

AMERICAN LEGION

Cummings-Behlke
Post 226

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



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

www.post226.com • NOVEMBER 2025

Commander's Message

October is already gone, and November is going to be a busy month for our entire Legion family. Our two big events are the 250th Marine Corps Birthday and Veterans Day. We have observances planned for both. We will also be putting finishing touches on several drives that benefit folks in the Veteran community and the local community. Leading up to the holidays, our Post family will help those in need. Be it toys for children that may otherwise go without, or food to fill the bellies of folks having trouble making ends meet.

While I'm typing this, we are 14 days into the government shutdown. If it drags into this month, you can be assured our Military families and government employees will be struggling going into the holidays. The folks here are always so generous. Please continue to help, volunteering your time, money, or donating a toy or food to one of our drives.

I want to give a shout out to some of the folks who have been going above and beyond for the Post. Scott Smith has been crushing it when it comes to membership. We are exceeding our goals so far and are looking to continue to grow. Jack McLaughlin, leading the way with our planning for the National Commanders Dinner in March, and helping ensure we passed our District Post inspection. Jimmy Nevin, I can't count how many times he has helped with everything from setting up for big events, emptying full trash cans, sweeping the floor, or backing up the beer and Ice on the bar. Andy Dawson, who doesn't know how to say no, tackles many odd jobs throughout the post, and he's great with a paintbrush. There are numerous other post angels, and I will continue to use this space to sing their praises!

Ending on a serious note. We continue to lose friends, family, and comrades to suicide. We have to do better. 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. *Continued →*

Commander's Message - Continued

Check on neighbors, colleagues, and friends. Let them know you care! I urge you to continue to look for ways to help your comrades and Legion family, both big and small.



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).

God bless the United States and Post 226.

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

Early Bird Dinner

Sunday, November 9th – Cocktails at 4pm, Dinner at 5pm

Free to all members paid by October 31st. Price for a guest is \$15.

Stop in and sign up by October 31st

250th Marine Corps Birthday

ATTENTION ON DECK: ALL MARINES & CORPSMEN — Please join us in celebrating the Birthday of our beloved US Marine Corps.



Monday, 10 November
Happy Hour at 1700, Ceremony at 1900

We will gather in the lounge and Gertrude Cummings Room for cocktails at 1700 on 10 November. At 1900 there will be the reading General Lejeune's message, playing of the Commandant's video message, the traditional cake cutting ceremony, and toasting our comrades.

Remember, this is for all MARINES and CORPSMEN – past and present, members and non-members. Attire is casual.

SEMPER FIDELIS,
Marines of Post 226



Food and Toy Drive
Saturday, November 22nd
10am to 3pm

New Unwrapped Toys
Non-perishable Food will be Collected

Volunteers Welcome



SPONSOR A WREATH

\$17

POST #226 WILL MATCH YOUR DONATION

NOV 1ST- NOV 18TH

Join the Wreath Wall of Honor!

Email post226chaplain@gmail.com
to notify of sponsorship or get help
with making your donation



**SCAN TO SPONSOR A
WREATH**



www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/MD0235

Attention Members!!

No veteran or member should ever be alone on Thanksgiving. To ensure the holiday is enjoyed with cheer and comradery, Post 226 is hosting a Thanksgiving Day Dinner for those whose need a place to go.

- A traditional family style Thanksgiving Dinner will start at 3pm on Thursday, November 27th
- Dinners are reserved for members (plus 1 guest)
- Sign-up sheets will go up in early November
- ***Please sign up by Sunday, November 23rd***
- Dinner is free but we are asking for donations to support local veterans at Christmas

Menu – Turkey, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Stuffing, Green Beans, Corn, Cranberry Sauce, Rolls & Dessert

Chaplains' Message

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

The Strength of Gratitude

As the leaves begin to fall and the days grow shorter, we're reminded that gratitude is not just a feeling — it's a discipline. It's easy to be thankful when life is smooth, but true gratitude shows its strength when the road is rough.

As Legionnaires, Riders, Sons, and Auxiliary members, we've all seen our share of hardship — in service, in loss, and in the quiet moments after the battles of life. Yet through it all, we remain bound by faith, fellowship, and the belief that we are stronger together.

This season, take a moment to give thanks — for the freedom we defended, for the friends who stand beside us, and for the families who give our lives meaning. Reach out to a comrade who's been quiet. Offer a kind word to a neighbor. Pray for those still serving and for those who never made it home.

Gratitude turns what we have into enough — and reminds us that we are never alone.

This month we pay it forward for all the blessings from above by donating toys and food to the less fortunate in our community. The receptacles are in the Legion and we hope they will be overflowing.

We will make ourselves available to meet with, talk with and pray with any of you who need our services as your Chaplains. The easiest way to reach us is email post226chaplain@gmail.com or drop a note in our mailbox at the Post.

"Service Before Self, For God & Country"

Art and Cheryl Smith

Post Chaplains

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.

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

NOVEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 6-8pm Bar Bingo 8pm Live Music, Chesapeake Sons
2 <i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i>	3 6:30pm Game Night	4 5-7pm Pizza Night <i>Election Day</i>	5 7pm Auxiliary Mtg	6	7 5:30-7pm SAL Dinner 8pm DJ Wally	8 6-8pm Bar Bingo
9 4pm Early Bird Dinner	10 5pm USMC 250th Birthday Celebration	11 11am Ceremony 5-7pm Pizza Night 7pm Post Exec Mtg <i>Veterans Day</i>	12 5:30-7pm Buck-a- Shuck Oysters	13	14	15 9am-1pm Craft Fair 6-8pm Bar Bingo <i>Bulletin Articles Due</i>
16 8:30-11am SAL Breakfast	17 6:30pm Game Night	18 5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Riders Mtg	19	20 7pm SAL Meeting	21 5:30-7pm Aux Dinner	22 10am-3pm Food & Toy Drive 6-8pm Bar Bingo 8pm Live Music, Kevin Lee & Coleman
23 1-5pm Cookie Decorating & Card Making	24 6:30pm Game Night	25 5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Reg Post Mtg	26	27 Post opens at 5pm <i>Thanksgiving</i>	28	29 6-8pm Bar Bingo
30						

DECEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30pm Game Night	2 5-7pm Pizza Night	3 7pm Auxiliary Mtg	4	5 5:30-7:00pm SAL Dinner	6 12pm Aux Purse Bingo 6-8pm Bar Bingo
7 <i>Pearl Harbor Day</i>	8 6:30pm Game Night	9 5-7pm Pizza Night 7pm Post Exec Mtg	10	11	12	13 6-8pm Bar Bingo Wreaths Across America
14	15 6:30pm Game Night Bulletin Articles	16 5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Riders Mtg	17	18 7pm SAL Mtg	19 Auxiliary Dinner?	20 Members Christmas Party 6-8pm Bar Bingo?
21 8:30-11am SAL Santa Breakfast <i>First Day of Winter</i>	22 6:30pm Game Night	23 5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Reg Post Mtg	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 POST CLOSED <i>Christmas</i>	26	27 6-8pm Bar Bingo
28	29 6:30pm Game Night	30 5-7pm Pizza Night	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>			



Auxiliary President's Message

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Alicia Curran and Marla Abell for organizing our recent Crab Feast. Their hard work made the event a tremendous success, and we received only compliments from attendees. Thank you to Missy Kreamer for co-chairing the event for over 20 years. A special acknowledgement also goes to the many volunteers who contributed their time and effort, including the SAL and Legion volunteers. Your commitment truly made a difference.

Upcoming Events

- Craft & Vendor Show – Saturday, November 15
- Cookie Decorating & Card Making – Sunday, November 23
- Purse Bingo – Saturday, December 6

Please mark your calendars; we look forward to seeing you there.

Honoring Our Service Members

As we approach Veterans Day on November 11, we also celebrate National Military Appreciation Month and the 250th Marine Corps Birthday on November 10. Thank you to all who serve and have served our nation—your dedication is deeply appreciated.

The next Unit meeting is on Wednesday, November 5 at 7pm. Hope you can make it. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Stephanie Millard
Unit President





Riders Director's Message

Thank you to all that attended our Fall Poker Run on October 18th to benefit Patriot Point. Special thanks to Gina Nokes for coordinating, our community partners and Post 206 in Chesapeake Beach for hosting stops along the rider. Congratulations to our winners and we greatly appreciate winnings that were donated back to our cause.

Members, please ensure you renew your dues to your parent organization (Post, SAL, Auxiliary). And as we head into the holiday season, please keep a look out for information on our events to benefit families and veterans in need.

In service to our Veterans,
Danny Baldwin
AL Riders Director

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 226
YOUTH EVENT

HOLIDAY MASHUP

A FUN DAY FOR THOSE
AGES 5-17

COOKIE DECORATING & CARD MAKING

SUNDAY, NOV 23RD, 2025
1 PM - 5 PM
(WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

AMERICAN LEGION POST 226
830 MAYO RD, EDGEWATER, MD 21037
IN THE LARGE HALL

YOUTH WILL MAKE COOKIES & CARDS FOR
VETERANS/ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS!



REGISTRATION REQUIRED
SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE & FILL FORM



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 226

ART, CRAFT, & VENDOR FAIR



When: Saturday 11/15

Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Where: American Legion

830 E Central Ave
Edgewater, MD 21037



**Vendor
Space Still
Available**

**Email
msblueyes1
@verizon.net**

OVER 20

Local Artists ~ Crafters ~ Vendors

Free Admission

Email Addresses

Post Commander (Ray) – post226commander@gmail.com

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

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

Post Chaplains (Art & 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

Auxiliary Purse Bingo – December 6th

It's not too late to purchase your tickets! Each ticket is \$30 and will cover all 20 Bingo games (you can buy extra game packets for a reduced price at the event). There's a designer purse for every Bingo! We're very excited to have Deanna Walls as our caller this year!

We do need some help again this year. We're asking for gift basket donations for our Chinese Raffles. It's easy to get creative with this, and it's lots of fun! Some ideas for baskets are:

- Family Game Night – A couple different board/card games and maybe a few snacks
- Car Care – Wiper fluid, jumper cables, flashlight...
- Margarita in a basket – Margarita Mix, tequila, glasses
- Baking basket – Cake/cookie/brownie mix, oven mitts, baking pan, apron...
- Gift cards – Got some gift cards you aren't going to use? Give them to us and we'll make up various baskets or enhance ones we put together

Don't want to make the basket? No problem, pick up the items for your basket and we'll put it all together. You can give the basket to any of the 3 chairpersons below. All baskets/items must be received by December 3rd so we can be prepared for the event on December 6th.

We also need volunteers for the day of the event. We'll need help setting up and tearing down, kitchen help, 50/50 and raffle ticket sellers, and general helpers as needed. You are allowed to play if you are helping during the event, but you must buy a ticket.

Lastly, if you want to bring a dish, contact one of us and we can let you know what we need. Thank you!

Dawn Penrod – reinydawn@verizon.net

Marly Long – melong6109@yahoo.com or 443-995-4933

Mary Emrick – mee@annapolis.gov or 443-603-7989



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