

## 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

# APRIL 2025

## \*POST COMMANDER COMMENTS\*

April will be the last month for 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.

I was disappointed to see only 25 “Legionnaires” felt it was important to show up to the first round of nominations. We only have one volunteer for Commander and 1st Vice, nobody stepped up for Finance Officer, 2nd Vice or Judge Advocate. The last 2 years I have been blessed with a full staff willing to help me run this post, it’s a damn shame that the new administration won’t have that same luxury. Apathy is the first sign of a program’s death, we need to pack the April meeting to ensure those capable and willing to run this post know they have our support. Please mark your calendar for the third Wednesday at 7 PM and be there to make your voice heard.

For God and Country  
Lee Swerczek  
Post Commander



### 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 92%

The Post 166 numbers are climbing up the ladder - getting closer to the goal of 100% ! Recruiting fellow veterans by all current members is a great way to let them know what the American Legion stands for, and a great way bring them onboard.

Legislation has forged the GI Bill and Veterans Administration that are 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. <

REGARDS -  
Janet Rein, 1st Vice Commander



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

Happy Easter

Spring is in the air or at least the pollen is!! Hope everyone's allergies aren't too bad and we are ready for the Easter Bunny!

First off, I want to thank everyone that brought baked goods to our Baked Goods Auction! I would also like to send out a HUGE thank you to those that attended and bid. IT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS! With those funds raised and the generosity of Tin Can Sailors, Cabane 1067, Post 166 Canteen, George Thompson, Ann and Jim Kvam and the ear marked fund raisers, I am happy to say we are able to send 13 girls from various local schools to Palmetto Girls State in June! This would not have been possible without your support and I cannot thank you enough!

This month we will be having a Potluck Dinner on April 10th which hopefully you will again come out and support us. We will also begin setting up our Flanders Field where you can donate to have a poppy placed in memory of a Veteran.

Again, please consider running for office of our Unit. First round of nominations will be held this month at our meeting and 2nd round and elections will be held at our May meeting.

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 May 5th at 7:00pm. Hope to see YOU there!

For Service not Self

Gloria Evans-Hill, President

843-343-4212 or geh29445@gmail.com



## **\*AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP\***

Here is the Auxiliary Membership blurb

Membership Update for April 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 75% of our membership goal for 2025.

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.



## \*ATTENTION\*

# BLUE PLATE DINNER SPECIALS

\*LAST PAGE OF NEWSLETTER\*



## \*TAPS\*

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

**FRANKLIN D. OSBURN**

**ISSAC WRIGHT**

Has reported to the Supreme Commander.

The Legion family greatly grieves the loss of these Comrades.

May Almighty God give their families 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](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.**



**KIA TRIBUTE TACK**  
**Also known as a "Battlefield  
 Cross"**  
**or "Fallen Soldier's Cross" or  
 "Soldiers Cross".**

**Are now on sale for \$7.00**

**\*See Bartender for purchase\***

**\*HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE\*  
 \*FALLEN\***

**\*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 passed word at the meeting and in emails but please be advised the planned Bull Session for 12 April has been **CANCELED** due to a lack of sign ups. The plan is to support the Fleet Reserve Association's Old Navy Breakfast that same date, further information will have been put out by the time this message is distributed so please check your emails. Our pulled pork BBQ Fundraiser is still planned for 26 April, the cut off date for pre-sold pork butts is 20 April. The price for butts is \$30, price for plates of food the day of is \$10. Preparation will take place the two days prior. We need all hands that are able to muster and support this evolution. Most of the \$6,000+ dollars we donated to charity last year was from our fundraisers. As always if 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

**20 YEARS**

**TIM A. ZARTMAN**

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: Roland Robbins, William Salley, Karey Sayre, Rogelio Singian, Russell Tyler, Donnie Strayhorn, Robbin Robinson, Donald R. Tomkins, Jason Grigg, Jacob Morgan, Timothy Matthewson, Reece H. Flynt Jr, Dean A. Wessels, Lewis J. Smith, Wayne D. Rickerson, Christopher H. Sampson, Ingrid Centurion, James C. Coffey

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



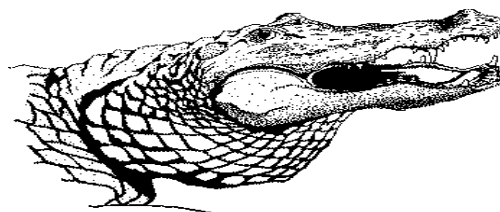
**\*SAL SQUADRON 166 NEWS\***

A message from the Commander:

Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 2 at 7pm make plans to attend..

Thank you

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY  
JASON VAN HEUMEN  
COMMANDER



**\*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

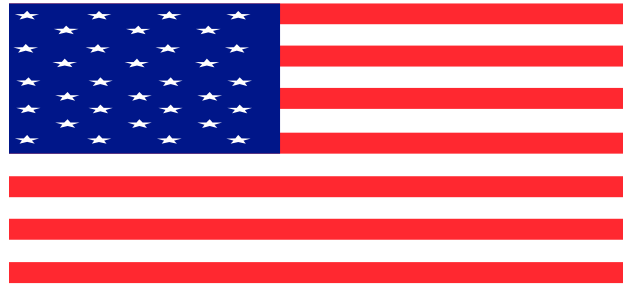


PLEASE DONATE TO THE POST BY  
SHARING THIS LINK WITH FRIENDS  
AND FAMILY

[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. Our next ALR Chapter 166 is on 19 April 2025, Post Bar side @ 0930.
2. The Annual ALRSC Legacy Fund Ride is scheduled for 26-27 April 2025. Donations are welcome and non ALR Member Riders must pay a \$60.00 donation and \$120.00 with a passenger. More details will follow as we get closer to the date.
3. The weather is improving and there are more motorcycles on the roads, be alert and avoid distractions. Be safe.

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



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



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

The Honor Guard is currently composed of thirteen members. We are fortunate to have two musicians and a Historian/ team mom. Nine others are fully qualified as riflemen with one other in training. Just two, each a rifleman, participated in an Honor Guard while on military active duty. No one else even touched a rifle at all in their military service following boot camp. Everyone was first introduced to our work and its nuances through our drills. Personal development for them came as a result of attending drills, personal effort and perseverance. Aside from our newest recruit, the unit boasts 90 years of overall personal tenure and experience within its ranks.

Teamwork, dependability and adaptability are key aspects of our Honor Guard duties. Members support each other as we seek to hone our abilities to function in a variety of ways. A rifleman can be in the ranks firing rifle volleys at a service, a flag folder/ presenter at the next and then be the unit commander at the following event. This type flexibility is an inherent part of our ability to develop individual skills and meet challenges as they come our way.

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. The experience is most worthwhile and personally gratifying. For more information, contact me at 843-789-3597 or via e-mail at Thomdav2@att.net.

For the Guard,  
Mike Thomas



**The Shield of Rights: Constitutional Seminar**

*IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.*

Teaching the Constitution from a law enforcement perspective is crucial for both officers and the public. A well-rounded program can help ensure that everyone knows their rights and responsibilities, leading to better community relations and more informed decision-making in law enforcement.

**Join us to learn about your rights from a Law enforcement perspective. Six weeks for 2 hours.**

**2:00-4:00PM  
May 4, 11, 18, 25  
June 1, 8**

**Location:  
American Legion Post 166,  
116 Howe Hall Road  
Goose Creek, SC 29445**

**Sponsored by Generations For America Foundation. For further info contact [info@generationsforamerica.com](mailto:info@generationsforamerica.com), or [ingrid@ingridcenturion.com](mailto:ingrid@ingridcenturion.com), 901-289-8158. Register at [www.generationsforamerica.com](http://www.generationsforamerica.com) or [www.generationsforamericafoundation.com](http://www.generationsforamericafoundation.com)**



## \*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 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

- 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 Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner. Your efforts made the event very successful, and the Dames were very appreciative.

This month's promenade will be held on April 22nd. The new membership cards are in, You will have to have the 2025 card to attend 40/8 events and promenades. Our membership renewal right now is over 100% thanks to transfers from Voiture 576. Now would be a good time to check your card and renew your membership. There are currently a few Voyageurs delinquent, please contact Bill Simpson or myself and we will get you current. Let's get membership in the BLACK.

If you are travelling to the Southlands Dixie Promenade, Have a safe trip.

Plans are well underway for our own Gator Wreck in May. Looking for volunteers and registrations. Remember that it is the First weekend in May this year

Hope everyone has a Happy Easter and is staying healthy.

This month's promenade will be first round of nominations. Make sure you have a 2025 card and come out and make your voice heard

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

## \*CABANE 1067\*

A special thank you to William Simpson, Jim Kvam, Bat Masterson, and Bobby Horne for all their help with the Corn Beef and Cabbage Dinner. This fundraiser would not have been successful without your help.

Thank you to all their Dames that help decorated, served meals, brought desserts, and helped clean up afterwards.

April 22nd is our next Rendezvous. We will have nominations for the 2025-2026 officers. If you would like to hold an office next year, please let someone know so that they can nominate you.

Hope to see you there.  
For God and Country,

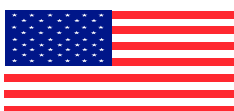


Kathy Ahner, La Presidente

## 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



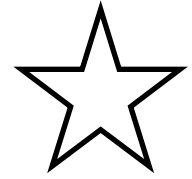
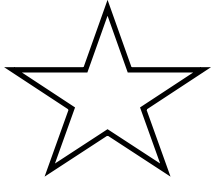
**\*LOTS OF ACTIVITIES\***  
**\*THIS MONTH\***  
**\*COME JOIN THE FUN\***



**\*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**  
Licensed Master Plumber

22 Belmar Ave  
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Residential & Commercial  
Service, Repairs & Installations

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Website: www.HomesBySusanT.com





**\*WANTED\***

**PICTURES OF THE POST AND  
IT'S MEMBERS DATING FROM  
1967 TO 2000.**

**I AM PUTTING TOGETHER A  
HISTORY OF THE POST.  
PICTURES CAN BE DROPPED  
OFF AT THE POST.  
ATTN: MIKE THOMAS**

**\*THANK YOU IN ADVANCE\***

**MIKE THOMAS, POST HISTORIAN**



**\*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.

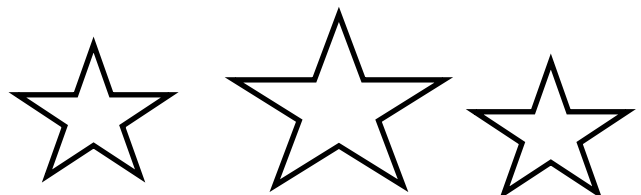
Lee A. Swerczek, Post Commander



**\*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



**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**



## BAR-B-QUE FUND RAISER

**WHEN: SAT. APRIL 26<sup>th</sup> 12-4PM**

DINNER INCLUDES: PULLED BAR- B-QUE PORK  
COLE SLAW, BAKED BEANS, ROLL, PORK HASH & RICE

**PRICE: ONLY \$10.00**

**“TAKE OUT OR EAT IN”**

**\*FREE LOCAL DELIVERY 12 -4\***

**MINIMUM “7” ORDERS AND POC**

**\*CASH OR CHECK ONLY PLEASE\***

WHERE: AMERICAN LEGION POST 166, 116 HOWE  
HALL RD GOOSE CREEK.

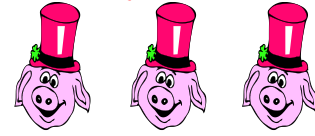
SPONSORED BY: TIN CAN SAILORS OF GOOSE CREEK.

**ADVANCE ORDERS WELCOMED,**

CONTACT RICHARD POWELL AT 843-727-5109 / DON PACE AT  
843-327-0129 OR RICK BERNARD AT 843-553-5454 FOR MORE  
INFO.



## GREAT TASTING BBQ PORK



## WHOLE BUTTS

NOW TAKING ORDERS

SZ: 10 TO 12 LBS

COST ONLY \$30.00

**“ADVANCE ORDERS ONLY”**

**CUT OFF DATE SUN. APRIL 20th!**

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY WITH ORDERS OF

**\*3 OR MORE\***

**\*PICK UP DATE FRI APRIL 25th & SAT APRIL 26th\***

SPONSORED BY TIN CAN SAILORS OF GOOSE CREEK

116 HOWE HALL ROAD, GOOSE CREEK

CALL 843-553-5454 TO PLACE YOUR ORDER.

POC: RICK BERNARD

RICHARD POWELL: 843-727-5109

DON PACE: 843-327-0129

**\*NAME & PHONE NUMBER REQUIRED WITH ALL ORDERS\***



## POST OFFICER 2025 –2026 NOMINATIONS

The following Legionnaires have been nominated for officer for 2025 – 2026.

Post Commander: Jim Rowan, 1st Vice Commander: Janet Rein

2nd Vice Commander: Open, Finance Officer: Open

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

Sergeant at Arms: Robert Mero, Historian: Mike Thomas

Second and final round nominations of officers and fifteen (15) members Executive Committee will be conducted at this month’s General membership Meeting, Wednesday April 16th, 1900, (7PM)

All Legionnaires are encourage to participate.

Rick Bernard, Adjutant



## MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

Each year this American Legion Post places American Flags on the graves of Veterans buried in Carolina Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home located on Rivers Avenue, N. Charleston. As in the past this Post normally has an outstanding participation for this event, we are in hopes 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 24 May 2025. The Memorial Day Program is scheduled to commence at 10:00 on Memorial Day 26 May 2025 at the American Legion Post 166, Goose Creek. The program will include the Post Honor Guard, guest speaker and wreath laying followed by a light refreshment buffet provided by both 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



**\* BRICK SPECIAL \***

**\*BUY ONE GET A**

**"FREE"**

**DEPT. RIFLE RAFFLE TKT**

**\*UNTIL APRIL 30th\***

**CONTACT OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE**



**BAKED GOODS**

**\*AUCTION\***

**TUES.**

**APR. 29th**

**6PM**

**SPONSORED**

**BY THE LEGION**

