



Post Information Questionnaire

Please complete as much as possible that applies to your post. This information will be used to update your Post Roster, Post Locator Information and featured in the 100th Anniversary Post History Book. If you have previously completed a 100th Anniversary Post History Book Questionnaire you may skip those questions.

Post Number: **186** Post Official Name: **Charles E. Murray**
Physical Address: **12091 Cortez Blvd. Brooksville, Florida 34613**

Phone: 352-597-9995

Email: Americanleg186@bellsouth.net

Website: www.flpost186.org

District 15

Annual Member Dues: \$45

Social Media; Facebook: Legion Post 186

Post Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Post Meeting Times: First Thursday each Month at 7 p.m.

Does your Post have a Service Officer? YES

Post Amenities: X Lounge X Food X Bingo & Lounge Games X Non-Smoking X Auxiliary X Sons X Riders

X Veterans' Support Program

X Active Military Support Program X Active Americanism X Patriotism Program X Active Youth Support Program X Activities Above Post Level

X Active Community Participation Programs

Post Activity Level; 5 Very Active

Post Name Reason or Significance: Charles E. Murray was instrumental in purchasing our building and moving the Post from the Route 19 (Commercial Way) location in Spring Hill.

Post Membership By-Law Restrictions; None

Post Established Date: January 28, 1980; Charter Granted 1981. Reestablished in 2001 at the present location.

First Post Commander: Frank Carpenter (1981) Charles E. Murray (2001)

Post History; In the late 1970's a small group of Spring Hill Veterans felt that, once rural, Hernando County had grown sufficiently enough for them to form their own American Legion Post. As word of this spread, more and more Veterans joined in on the effort. The American Legion was asked to charter a new Post for Spring Hill, Florida. A charter was granted in 1981. There were 57 members enrolled in what was now designated "American Legion Post 186, Spring Hill, Florida; Department of Florida. The first Post was located on County Line Road. Frank Carpenter was the first Commander.

As time passed, Veterans of the WWII and Korea eras were retiring and moving South to warmer climates. Membership at Post 186 grew and a larger, more central location was needed. In 1993 Post 186 moved to a new location on Route 19 (Commercial Way). Over the years, the community of Spring Hill grew in leaps and bounds. As the area grew, so did the membership at Post 186. Soon that location was again too small for the membership. A new, larger location was sought. In 2001 the Post moved its location to Route 50 (Cortez Blvd.), where we still operate today. Charles E. Murray was instrumental in the founding of the new location and the current Post 186 was named in his honor.

Under the leadership of the Commanders and officers, American Legion Post 186 has become a force for good in Hernando County and the State of Florida. In a short period of time Post 186 has gone from the original 57 members to over 1000 members today, and still growing rapidly.

Post 186, in Hernando County, is one of the premier charitable organizations in the area, helping veterans, youth programs, the needy, sick and homeless.

American Legion Post 186 is a shining example of what the Legion is and stands for.

Highlights, Memorials, etc.: We have installed a Memory Stone Garden outside of the Post. Each year we send young men and women to attend Boys/Girls State, in Tallahassee, as well as various other Children and Youth programs. We honor our Viet Nam veterans on Vietnam Veterans recognition day and POW/MIA each year. Annually, we participate in honoring the Four Chaplains foundation, with services at various places of worship. We are heavily involved in wreaths across America and our riders provide escorts for our departed to Florida National Cemetery, at Bushnell, FL. Each year, we celebrate the passing of our members with a Post Everlasting ceremony. Post 186 supports Junior ROTC programs (Navy and Air Force) at two local high schools. Our Auxiliary maintains veteran's graves at the Aripeka Cemetery where we hold a ceremony, each Memorial Day. The Auxiliary has adopted two assisted living facilities and have established walls of honor for the resident veterans. Each Christmas, the Auxiliary erects an "Angel Tree" for disadvantaged veteran's families and our riders distribute food baskets at Thanksgiving.

Our lounge and canteen are busy during the week and on weekends we have Friday Fish Fry, Saturday night bands and televised Sunday football games.

We distribute a bi-monthly newsletter to over 1560 Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders.

FY 2018-2019 Officers: Steven Tyler, Commander; Barbara Smith, First Vice Commander (August 19, 1952 - February 25, 2019); Ed Snyder, Second Vice Commander; Frank Babicz, Finance Officer, John C. Motzer Sr., Historian; Rick Woods, Chaplain, Thomas Wilson, Sgt. At Arms; Jack Perz, Immediate Past Commander.

E-Board Members: Bruce Carl, Dan Henkle, John C. Motzer Sr., Ray Murphy, Gary Newell, Terry O'Brien, William Storm.

FY 2019-2020 Officers: Eric "Sox" Hunter, Commander; William Storms, First Vice Commander; Gary Newell, 2nd Vice Commander; Frank Babicz, Finance Officer; John C. Motzer Sr., Historian; Robert Henry Poulin, Chaplain; Thomas Wilson, Sgt. At Arms; Steven Tyler, Immediate Past Commander and Dist. 15 Vice Commander.

E-Board Members: Russ Anderson, Bruce Carl (Dist. 15 Commander), Dan Henkle, Tom King, Ray Murphy, Terry O'Brien and James Sales.

Name of Person Completing Form: John C. Motzer Sr., Historian and newsletter editor. Date: 10/18/2019

A special Thank You to my good friend William "Bill" Holobinka (August 7, 1950 – September 13, 2019) for compiling the bulk of this information. RIP!