



**AMERICAN
LEGION**

**Cummings-Behlke
Post 226**

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

*Happy
New Year*



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

www.post226.com • JANUARY 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

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

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

Tickets go on sale at the Post in January



Commander's Message

As we close out 2025 and look forward to 2026, we can look back on a year of wonderful accomplishments. Our signature events, Memorial Day Flags, Fireworks on July 4th, Car Show, Community Day, Food Drive, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Drive, and Wreaths Across America, were all very successful. The Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders all had phenomenal events raising awareness and funds for causes supporting Veterans. Our partnerships with the community around us grew; they came out and supported us in so many ways, donating food, backpacks for school kids, and attending our public events.

This year, we are looking to improve our service to veterans and to enhance our relationship with our District, State, and National Legion counterparts. Part of that is a commitment to reaching and exceeding our membership goals. If you have not renewed your membership, now is the time. It's a great way to start the new year. If you're reading this and you haven't joined and have served, why not? On the state and national level, we are hosting the National Commanders Dinner for Maryland this March and have committed to sponsoring American Legion Baseball this summer in our Home Area (South River and Southern High schools).

Our Legion family will be busy as well. Events like Post Everlasting, the SAL Shrimp Feast, and Rider's Chili Cook-off are all coming up in February. On February 7th, we'll be taking a contingent of folks out to Crownsville Veterans Cemetery to help take down wreaths. They always have scores of folks to put them out, but not nearly as many to pick them up and dispose of them. I hope you'll make plans to join us.

There are plenty of odd jobs needed to prepare for the National Commander's visit, and many hands make the jobs go quickly. Let me or Scott Smith know if you're available. A list will be posted after the start of the new year.

Continued →

Commander's Message - Continued

January is full of short, cold days; please take extra care to look after yourself and each other. A little 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!

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 for immediate support
- Maryland Crisis Connect – Call 988 (press 1 for MD specific support) or visit 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

1st Vice Commander's Message

Happy New Year everyone. Legionnaire (Veteran) membership processing has reached 82.103% with 367 members processed to-date. I want to remind everyone that if you have not renewed your membership by January 1st, you're now in expired status. Please renew today!!

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 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

Chaplain's Message

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2).

Happy New Year! Our American Legion family has always been a community that gives back—through service, compassion, and presence. Whether it is supporting fellow veterans, assisting families facing hardship, or simply checking on someone who may feel forgotten, our actions speak volumes.

Continued →

Chaplain's Message- Continued

Giving back is not only about material help; it is about time, encouragement, and genuine care. Each act of kindness and generosity this past holiday season helped to lighten another's load and strengthen the bonds that unite us as Legionnaires.

We hit it out of the park this past year serving the local community and each other by hosting so many memorable events. I could barely keep up with all the activities that kept rolling out on the calendar! We truly stepped up this holiday season with truckloads of food, toys, cash donations for SCAN, necessities for our Charlotte Hall vets and sponsorship of nearly 400 wreaths to adorn the graves of our heroes at Crownsville & Cheltenham cemeteries. Thank you!

As we move into the new year, may we continue to be a light in our community—living examples of service, gratitude, and hope. Together, let us renew our commitment to giving back, not only in times of celebration, but every day we are called to serve.

Please join me on February 1st at noon, when we will have a remembrance ceremony to honor the souls who reported to Post Everlasting in 2025. If you have someone who passed from our Legion family who was not recognized or who's service was not held at the post and would like their name added to one of the rolls, please e-mail me so they will not be forgotten.

I am 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 an email to post226chaplain@gmail.com, or drop a note in the mailbox at the Post.

"Service Before Self to God & Country"

Cheryl Smith

Post Chaplain

Membership Information

New, 2026 key cards will be available January 1st by showing your 2026 membership card. If you were 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.

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

You may also be able to print your card on line

JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>New Years' Day</i>	2 5:30-7:00pm SAL Dinner 8pm DJ Wally	3 6-8pm Bar Bingo
4	5 6:30pm Game Night	6 5-7pm Pizza Night	7 7pm Auxiliary Mtg	8	9 8pm Music by Chesapeake Sons	10 6-8pm Bar Bingo
11	12 6:30pm Game Night	13 5-7pm Pizza Night 7pm Post Exec Mtg	14 5:30-7pm Oysters & Wings	15 7pm SAL Meeting Bulletin Articles Due	16 5:30-7:00pm Auxiliary Dinner	17 6-8pm Bar Bingo
18 8:30-11am SAL Breakfast	19 6:30pm Game Night <i>Martin Luther King Jr Day</i>	20 5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Riders Mtg <i>Nominations</i>	21	22	23	24 6-8pm Bar Bingo
25	26 6:30pm Game Night	27 5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Reg Post Mtg	28 5:30-7pm Oysters & Wings	29	30 8pm Music by Betty White Stripes	31 6-8pm Bar Bingo

FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 12pm Post Everlasting Ceremony	2 6:30pm Game Night	3 5-7pm Pizza Night	4 7pm Auxiliary Mtg	5	6 NO SAL Dinner 8pmDJ Wally	7 1-5pm SAL Shrimp Feast NO Bar Bingo
8	9 6:30pm Game Night	10 5-7pm Pizza Night 7pm Post Exec Mtg	11	12	13	14 6-8pm Bar Bingo <i>Valentine's Day</i>
15 8:30-11am SAL Breakfast Riders Chili Cook-off Bulletin Articles Due	16 6:30pm Game Night <i>President's Day</i>	17 5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Riders Mtg <i>Elections</i>	18 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	19 7pm SAL Meeting	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 8pm Music by Kevin Lee and Coleman	28 6-8pm Bar Bingo



Auxiliary President's Message

Starting the New Year with Service

As we welcome 2026, Unit 226 would like to thank our members for an incredible close to the past year and a strong start to the new one. Your dedication, generosity, and willingness to step up continue to make a meaningful difference for our veterans, our Post Family, and our community.

As a Unit, we truly lived our mission of **Service, Not Self**. **Between donations and funds earmarked for local schools, community youth programs, and veteran support, we donated over \$9,600 just in the month of December. That is an incredible reflection of our mission and the generosity of this group.**

We also have exciting news to share – **our Unit met our membership goal, plus, by the beginning of December!** This is a tremendous accomplishment and a testament to the strength, commitment, and welcoming spirit of Unit 226. Thank you to everyone who helped recruit, renew, and support our members.

January is a great time to reset, refocus, and get involved. We encourage members to join a committee, volunteer at upcoming events, and share ideas for programs and fundraisers in 2026. Our standing committees are what make the Auxiliary unique, and your participation helps keep our Unit strong and active.

Thank you for everything you do – whether it's leading a project, volunteering at an event, or supporting our efforts behind the scenes. Together, we look forward to another year of serving our veterans and community.

Stephanie Millard
Unit President

Auxiliary Life Membership

The guidelines for Unit 226 Life Membership are outlined below and will be reviewed at the January Unit meeting. Please contact me with any questions.

Alicia Curran
Committee Chair
info@post226.com

Nomination Eligibility Requirements

- A member must be active and in good standing with Cummings-Behlke Unit 226 for at least the prior ten (10) years.
- A member must have held an officer position and/or chaired a standing committee for six (6) continuous active service years in Unit 226.

Nomination and Award Procedure

1. No oral nominations shall be presented from the floor during a regular meeting. At the regular meeting in the month of January, the committee shall invite the membership to submit nominations for Life Membership in writing within 15 days following the January meeting.
2. Nominations must be submitted in writing, be original thought of the author, dated, and signed.
3. Content of the nomination must include a detailed description of the outstanding service rendered by the nominee on behalf of the Cummings-Behlke Unit 226. Areas to be addressed:
 - a. Offices held
 - b. Committees chaired
 - c. Service to the Unit that went above and beyond the assigned duties of the offices held and committees chaired
4. After a full consideration of all nominations for Life Membership, the committee shall submit their report and recommendation at the March regular meeting. ***“Only one (1) Life Membership may be granted per year.”***



Riders Director's Message

Our Riders Chapter closed out the year collecting and donating Christmas gifts for 15 needy families in the area. Thank you to Kim and Chris Owens for spearheading this tradition for many years. Additional thanks go out to everyone that donated items and gift cards for Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in southern Maryland. We braved the cold ride on December 13th to deliver, along with Post Commander Ray Leone and his wife Deanna.

Don't forget to pay your parent organization and Riders dues. Your membership must be current in both to receive your Riders card and participate in nominations this month and elections in February.

In service to our Veterans,
Danny Baldwin
AL Riders Director

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) – dwlong58@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

RIDERS ANNUAL

Daytona
500



**OPEN TO
THE
PUBLIC**



CHILI

COOKOFF

**CASH
PRIZES
AND
TROPHIES**



**LIMITED
TO
16
ENTRIES**

**AMERICAN LEGION
POST 226
MAYO, MD**

**\$25.00 ENTRY FEE
DATE: FEBRUARY 15
TIME: HIGH NOON**

**FOR MORE INFO AND
TO REGISTER TEXT
410-320-4597**

**CHILI MUST BE PREHEATED
IN A CROCKPOT AND AT
THE POST BY 12 NOON**

JUDGING BEGINS AT 1 PM

**CHILI FOR SALE AFTER THE
JUDGING, ALSO HOT DOGS
AND NACHOS**

PEOPLES CHOICE AWARD

ATTENDANCE IS FREE



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](https://www.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](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net)

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

Web site: www.post226.com
Email: info@post226.com

BE **THE** **ONE**

ELIGIBILITY DATES

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

DATED MATERIAL
NO DELAY PLEASE