

AMERICAN LEGION

Cummings-Behlke
Post 226

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

MEMORIAL DAY



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

www.post226.com • MAY 2025

4th ANNUAL CAR SHOW



CUSTOM CAR , TRUCK AND MOTORCYCLE SHOW

TROPHIES, FOOD, REFRESHMENTS, & MUSIC

***Saturday, June 7th
8:00 am until 3:00 pm***

Grounds open at 7am for pre-registered vehicles

Admission \$5 – Children 10 and under free

Vehicle Registration
\$15 by May 25th, \$20 day of the show

Vendors: \$25 for the first table, \$5 for additional

Sponsor, vehicle registration, and vendor forms are available at the post or on our website under Special Events

www.post226.com

Commander's Message

Service members, veterans, and their families know there is a big difference between Memorial Day and Veterans Day. While Veterans Day, November 11, is a day set aside to celebrate all veterans, Memorial Day is a somber holiday dedicated to honor military fallen, with a special focus on those killed during military service or through enemy contact.

Originally called "Decoration Day", Memorial Day is often considered the unofficial beginning of summer. Parades take place, the grill is dusted off for the first time. Actually, it is more than that.

Memorial Day is in remembrance of soldiers who fell in combat risking their lives for their country. It is about gratitude. Although placing flowers on graves is a very old tradition, the modern Memorial Day observance began with the end of the Civil War. They decorated the graves of their fallen heroes with flowers, they recited prayers, they held tributes. It began as a very solemn day.

A pharmacist in Waterloo Village, New York, Henry C. Welles is credited with the inspiration that "it would be honorable and appropriate to recall the sacrifice of the patriotic dead by displaying floral tributes on the gravestones of the fallen." What helped Waterloo's cause to be first was the consistency of the celebration from year to year in 1866, 1867, and 1868 and thereafter.

Today, the main observance takes place in Arlington National Cemetery, where the President lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier followed by an address in the amphitheater.

This holiday has evolved. It can be both solemn and joyous, both formal and casual. In 1968, Congress created a three-day weekend to include Memorial Day. In the years since the change became effective, Memorial Day has been hailed as the unofficial beginning of the summer season marked by vacation getaways and swimming pool openings. Parades replaced processions. Commemoration gave way to celebration.

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Commander's Message Continued

Some of the solemnity of the day, in the eyes of some, was lost. No longer referred to as Decoration Day. Gradually, the "Memorial Day" designation took hold, still, it wasn't until 1967 that "Memorial Day" was the official name of the holiday. During the 20th century, Memorial Day became a permanent holiday on the calendar. It became a day of remembrance of all service personnel killed in war balanced with leisure.

What really matters is that we all remember, in our own way, Memorial Day.

Larry Erwin
Commander

1st Vice Commander's Message

Attention all Legionnaires that have not renewed your 2025 membership, you are now in an expired status and need to pay your dues or sign in as a guest.

Legion membership processing continues but we need your help and support. Our current Post 226 Legionnaires, (as of 11 April) were at 92.31% of goal with 432 members processed 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

Chaplain's Message

I can't believe it is May already. May is a busy month as we charge head first towards Summer Fun. We start the month honoring the Mother figures in our lives, May 11th is Mother's Day, so make sure you tell Mom what she means to you; they deserve our thanks every day!

We are also heading into a full month of Military recognitions. May is Military Appreciation Month. May 1st is Silver Star Banner Day, honoring wounded, ill, and injured veterans. On May 7th, we honor Military Spouses. May 13th is Children of Fallen Patriots Day. May 15th, Armed Forces Day, where we honor all Americans currently serving in all branches of the U.S. Military.

As a prelude to Memorial Day, a tradition dating back to the first National American Legion Auxiliary's Convention, the Friday before Memorial Day, we wear a Red Poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform.

On Saturday morning, the 24th, in honor of Memorial Day, we will be planting flags topped with those same poppies on Veterans' graves throughout the South County area. We will be serving a continental breakfast for veterans and volunteers as folks pick up or finish planting flags. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lounge around May 9th.

I want to take a minute here and write about the comrades we have laid to rest so far this year. It's been another tough year with several of our Legion family going to their final rest. Grief manifests itself differently in each of us. While we may have similar ways of honoring our loved ones, each family is a little different, perhaps it's because of their religion or beliefs, or the way they carried themselves while alive.

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Chaplain's Message Continued

What I have learned over the years is that we are part of a very large family, we care and love each other and will find ways to honor someone when they are gone. You will never be forgotten! Your name will have a place on our walls for as long as we are here.

Pray for each other, for patience, health, peace, and posterity. God hears our prayers. He is our good shepherd, after all.

I will make myself available to meet with, talk with, and pray with any of you who need my services as your Chaplain. It is easiest to reach me is by email at post226chaplain@gmail.com

For God and Country,
Ray Leone
Post Chaplain



★ **Memorial Day Weekend Activities** ★



★ Here is the list of Memorial Day weekend activities. Please check social media as the date gets closer. ★

- ★ ◆ Mid May – Flag prepping, attaching poppies. Check the Post and Facebook for update. ★
- ★ ◆ 24 May, 8am – Place flags on veterans graves in South County. Sign up sheet will go up around 10 May. ★
- ★ ◆ 26 May, noon – Memorial Day Ceremony ★



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

MAY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>May Day</i>	2 5:30-7:00pm SAL Dinner	3 6-8pm Bar Bingo
4	5 6:30pm Game Night <i>Cinco de Mayo</i>	6 5-7pm Pizza Night	7 7pm Auxiliary Mtg <i>Nominations</i>	8	9 8pm Live Music by <i>Captain Crunch</i> <i>Military Spouse Appreciation Day</i>	10 6-8pm Bar Bingo
11  <i>Mothers Day</i>	12 6:30pm Game Night	13 5-7pm Pizza Night 7pm Post Exec Mtg	14	15 <i>Bulletin Articles Due</i> 7pm SAL Mtg <i>Elections</i>	16 5:30-7:00pm Auxiliary Dinner 6pm Bike Night	17 6-8pm Bar Bingo <i>Armed Forces Day</i>
18 8:30-11:00am SAL Breakfast	19 6:30pm Game Night	20 5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Riders Mtg	21	22	23 8pm Live Music by <i>Jason Bishop</i> <i>National Poppy Day</i>	24 8am Place flags on graves 6-8pm Bar Bingo
25	26 Noon Memorial Day Ceremony <i>Memorial Day</i> 	27 5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Reg Post Mtg <i>Elections</i>	28	29	30 Commander's Happy Hour	31 6-8pm Bar Bingo

JUNE 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 6:30pm Game Night	3 5-7pm Pizza Night	4 7pm Auxiliary Mtg <i>Elections</i>	5	6 5:30-7pm SAL Dinner 8pm <i>Peter James</i> D-Day Anniversary	7 8am Car Show NO Bar Bingo
8 1pm Purse/Basket Bingo	9 6:30pm Game Night	10 5-7pm Pizza Night 7pm Post Exec Mtg	11	12	13	14 5pm Flag Day Ceremony 6-8pm Bar Bingo
15 8:30-11am SAL Breakfast Bulletin Articles Due	16 6:30pm Game Night	17 5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Riders Mtg	18	19 7pm SAL Mtg	20 5:30-7pm Auxiliary Dinner	21 6-8pm Bar Bingo
22 Installation Dinner	23 6:30pm Game Night	24 5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Reg Post Mtg	25	26	27	28 6-8pm Bar Bingo
29	30 6:30pm Game Night					



American Legion Auxiliary President's Message

May is **Poppy** month. The **red** poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms. Led by the American Legion Auxiliary, each year members of The American Legion Family distribute poppies with a request that the person receiving the flower make a donation to support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs. Poppy cans will be in the lounge all month, thank you for your support.

Congratulations to Jeanette Hilty, membership chair, to getting our Unit to Goal Plus! As of this writing we are at about 107% of goal+4!

Nominations for officers will be taken at our May meeting, and elections are in June. I would like to thank everyone for their participation and dedication throughout the year – officers, committee chairs, event chairs, and volunteers. Again, I thank you so much for your willingness to donate your time and talent. Your efforts contribute greatly to the success of our organization. Please don't hesitate to ask questions , if you are interested in trying a new position of any kind.

I'd also like to thank the Boy Scouts Troop 249 and 2018 for their help with the flea market, very much appreciated. The Friday night dinners continue to do well. Thank you everyone that attends and helps, either on the day of, or with desserts. This month's dinner will be on May 16, 5:30-7:00pm.

Our next meeting is May 7th at 7pm.

Laura Causey
Unit President





Riders Director's Message

Our first blessing of the bikes at our Post went well, with over 80 in attendance. We would like to extend a big thank you to all that came out and to our Legion Chaplain Ray Leone and our Riders Chaplain Bernie Floyd for leading our blessings and prayer. A special thank you to SAL member Andy Dawson for cooking up some good eats for our guests.

Recently myself, Danny Baldwin, and Tom Locke were presented with recognition from the American Legion National Commander for our hard work, dedication, and donation to Veteran suicide and awareness. The presentation was made at our monthly Riders meeting by Unit Past President Alicia Curran and Post 1st Vice Commander Scott Smith. I would like to say that though it was us three called upon, it takes our entire group of Riders to do what we do and each of them deserve the recognition for their part. This year our Riders are putting our fundraising efforts into Patriot Point with a goal of delivering a sizable donation again this year to the facility.

Be sure to mark your calendar for our upcoming events.

- Friday, May 16 – Bike night on patio
- Sat., May 24 – Southern Maryland Gold Star Ride

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 20 at 7:30pm.

Jim Hall

AL Riders Director

***ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL.
REMEMBER THEM THIS MEMORIAL DAY.***



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) – dulong58@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

PURSE & BASKET BINGO FUNDRAISER



Sunday, June 8th

Doors open at 11am, Bingo at 1pm

\$30 – Bingo packet & Buffet

In addition to the bingo games there will be \$5 for \$100 boards, pull tabs, 50/50 raffle, silent & Chinese auctions, bake table, prize raffles, and door prizes.

**Tickets are on sale at the Post or electronically
(VENMO - @TINA-STOKES-2;
CASH APP - \$BOFFY69; ZELLE - 443-623-2519)**

See our Facebook page under Events for how you can help.

Proceeds benefit the building fund

**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***