

# AMERICAN LEGION

Cummings-Behlke  
Post 226

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830 E. Central Ave., Edgewater, MD 21037 • 410-798-9894



## February 16th

Never let an eligible veteran say:  
"Nobody ever asked me to join the American Legion."

[www.post226.com](http://www.post226.com) • FEBRUARY 2026



*SAL Squadron 226*  
**Annual**  
**Shrimp Feast**

Saturday, February 7th

1 PM to 5 PM

**All You Can Eat (on site only)**  
**Shrimp will be served 2pm to 4pm**

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**Steamed Shrimp**  
Hot Dogs – Cole Slaw  
Baked Beans – Potato Salad  
Draft Beer & Sodas

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**\$45 in Advance ~ \$50 at the Door**  
**Kids 10 & Under ~ \$15**

Tickets are on sale at the Post



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## Commander's Message

We are starting to barrel through the cold heart of winter, but it is warm here in the Legion. That's not just a reference to our heating system but to the warmth and caring of our Legion family. We have done some pretty incredible things. Supporting families in their times of need, taking care of building issues, and coming together to support a Loch Haven boy named Joey, who is fighting cancer and being a part of his extra special birthday parade.

In February, we hold our Post Everlasting, where we honor the folks who left us in 2025. There is also the SAL Shrimp Feast and the Riders Chili Cook Off, both of which are fun events and help them raise money for great causes. We will also be volunteering to remove the Wreaths at Crownsville on February 7th at 9 am. Folks will be meeting at 8 am at the Post to Carpool if you're interested. We will also be tackling some post-clean-up activities ahead of the National Commander's visit. Watch Facebook for opportunities to help. Feel free to talk to Scott, our 1st Vice, or me, and we can let you know what we need.

I want to take a moment to welcome all of our new members! It is great to have you. Feel free to reach out and introduce yourself or come up to me in the Post and say hello. I am truly happy to have you aboard. Take a moment and look at the calendar inside and see all the things we do every week.

As you may have noticed, the new key cards are now active, and your blue cards no longer work. Please bring your membership card in to exchange it for a new bright orange one. If you haven't renewed for 2026, now is the time. We need your support!

Please continue to take extra care to look after yourself and each other. Less sunlight every day can be hard on your mental health. Take time to work on yourself, check on friends, and be present in life. If you need help...ask!

*Continued →*

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## Commander's Message - Continued

We have had and continue to have folks with serious sickness, cancer, and heart issues. Please continue to hold those folks up in prayer. We also cannot take a break from continuing to grow our Suicide Awareness skills. We need to be comfortable with recognizing the signs and getting our friends the help they need before it becomes a crisis. Starting is as easy as scanning the QR code below, but beyond that, check on each other, find reasons to say hello, and strike up a conversation. Check on neighbors, colleagues, and friends. This is crucial. Let them know you care.



Here are local and national resources available to support Maryland families:

- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline – Call or text 988 or visit [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org) for immediate support
- Maryland Crisis Connect – Call 988 (press 1 for MD specific support) or visit [marylandcrisisconnect.org](https://marylandcrisisconnect.org).
- Anne Arundel County Crisis Warmline – 410-768-5522 (24/7 mental health and crisis support).

For God and Country,  
Still Serving,  
Ray Leone  
Post Commander

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## 1st Vice Commander's Message

Thank you to everyone that continues to renew, paying their 2026 dues. And welcome to our new members, we continue to grow every month. Post 226 is currently at 87.25% of our membership goal.

Membership for Legionnaires (veterans) is \$47 for 2026. To all that have mailed in, paid online, or dropped your dues in my mailbox thank you.

My email address is [post226membership@gmail.com](mailto:post226membership@gmail.com) for any questions regarding your membership. Please include your full name, membership ID number, and a good call back phone number where I can reach you.

Scott Smith  
1st Vice Commander  
#BeTheOne,  
Heroes Never Forgotten



**Post Everlasting  
Ceremony  
Sunday  
February 1st  
Noon  
Honoring All  
Members that Passed  
Away in 2025**

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## Chaplain's Message

**"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:3**

February reminds us that love is shown through service, sacrifice, and remembrance. On February 1st at noon, Post 226 will pause to honor our fellow veterans who have completed their earthly service and now stand in the Post Everlasting. I hope some of you will be able to join me and the families of the fallen for this ceremony.

Their love of country and commitment to comrades did not end with their passing. It lives on in our memories and in the work, we continue to do together. As we remember them, let us also show love to those still with us—through fellowship, encouragement, and care for one another.

Our Wreaths Across America campaign will conclude on Saturday, Feb 7th when we will gather at the Post at 8m to caravan to Crownsville Cemetery to clean up the 14,184 wreaths that adorned our hero's graves this past holiday. Many hands make light work! Wear clothes that can get dirty, bring gloves if you have them and if you own a toboggan, wagon or other implement to carry the wreaths to the dumpster for disposal, that would be great.

This February, please pray for the families of our comrades who passed in 2025 and the opening week of this year. May we honor our departed comrades by living the values they served by and ensuring they are never forgotten. May their memories be eternal and those left behind, feel the love of the Post 226 family.

I will make myself available to meet with, talk with, and pray with any of you who need my services as your Chaplain. The easiest way to reach me is by emailing [post226chaplain@gmail.com](mailto:post226chaplain@gmail.com), dropping a note in my mailbox at the Post or message me on Facebook.

**May God's love guide you, His peace sustain you, and His blessings rest upon you always.**

Cheryl Smith  
Post Chaplain

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## Membership Information

2026 key cards are available by showing your 2026 membership card. If you're a Legionnaire or an early bird the card is free, otherwise it is \$3.

**Legion** – Dues are \$47. Make your check payable to "AL Post 226". Mail to P.O. Box 66, Mayo, MD 21106 or drop it in the *1st Vice* box at the Post.

**SAL** – Dues are \$35. Juniors (under 21) & dual members \$15. Make your check payable to "SAL Squadron 226". Mail to P.O. Box 622 Mayo, MD 21106 or drop it in the *SAL Membership* box at the Post.

**Auxiliary** – Dues are \$34, Juniors (under 18) are \$12. Make your check payable to "ALA Unit 226". Mail to P.O. Box 432, Mayo, MD 21106 or drop it in the *Unit Membership* box at the Post.

**Riders** – Dues are \$30 (Legion, SAL, or Aux must be paid first). Make your check payable to "AL Riders Post 226". Mail to P.O. Box 66, Mayo, MD 21106 or drop it in the *AL Riders* box at the Post.

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## Online Renewals

Members can pay their annual dues online. You will need your Member ID located on your membership card.

- Legionnaires: <https://mylegion.org>
- SAL: <https://legion.org/SAL-Renew>
- Auxiliary: [www.legion-aux.org/members](http://www.legion-aux.org/members)

*You may also be able to print your card on line*

# FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>12pm Post Ever-lasting Ceremony</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30pm Game Night</p>	<p>3</p> <p>5-7pm Pizza Night</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7pm Auxiliary Mtg</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>NO SAL Dinner 8:30pm DJ Wally</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1-5pm SAL Shrimp Feast NO Bar Bingo</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30pm Game Night</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5-7pm Pizza Night 7pm Post Exec Mtg</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7pm Music by Mike Miller</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6-8pm Bar Bingo</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Valentine's Day</i></p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30-11am SAL Breakfast 12pm Riders Chili Cook-off</p> <p>Bulletin Articles Due</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30pm Game Night</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Presidents' Day</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p>5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Riders Mtg <i>Elections</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ash Wednesday</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p>7pm SAL Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:30-7:00pm Auxiliary Dinner</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6-8pm Bar Bingo</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30pm Game Night</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Reg Post Mtg</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30pm Music by Kevin Lee and Coleman</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6-8pm Bar Bingo</p>

# MARCH 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 6:30pm Game Night	3 5-7pm Pizza Night	4 7pm Auxiliary Mtg	5	6 5:30-7:00pm SAL Dinner	7 6-8pm Bar Bingo
8 <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	9 6:30pm Game Night	10 5-7pm Pizza Night 7pm Post Exec Mtg	11	12	13	14 <b>Natl Commander Banquet</b> NO Bar Bingo
15 8:30-11am SAL Breakfast <i>American Legion Birthday</i>	16 6:30pm Game Night <b>Bulletin Articles Due</b>	17 5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Riders Mtg <i>St Patrick's Day</i>	18	19 7pm SAL Mtg	20 5:30-7:00pm Auxiliary Dinner	21 6-8pm Bar Bingo
22	23 6:30pm Game Night	24 5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Reg Post Mtg	25	26	27	28 6-8pm Bar Bingo
29 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	30 6:30pm Game Night	31				



## Auxiliary President's Message

February is a month often associated with love, and reminds us that service comes from the heart. At Unit 226, we continue to show our care and commitment through service to our veterans, our Post Family, and our community.

Thank you to all our members who continue to give their time and support to our veterans, our Post Family, and our community.

Please remember to **turn in your service hours**. If you are volunteering your time, not being paid, and your efforts support an Auxiliary mission—whether at the Post, alongside Legion or SAL members, or in the community—**your time counts**. Reporting these hours helps Unit 226 receive recognition at the **District, Department, and National levels**.

Service reporting instruction sheets and tracking forms are available at our meetings or feel free to reach out to me via email to find out more. Thank you for helping ensure everyone's efforts are counted as we continue to live our **mission of Service, Not Self**.

Stephanie Millard  
Unit President  
alaunit226@gmail.com



**Thanks  
to Our  
Volunteers!**

AMERICAN LEGION  
RIDERS 226

# CHILI COOK OFF

CASH  
PRIZES  
1ST, 2ND  
PEOPLES  
CHOICE AND  
TOILET BOWL

FEB 15TH  
\$25 ENTRY

12:00 PM

OPEN TO PUBLIC

COME WATCH THE DAYTONA 500

FOOD FOR SALE

SIGN UP AT LEGION AFTER JANUARY

15TH

QUESTIONS TEXT 410-320-4597

CHILI MUST BE IN 7 QUART CROCK POT PREHEATED  
AND FULL AND MUST BE AT LEGION BY 12PM



## Riders Director's Message

Nominations of officers for the 2026-2027 administrative year were taken at our January meeting. Election of officers will be held at the general meeting on 17 February Reminder... BOTH your parent organization dues and your riders dues must be paid for 2026 in order to be nominated and vote. If you wish to cast your vote your dues must be current and verified before the February meeting.

Our annual Chili Cook-Off is on Sunday, February 15th – Daytona 500 Day. Registration is open; the sign-up sheet is on the Riders bulletin board at the Post. See the previous page for details.

In service to our Veterans,  
Danny Baldwin  
AL Riders Director

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### **HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2026 DUES?**

Memberships that have not been paid for 2026 by 31 January are “Expired” and considered suspended by National until dues are paid.

Visiting the Post with an expired membership requires being signed in as a guest of a current member.

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## **POST CLEAN-UP DAYS**

Thank you to all the members that came out on Monday, 19 January to help do some clean up work around the Post ahead of the National American Legion Commander's visit in March.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us at our next event on Sunday, March 1st. Complete information will be provided (online and at the Post) as the date gets closer.

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## **Email Addresses**

*Post Commander (Ray)* – post226commander@gmail.com

*Post 1st Vice (Scott)* – post226membership@gmail.com (veterans)

*Post 2nd Vice (Larry)* – legionpost226events@gmail.com

*Post Chaplain (Cheryl)* – post226chaplain@gmail.com

*Resource Officer (JP)* – post226resource@gmail.com

*Rental Coordinator (Stephanie)* – post226rentals@gmail.com

*SAL Commander (John)* – post226salcommander@gmail.com

*SAL Membership (Dennis)* – dulong58@yahoo.com

*AL Riders Director (Danny)* – alr226info@gmail.com

*Auxiliary President (Stephanie)* – alaunit226@gmail.com

*Aux. Membership (Alicia)* – unit226membership@gmail.com

*Bulletin and General Inquiries (Alicia)* – info@post226.com



## HOW YOU CAN BE THE ONE

**What:** The American Legion's *Be the One* initiative encourages American Legion Family members, veterans, servicemembers and others to take action when they believe a veteran is at risk of suicide.

**Why:** To reduce the alarming number of veteran suicides.

**How:** Our goal is to destigmatize asking for mental health support, provide peer-to-peer support and resources, and educate everyone on how they can Be the One.

### **Who:**

#### **Veterans**

Talk with fellow veterans about how you are feeling. Ask for help when you think you need it. Know there are millions of people ready to help you. Remember your family and friends care.

#### **Non-veterans**

Ask veterans in your life how they are doing. Listen when a veteran needs to talk. Reach out when a veteran is struggling.

## RESOURCES

**American Legion support:** Stories, videos and promotional items related to this initiative are available for posts, members and others. Visit [betheone.org](http://betheone.org)

**For urgent help:** Veterans experiencing a crisis can call **988** and press **1** for mental health assistance. Counselors are available 24/7.

You can also text **838255** or visit the VA crisis line website [veteranscrisisline.net](http://veteranscrisisline.net)

**Cummings-Behlke Post 226**  
**The American Legion**  
**PO Box 66**  
**Mayo, MD 21106-0066**

Web site: [www.post226.com](http://www.post226.com)  
Email: [info@post226.com](mailto:info@post226.com)

**ELIGIBILITY DATES**

**April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918**  
**December 7, 1941 to Present**

**BE THE ONE**

***DATED MATERIAL***  
***NO DELAY PLEASE***