

AMERICAN LEGION

Cummings-Behlke
Post 226

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



American Legion's 106th Birthday

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

www.post226.com • MARCH 2025

Commander's Message

Over One hundred years ago, The American Legion was founded in Paris, France, the "City of Lights," by a group of committed U.S. veterans of the Great War. It has been a shining light for communities around the world ever since.

The American Legion was a figurative light for the Unknown Soldier who was given a prominent tomb in 1921 thanks to the tireless efforts of Representative Hamilton Fish, Jr., an American Legion founder. Congressman Fish understood that for America to remain free, it must honor and remember the brave.

That's who The American Legion is – an organization of wartime veterans that understands the darkness of combat, while providing light to the communities and country that we love and pledge to defend. We were a light to our wounded comrades when we insisted on a Veterans Bureau that would treat their medical needs. When the bureau fell short, we pushed for the creation of the Veterans Administration and ultimately, the Dept of Veterans Affairs.

Our service officers continue to provide a guiding light for veterans as they assist these men and women in obtaining benefits that they earned while defending our nation. The American Legion also delivers on President Lincoln's promise of care to the widows and orphans of those who have borne the battle.

To the Legion, Americanism encompasses far more than flying the flag. It is civic engagement, voting and encouraging good citizenship and patriotism. The American Legion led the fight for the government to recognize and care for veterans who have experienced the effects of Agent Orange, radiation poisoning and other toxic exposures that occurred during military service. The American Legion shines a light on issues such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, homelessness, military sexual trauma and other issues that some would prefer not to discuss. We do this because we owe it to those who have served.

Commander's Message – Continued

Throughout natural disasters, global pandemics and local emergencies, it is The American Legion post that often shines brightest. With programs like the National Emergency Fund, the Veterans & Children Foundation, the Legacy Scholarship and Operation Comfort Warriors, The American Legion is able to provide a safety-net to fellow Americans in need.

According to the most recent statistics by the Department of Veterans Affairs, more than 17 veterans a day take their own lives. But these men and women are not just statistics. They are our parents, spouses, children and siblings. They are our friends. They are our fellow Legionnaires.

National Commander James LaCoursiere, Jr. has continued the "Be the One" campaign, asking each of us to check on each other. Anybody who has served in the military understands the esprit de corps and family bonds that we shared with those whom we served beside. The American Legion gets it. We understand. By calling and reaching out to other veterans, we can be their light. We can be their sounding board. We can listen to their pain. And most importantly, we can save their lives.

Buddy checks are not simply a Legion campaign. It is a peer support program that is spreading throughout the veterans community.

May those lights shine eternally and may God continue to bless our American Legion through this birthday and many more.

Larry Erwin
Post Commander



1st Vice Commander's Message

Legion membership continues ahead of our monthly goals. Post 226 Legionnaires, (as of 17 Feb) were at 87.2% of goal with 408 members for 2025. If you know of a veteran that is not yet a member, let's get them signed up and make them aware of what the Legion has to offer them and their family.

Legionnaire dues are \$47 for 2025. My email address is post226membership@gmail.com for questions regarding your Legionnaire membership. Please include your full name, membership ID number, and a good call back phone number.

Scott Smith
1st Vice Commander

Purse & Basket Bingo Fundraiser



DATE: Saturday, April 12th

**TIME: Doors open at 3pm,
Bingo at 5pm**

**COST: \$30, bingo packet &
buffet**

**See our Facebook page for tickets
and how you can help.**

Proceeds benefit the building fund

Chaplain's Message

Last year in March, I wrote about Grief and Death, it had been a mournful winter. This year has been no better. Ecclesiastes 3 is the verse made famous by Kevin Bacon in Footloose, *"To everything there is a season... a time to be born and a time to die ...a time to mourn and a time to dance."* It is a wonderful passage, and you should take the time to read all of it. I read that occasionally, for perspective. We proud Veterans, Legionaries have seen our share of life. We, band of Brothers and Sisters, prop each other up and work daily to improve our lot in life and that of the folks around us and our community. I want to encourage you to look to each other, ask questions, make sure our fellow veterans are alright, and if they are not, be an empathetic ear. If you uncover something that needs help text me, call me, or tap any other officer, we are all here to help. Our Commander and 2nd Vice have some great bands lined up this late winter and spring...time to dance!

St Patrick's Day will be upon us before we know it. I hope to see many of you celebrating with some wonderful corned beef and helping us remember the Legion's Birthday, March 15th, with a cake that night too! On that date in 1919, the first American Legion Caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in Paris. March 15, the date the American Legion came to life.

Please pray for the families of Larry Boerste, John Eisel, Sonny Cave, Jim Reese, and Arthur Cousin, as they have transitioned to Post Everlasting. While they are no longer with us physically, they are with us in Spirit. They depend on our prayers for the well-being of those family and friends they leave behind.

Continued →

Chaplain's Message

A always, 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, dropping a note in the prayer box out front or dropping a note in my mailbox at the Post. You can also message me on Facebook.

For God and Country,
Ray Leone
Post Chaplain



ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER & AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY

Saturday, March 15th

Dinner 5-7 pm ~ Cake cutting at 7pm

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner to celebrate
the feast of St. Patrick and cake to for the
American Legion's Birthday

\$15 per plate ~ Guests Welcome

Membership Information

Key cards are available by showing your 2025 membership card. If you were an early bird the card is free, otherwise it is \$3. Legionaries are free.

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

MARCH 2025

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

APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5-7pm Pizza Night	2 7pm Auxiliary Mtg	3	4 5:30-7:00pm SAL Dinner	5 6-8pm Bar Bingo
6	7 6:30pm Game Night	8 5-7pm Pizza Night 7pm Post Exec Mtg	9	10	11 Auxiliary Dinner?	12 8am Flea Market 3pm Basket Bingo NO Bar Bingo
13 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	14 6:30pm Game Night	15 5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Riders Mtg	16 Bulletin Articles Due	17 7pm SAL Mtg <i>Nominations</i>	18 SAL Fish Fry <i>Good Friday</i>	19 6-8pm Bar Bingo
20 8:30-11am SAL Breakfast <i>Easter</i>	21 6:30pm Game Night	22 5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Reg Post Mtg <i>Nominations</i>	23	24	25	26 6-8pm Bar Bingo
27	28 6:30pm Game Night	29 5-7pm Pizza Night	30			



American Legion Auxiliary President's Message

Reminder, Unit initiation is at the March meeting, held annually. New members or those not yet initiated should attend. Membership is progressing well. We are currently at approximately 96% of our target, needing only about 15 more membership dues to surpass our goal.

Don't forget we get to Spring forward this month, yay! March 9th. Then comes first day of Spring on the 20th!

Upcoming events:

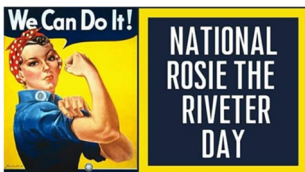
- Spring Flea Market, April 12: Please contact Marla Abell to reserve a space, msblueyes1@verizon.net or 410-279-3954. Marla is the only contact for this event, regardless of what you see elsewhere.
- Car Show, June 7: There will be plenty of volunteer opportunities for this event.

The Friday night dinners continue to do well. Thank you everyone that attends and helps, either on the day of, or with desserts. The next dinner is March 21, 5:30-7:00pm .

Don't forget 2025 membership dues are due. You can mail your payment in or pay it online.

Our next meeting is March 5 at 7pm. Hope to see you there!

Laura Causey
Unit President



Rosie the Riveter Day March 21

Rosie the Riveter Day is an observation honoring the hard work and sacrifices American women made in the workplace during World War II.



Riders Director's Message

Thank you to all the participants, volunteers, donors, and communities that continue to support us. Once again the Riders Annual Chili Cook-off was a great success. Congratulations to Cheri Kircher on first place, John Sweeney for second place, our people's choice winner Jason Stallings, and to our runner up Jason Tolliver.

Election of officers for the 2025-2026 administrative year were held at our February meeting. We look forward to another productive year.

Director	Jim Hall
Asst Director	Danny Baldwin
Sgt. At Arms	Kenny Fowler
Secretary	Tammy Baldwin
Treasurer	Tom Locke
Chaplain	Bernie Floyd
Historian	Regina Nokes
Road Captains	Chris Owens, Matt Fritz, Mark Egley

Jim Hall
AL Riders Director

Attention all Members...

If you have not renewed your 2025 membership

- You are now in an expired status
- You must sign in as a guest until your dues are paid



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)

Regular Events at the Post

Monday – Game Night, 6:30pm

Tuesday – Pizza Night, 5:00-7:00 pm (Last order at 6:45)

1st & 3rd Friday – Dinner, 5:30-7:00 pm

Saturday – Bar Bingo, 6:00-8:30 pm

Sunday – Queen of Hearts Drawing, 6:00 pm

Check out our website and join our Facebook group.

Don't forget... We are always looking for volunteers.

Whether you can offer 30 minutes or 3 hours, it all helps and is appreciated.

Email Addresses

Post Commander (Larry) – post226commander@gmail.com

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

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

Post Chaplain (Ray) – post226chaplain@gmail.com

Post Service Officer (Matt) – serviceofficer226@gmail.com

Rental Coordinator (Stephanie) – post226rentals@gmail.com

SAL Commander (John) – post226salcommander@gmail.com

SAL Membership (Dennis) – dwlong58@yahoo.com

AL Riders Director (Jim) – alr226info@gmail.com

Auxiliary President (Laura) – alaunit226@gmail.com

Aux. Membership (Jeanette) – unit226membership@gmail.com

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

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 226

FLEA MARKET

APRIL 12, 2025 8:00am – 1:00pm

RAIN OR SHINE

It's clean out time again! Get your unwanted items together and join us at the American Legion for a Flea Market!
10' x 10' Spaces are only \$15

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Circle One:

Household Treasures

Crafts

Vendor: _____

of Spaces _____

You are responsible for taking unsold items with you.
Nothing is to be left behind.

No food vendors! Set-up starts at 6:30am

Tables will be provided (1 table per space) on a first come first serve basis. Spaces will still be sold without tables, same price.
No refunds!

Please send this form, along with your check or money order, payable to 'ALA Unit 226', before April 1st, to Marla Abell, 713 Londontown Rd, Edgewater, MD 21037

For more info, please contact Marla at 410-279-3954 or msblueyes1@verizon.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