

Charles E. Murray

American Legion Post 186



NEWSLETTER



No. 2019

November-December 2019

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COMMANDER

Eric "SOX" Hunter
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Well it finally looks like cooler temperatures are slowly arriving! Of course, the long-awaited return of the snowbirds has begun. We welcome you back with open arms. Since you have been gone, Post 186 has been doing fine, thanks to the overwhelming support of those members who stayed throughout the summer! Our finance officer reports we have had a strong performance from the canteen, along with a great start to our membership drive for 2020. However, we cannot stand on our laurels. We must continue to grow and our competition on highway 50 has never been greater!

What does your legion have to offer the member? We offer you a smoke free environment to enjoy entertainment (free of charge) every weekend. A reasonably priced, delicious Friday fish fry. Fun games to play on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. An NFL package on Sunday with wing specials for lunch. Of course, we have great prices for all our beverages which include special discounts. As you can see, there is no reason NOT to come down to the Post!

With the holidays fast approaching, please consider having your gatherings and parties here at the post. If you are part of another organization and wish to host a private party in the pavilion, please contact me for rates and conditions. If you have a small group, then I am sure we can find space in the dining room.

We want everyone at the post to have a safe a wonderful time while celebrating the holidays. But I must point out that our staff will be extra careful that you are able to get home safely. Also please be aware that we will monitor very loud, abusive or swearing behavior. Remember we are a family oriented fraternal organization.

Speaking of the holidays, the post will be doing its share of holiday gift giving and collections. Already posters are up since the RIDERS are collecting food (cash contributions too) for the holidays and soon the Auxiliary will be putting up the "Angel" tree to collect gifts for needy children! There will sure to be other ways for you to ensure a great holiday season for all!

Finally, and I know this may be early, MERRY CHRISTMAS to everyone!

For God and Country,
Eric "SOX" Hunter – Post 186 Commander

FIRST VICE COMMANDER Bill Storms

Renewals, new memberships and transfers have been flowing in.

Please Remember the "Early Bird dinner" on December 7th (You must pick up tickets at the canteen. Guest are \$6.) **Renewals must be in by Oct 31st to be eligible. If you haven't renewed by 12/31/19; IDs will be checked after 1/1/20 and you will not be allowed in the Canteen.**

For God and Country,
Bill Storms



The American Legion, Post 186, Riders are collecting food for Thanksgiving baskets. Donations may be left at the Post.

2ND VICE COMMANDER

Gary Newell

gary_newell@aol.com

As the Holidays approach I would like to point out that there are Veterans and current members of Our Military that need to be remembered for their sacrifice and dedication to our Great Nation. They should be first foremost in our thoughts and prayers as we gather together and celebrate the freedoms we enjoy.

On the lighter side. Come celebrate Christmas with Marti Carroll, Saturday December 21st. 7 to 10 pm. **Enter the Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest to win prizes**, and there will be a Christmas Stocking of Cheer Raffle.

Happy Holidays, God Bless.
Legion Strong

For God and Country,
Gary Newell



Steve Tyler
ALR DIRECTOR
potwarp@hotmail.com

Well, it's the first Sunday in October, and as I sit at my computer it's 92 degrees. We really need some cooler weather so I can start my veggie garden!

Finally, our snowbirds are returning, and you can see it at the Post with increasing numbers for Fish Fry and NFL Sundays. The Riders are waiting for some of our snowbirds to get back as well.

We still ride even in the heat and rain storms, and continue to represent the post on charity rides, awareness rides, and funeral escorts. Sadly, we have had three recent escorts to Bushnell as of today (October 6th). Keep in mind, we do not charge anything for a motorcycle escort for a veteran or spouse of a veteran, and the person does not have to be a member of the post.

Thanks to everyone who came out for our Oktoberfest dinner on Saturday the 5th. We went from being on the verge of cancelling the dinner to pretty much selling out. It was a great success and we received lots of compliments on the meal. We hope to do it again next year.

As we do every year, we are collecting donations of non-perishable food and cash for the 25 Thanksgiving dinners we give away to local veterans and families in need. If you play Bingo, please bring a food (please check expiration dates) or cash donation to Bingo and you will receive a free Bingo sheet! We will accept donations up to Tuesday, November 19th.

On Saturday, December 14th, the Riders will once again participate in Wreaths Across America, where we travel to Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell and place wreaths on the graves of our fallen heroes. If you would like to purchase a

wreath, they are \$15, and you can leave a donation in the Riders bag at the bar.

For my Riders who may not receive or read my e-mails, due to the holidays we will not have a monthly meeting in December, originally scheduled for December 26th (St. Stephen's day, for whom I am named!).

Well that should do it for now. As always, please drive safely and watch out for motorcycles as together we travel the roads of our beautiful nature coast.

For God and Country,
Steve Tyler
Riders Director

COMMANDER
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
Juan Villarreal



Our Annual Pig Roast was a success and we thank everyone who attended.

Monthly Meetings November 21 and December 19. If you are a member of the Son's, please come join us.

Please remember to pay your 2020 dues.

For God and Country,
Juan Villarreal

POST CHAPLAIN
Robert Henry Poulin
Happinessnow4u@yahoo.com



It is my sad duty to report the passing of four members of our Legion Family. **John Francis LeClerck, George N. Gates, Charles "Charlie" O. Haig and Bill Holobinka have moved on to Post Everlasting. May they Rest in Peace.**

For God and Country,
Robert H. Poulin

"Will and I want to thank the entire Legion Family for all their thoughts, prayers and support during Bill's various health issues and passing. We have been members for 18 years and Bill had strong feelings for the post. We appreciate all that you did. Thank you and God Bless."

Joanne Holobinka

The Veteran's Day Picnic is a covered dish event. Please bring a dish to share or dessert.



Annette Snyder
Auxiliary President
716-474-7425
anita_m3@hotmail.com

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 186 held its monthly meeting on October 10. Before we convened, we “Draped our Charter” in memory of Mary Hinkle and Doris (Ruby) Carson. We extend our deepest sympathies to Mary and Ruby’s families.

November’s meeting will include initiation of New Members with a social afterwards.

The MIA/POW Recognition Ceremony held on September 20 was very fulfilling. Thank you to our members who attended this memorial and especially Lynda and Patti who assisted with the Program. A special “thank you” is extended to Commander Eric Hunter for his opening speech and reading of “The Forgotten Heroes Poem” by Richard Hemphill – WWII. Steve Tyler, 15th District Vice Commander/ALR Director American Legion served as the ceremony’s Chaplain. Our deepest appreciation is extended to both of you!

On November 7, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 186 will host a visit from our Department President Ann King Smith. President Smith will be escorted to Post 186 by Mary McColgan, District 15 President. We will have a small “social” upon their arrival. President Smith plans to roll up her sleeves and work with Unit 186 to sort, disseminate and pack “Troop Boxes” for our military, especially those deployed. In preparation for our honored guests, please bring needed supplies to Post 186. Personal items are always appreciated. Although we have more than our share of toothpaste, our pantry’s (spearheaded by Mary McColgan) toothpaste and deodorant supplies are depleted. So, with that said, if you have any personal supplies, playing cards, word puzzles etc. please donate and bring to Post 186. Bingo players...THANK YOU, for your generous donations. **Please show your support for our Auxiliary by welcoming our Department President and District President. Please arrive around 9 a.m. to assist in set up and any other preparations.**

Dates to Remember:

November 1-3 - Fall Conference
November 7 - Department President visit, arrival time approx. 10 a.m. (9- 9:30 a.m. setup)
November 8 - Raffle Drawing @ 7 p.m. of “Bucket” full of gift cards from local businesses and other items.
Tickets on sale at Post 186 Canteen.
November 9 - Veterans Day Parade, Post 152, 10-12 p.m. Staging starts at 7:30 a.m.
November 10 - American Legion Auxiliary 100th Anniversary
November 8, 9, 11 - Distribution of Poppies
November 11 - Veterans Day! Auxiliary Chinese Auction and Distribution of Poppies with a Picnic at 12 noon @ Post 186
November 14 - Auxiliary Executive Meeting: 2 p.m.
General Meeting: 3 p.m. (New Member Initiation)
November 14 & 15 – Auxiliary Christmas Bazaar – at the Post

November 16 – Auxiliary Yard Sale – at the post
November 26 - Decorating of Post 186 “Angels” (10-2 p.m.)
November 27 - Luncheon, Press Box @ 12 noon
December 6 - Aripeka Cemetery cleanup 10 a.m.
December 7 - District Meeting @ Post 111 @ 9 a.m. and Early Bird Dinner Post 186.
December 12 - Auxiliary Executive Meeting: 2 p.m.
General Meeting: 3 p.m.
December 15 – Christmas Gift Distribution for “Angel Tree” (A Children and Youth Activity)
Please check our Auxiliary boards at the Post for announcements and event updates. Also, please read your e-mails!

In the spirit of service, not self,
Annette E. Snyder, President



Patti Motzer & Lynda Anderson explain the meaning of the POW table on September 20th.

From the Canteen:

Thank you for your support for the kitchen and canteen during the summer. We look forward to continue to give you the best service possible!

As an added bonus, **THIRSTY THURSDAYS** will now be extended until closing! That way if you are here for a meeting or a latenight cocktail, you will get the benefit of 50 cents off our already low prices for any alcoholic beverage from open to close on Thursdays!

On Sundays, we still have specials on Bloody Mary and Mimosas as well as **WINGS**.

Bud Conaway
Canteen Manager



Photos Courtesy of Al Surkis

Left Photo: Cemetery at Anzio Circa 1945 - 7000 soldiers buried there. Right Photo: Cemetery at Cassino Circa 1945



2019 Boys & Girls State Attendees: ElliAnna Holcomb, Desiree Anello, Mason Mader, Jack Hurst, Ryan Columbo & Walker Wheeler: Not Shown Seth Hogan & Aaron Kemper.

West Hernando Athletic Club for Seniors: Hall of Fame Induction. Bill Denegar, Tom Noga, Tom McCain & Steve King.
Hernando Sun Photo



At Post 186 November 14th Noon to 5 and
15th 3 PM to Fish Fry.

November 16th
8 AM to 2 PM
Under the Pavilion



As of November 1, 2019, the following are proud members of the American Legion Post 186 Booster Club. You, too, can be a member. Just \$10.00 per year and your name will be published on our Bulletin Board and in our Post Newsletter. This donation will help the ever-rising cost of printing and mailing. Your generosity is appreciated. The Memorial Section of the Booster Club is supported by the generosity of our members. Thank you.

2060

Carlton & Beth Ann Terrell

2042

Frank & Sharon Sevicik

2032

Anna Pellegrini

2030

Lloyd Sellers

2029

Joseph & Donna Greenwald
SONS Squadron 186

2028

Joseph Federico

2027

George Coon

2025

Glen and Beatrice Ohanesian
WACS Softball Team Post 186
Robert Conte

2024

Lloyd Gross
Vincent Gigliotti
American Legion Riders
Marion & Frank Hauck
Don and Joan Jernstrom
Gary & Joy Newell
Larry Dabb by Forest Glen Social Club

2023

Frank J. Smith
Jim & Eleanor Krakowiak

2022

Gloria Murray
Steve Small
R. Larry Taddei
Joe & Marge Ruggiero

2021

Jimmy Schultz
Post 186 Honor Guard
Ruth Oppert
Diana Austed
Don St. Pierre

2020

Bob Burch
Bob & Linda Conte
James Lackey
Raymond Frattini
Doris Webster
William Hartill
Paul Andrews
Barbara G. Smith
ANONYMOUS (2)
Mary Cracciolo
Anita Lanigan
Nelson Zuppa

2019

Donna Greenwald
Janet Bowman
Felip & Beverly Zielinski
Anonymous
John Keller
Joe & Mildred Garza
Robert Eudeikis
David Salomski
John Carvendar
Frank & Carole Babicz
James Millsapps
Ronald Rehurek

In Memory of Past Members

Olisse Pellegrini
Dorothy Henderson
PFC Cody Grater
Bern Cottingham
Joe Sabol
Linda Harper
Donnie Holmes
Betty Jefferies
Paul Webster
Nanette Keller
Marie Meglic
Charlie Fox
George "Fitz" Hudock
Russell L. LaBaron Jr.
Leon Girard
Luis Hernandez
Frank J. Smith
Philip Cecere
Denny Stewart
William Mackubian
John Higgins
Richard Irish
Ed Kolbasiuk
Paul Howard
Fran Swartz
Bob Alywin
Jack Lyons
William Holobinka

PLEASE MAKE A CONTRIBUTION: \$ _____ NAME: _____