of posts across the state with such a unit. Its members are drawn to volunteer to serve for a number of reasons, mostly stemming from personal experiences or other meaningful influences. None are there to pad a resume. They have a deep respect for our meaningful military traditions and have a personal commitment to continue the full, documented and very rich history of honor guards.

The average cost to outfit a member is several hundred dollars which is borne by our Honor Guard unit using funds raised by donations and fundraisers. The Post allows us to store rifles and other equipment on site but is not asked to provide funding for our needs. We are proud to say we practice financial self-sufficiency.

When you see a member of the post Honor Guard in dress uniform, know that each funeral or special post service (Memorial Day, Veterans Day, etc.) requires approximately 3.5 hours of that member's time. Regular drills maintain our high standards of performance. Our Honor Guard members are deeply motivated and committed to the unit motto, "Proud to Serve: Dedication, Discipline, Excellence".

The Honor Guard continues to extend invitations for new members. We train and outfit you. All that is asked in return is a positive attitude and some of your time. For more information, contact me at 843-789-3597 or via e-mail at Thomdav2@att.net.

For the Guard,  
Mike Thomas



## **\*2025-2026 POST OFFICERS\***

First round of nominations of Post Officers will be conducted this month at March's General Membership meeting on Wednesday March 19th at 7PM.

Legionnaires: Time to start thinking about who you want as your Post Officers for **2025 –2026**.

Lee a. Swerczek, Post Commander





## \*Post 166 Chaplain's Report\*

### A. 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: 1 (David Graminski Family)
- \* Get Well: 0
- \* Thinking of You: 0

#### 3. Memorial Services

\*Four Chaplain Interfaith Memorial Service held Sunday February 2, 2025 at the Post 166 14:00. Thanks to all those supported the program, help light candles and the Auxiliary for deserts.

#### 4. Work in Progress

\* Working with Voluntary Services and Chaplains office to assist at the Ralph H. Johnson VAMC with Pastoral services.

### B. Veteran's Affairs Voluntary Service V.A.V.S.

#### 1. Ralph H. Johnson VAMC

\* Flu shots available for veterans. You can walk in and get your shot.

#### 2. Clinics

\* Flu shots available for veterans. Walk-ins welcome.

#### 3. Volunteer Service

- \* New volunteers are being accepted.
  - COVID-19 Vaccinations are no longer being required: however, you must sign the Memo Waiver for VAMC Liability, and be on file. (See Bill Streuber for Waiver)
  - Must get Flu Vaccine every year.
- \* V.A.V.S. Quarterly Meeting
  - Attended December 16, 2024 –virtual (WebEx)
  - Next meeting March 17, 2025, at 13:00 –virtual (WEBEX)

#### 4. Post 166 Voluntary Report

\* Activity

- Nothing to report

\* Post Volunteer Numbers

- Visiting Report

Volunteers	Veterans	Hours	Miles	Donations
13	363	60	874.2	\$273.17

- Volunteer Service Report

Volunteers	Hours	Miles	Services Rendered
1	85.5	980	Reminder Phone Calls

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



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

Thank you to all the Voyageurs who participated in the La Femmes Appreciation dinner at Breck's. Your support made the event very successful and the Dames were very appreciative. This month's promenade will be held on March 25th. The new membership cards are in, You will have to have the 2025 card to attend 40/8 events and promenades.

Tennessee is now taking reservations for Southland's Dixie scheduled for April 24-26, 2025 in Gatlinburg. You don't know what you are missing if you don't go!

Plans are already in the works for our own Gator Wreck in May. Looking for volunteers.

March 17th is the La Femmes Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner. Please come out and support them.

End of year reports are coming up, please update your directeurs of any events you have participated in and let's get our efforts counted. This includes Time, Mileage, Money expended etc.

I would still like to see more participation in our Voiture activities in the coming year. Elections are coming, Think about stepping up and holding an office. This is your Voiture, Help make it all it can be.

Brian (Bat) Masterson  
Chef de Gare



**\*CABANE 1067\***

The Corn Beef and Cabbage Dinner is March 17th, St. Patrick's Day. The meal is 5 to 8 PM. The price is \$10 a plate.

Your support helps us donate to the 40/8 programs. We also purchased 20 wreaths for Wreaths Across America. We are supporting a girl to Girl's State this year.

If you have not paid your 2025 dues, please see Joyce Willis. The dues are still \$20.

The next Rendezvous is March 25th at 7:30 PM.

I hope to see you there.

Kathy Ahner, La Presidente



**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



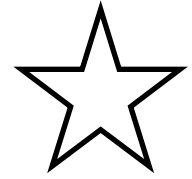
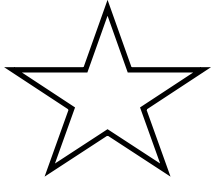
**\*LOTS OF ACTIVITIES\***  
**\*THIS MONTH\***  
**\*COME JOIN THE FUN\***



**\*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

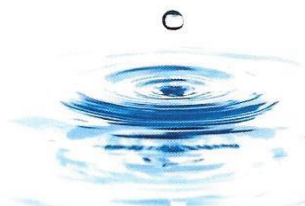
**MICHAEL HODGE**  
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**DISTRICT 6**  
**\*FLAG DISPOSAL\***  
**SAT. MARCH 29TH**  
**11:30AM**  
**“PARTICIPATION**  
**BY ALL IS**  
**“ENCOURAGED”**



**LEE A. SWERCZEK**  
**POST COMMANDER**

**\*CALL TO STATE CONVENTION 2024\***

The American Legion State Convention will be held in Columbia, SC between May 15th to 18th. Cost per Delegate is \$35.00. If you want to be a delegate or need more information please come by the office or see me around the post. Delegates names and monies must be turned into Department by **April 24th** Thank you in advance for your

**ATTENTION** in this matter.

Any Amendments and By-Law Changes that will be voted on will be made available at April’s and May’s General Membership Meetings for all interested

Legionnaires to review prior to the Post voting on them at convention.

Lee A. Swerczek, Post Commander



**3 GUN**  
**RAFFLE**

**WIN A RIFLE!**



**TICKETS AT \$50 EACH Only 100 Sold**

**SONS OF THE**  
**AMERICAN**  
**LEGION**

1st place 1st choice, 2nd place 2nd choice and 3rd gets whats left

1. Taurus Judge
2. Salvage 243. Rifle w/ Bushwell Scope
3. Winchester sxp Bottomland 12/28"

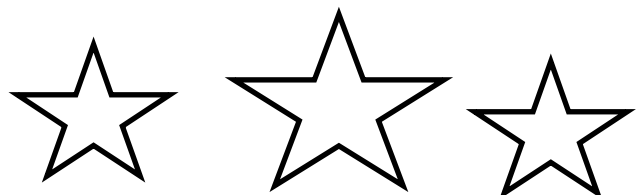
For tickets call: Jimmy Brown  
 843-729-5528 or Ronald Todd at  
 843-735-4075

**Drawing June 28, 2025**

**\*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 26th. 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







**\*BAKED  
GOODS\*  
\*AUCTION\*  
TUES.  
MARCH 11th  
6-8PM**

Sponsored by the Auxiliary



Happy St. Patrick's Day



Join us for our annual  
Corn Beef and Cabbage dinner  
March 17, 2025

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

at American Legion Post 166

116 Howe Hall Road

Goose Creek, SC

Only \$10.00 per plate.

Corn beef, Cabbage, boiled red potatoes,  
bread and dessert.



Fundraiser sponsored by  
La Societé de Femme  
Cabane 1087, Goose Creek, SC

**PARTY AT THE POST!  
LIVE MUSIC AT  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
SAT- MARCH 8, 2025- 7PM  
\$12 ADVANCE TICKETS  
LIVE MUSIC BY MICHAEL PEIFER AND DALE BAKER**

COUNTRY, ROCK,  
SOUTHERN ROCK  
BEACH AND MORE!

VISIT QR LINK TO SEE VIDEOS >

Call 843-553-5454 to reserve  
advanced seats



[www.acousticmusiccharleston.com](http://www.acousticmusiccharleston.com)

GOOSE CREEK AMERICAN LEGION- 116 Howe Hall Rd, Goose Creek, SC 29445





# Midlands



The American Legion Department of South Carolina and the SCNG in partnership with the SC Department of Veteran Affairs and U.S. Veteran Affairs Regional Office proudly presents

## VETERANS EXPERIENCE ACTION CENTER (VEAC)

All Veterans and family members are welcome to attend this 3rd Annual VEAC for the Midlands.

**March 20 - 22, 2025**

**Thu - Fri: 9 AM | 3 PM**

**Sat: 9 AM | 2 PM**

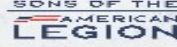
**SCNG Armory, 1328 Old Dairy Dr., Columbia SC 29201**

### Get Assistance With:

- VA Disability Compensation & Pension claims filing and assistance for Veteran & Widow benefits
- On-site C&P Exams (for eligible Veterans)
- Veteran Readiness & Employment benefits
- VA Mobile Center
- VHA- Health Care benefits & on-site enrollment
- VA National Cemetery Adm. Memorial Benefits
- Vendors & services from community partners
- and much more!

Donations may be made to American Legion, Department of SC, 103 Legion Plaza, Columbia, SC 29210 (Please add VEAC to the memo line on your check.)

To volunteer email Darlene Walton [djwalton26@gmail.com](mailto:djwalton26@gmail.com)



# PAINT & \*SIP\*



**SUNDAY MARCH 30th 3PM**  
**PRIZES / GAMES COST \$30.00**