

THE MIDLOTHIAN LEGIONNAIRE

FOR GOD & COUNTRY

A PUBLICATION OF MAJOR CHARLES A. RANSOM AMERICAN
LEGION POST 186 MIDLOTHIAN, VIRGINIA



July / Aug / Sept.

amlegionpost186@aim.com

americanlegionpost186.org

Welcome to the 2022/23 Executive Board:

Commander: Don Pierpont
1st Vice: Billy Heflin
2nd Vice: Bill Seif
Adjutant: Richard Hahn
Finance Officer: William Pouch
Chaplain: Dale Mark Benedict
Service Officer: Henry Bowe
Judge Advocate: Richard Jackson
Quartermaster: Richard Hahn

Post 186 Calendar

July 2023

11	Executive Board Meeting	7pm
13	Legion Riders Meeting	6:30pm
15	SAL Meeting	10am
18	Membership Dinner	6pm
18	Membership Meeting	7pm
27	Post Social	5:30-7:30pm

Aug 2023

1	Executive Board Meeting	7pm
10	Legion Riders Meeting	6:30pm
19	SAL Meeting	10am
15	Membership Dinner	6pm
15	Membership Meeting	7pm
24	Post Social	5:30-7:30pm

Sept 2023

5	Executive Board Meeting	7pm
14	Legion Riders Meeting	6:30pm
16	SAL Meeting	10am
19	Membership Dinner	6pm
19	Membership Meeting	7pm
21	Post Social	5:30pm-7:30pm

From the past Commander

Greetings Post 186 family!

First, let me express what an honor it has been to serve as your Commander for the last 2 years. It was made possible because of all the tremendous help from so many members, too many to list in this column.

It is my wish that you give the same help to your new Commander, Don Pierpont. I feel that we have made great strides in moving forward as an active post, with all the events and our community involvement.

We have also done much to improve the physical appearance of our Post, mostly through the efforts of our Quartermaster, Dick Hahn and his crew of the walking wounded.

Again, I just want to thank all of you for your support and encouragement.

For God and Country, Billy Heflin, Past Commander.

Words from the new Commander:

Don Pierpont

"In the future I hope to increase our membership by inviting veterans from our area to join us. I hope to see more volunteers step up, as they are able, to assist with the needs of the Post.

We have served our country, so it is an honor to continue, in any capacity we can, to serve our brothers and sister veterans."

Don Pierpont

Don Pierpont is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He was born in Ft. Wainwright, Fairbanks, Alaska where his father served our country with the United States Army. He and his wife Beth grew up in Chesterfield County, Virginia, where they attended school together. Presently, she is a teacher/ librarian in Chesterfield County.

Currently, Don works as a Field Services Engineer/ Computer and Printer repair technician at Hewlett-Packard Inc., and is an aspiring entrepreneur with his own line of barbecue sauces and honey mustards. His hobbies include fishing, playing the guitar, and barbecue grilling. Since joining the American Legion, he's taken on the role of Stew Master and is looking forward to serving as Post Commander.

Membership:

June figures:

Renewed: 190 New: 9 On-Line: 70
PUFL: 35 Total: 303 Goal: 324
Percentage of Goal: 93.827%
Shortfall: 20

Post Everlasting:

Billy Dix
Joseph B. Glaab
Michael J. Thompson
James P. Bradley
Stewart Goff
Ronald R. Kimler
James M. Payne, Sr.
Paul J. Isenburg
Charles E. Webber, Jr.
Adolph U. Hionkala
Jerry P. Armeli
Joseph A. Vicente
Donald N. Dandliker
Don E. Smith
Robert Lyles
Wesley Barden
R. Fuller Johns
James Bernard
Gary Carpenter
William Valentine, Jr.
Jerry Pugh
Nelson Smith
Robert Cavanaugh
Carroll N. Smith
Ryland M. Bowan, Jr.

Quartermaster:

Should a need arise, wheelchairs, walkers (with and without wheels) and platform canes are available at the Post for short or long-term loan. **NOTE: the Post has recently received several new electric wheelchairs.** Please call 804-794-9785 if you have a need for any of this equipment.

Smoking Curtailment:

Please keep in mind, the Post is a completely a non-smoking facility.

Building & Grounds

Richard Hahn, Quarter Master

This is a call to arms! The B&G Committee as currently constituted is in desperate need of augmentation. We are down to three reliable members and those three would best be qualified as "walking wounded". As you will see if you read further, the project needs, greatly outweigh the capabilities to perform. I often hear the suggestion "well why don't you call people and get some help?" Sometimes that may be motive on a short term or narrowly defined effort, but with an extensive slate of efforts, I could clearly spend all my time on the phone and not achieve a productive list of contributors. Also, the current team doesn't have visibility into member's physical shapes, capabilities, interests or availability. If anyone is willing to contribute to improving our Post in any way, ***please call us and don't wait for us to call you.***

We are not letting any grass grow under the feet of the few, though. Please review the job list to see the total scope of things to be addressed versus those remaining.

Main Building Exterior Improvement

We have now completed the first coat of paint on the building trim. Many thanks for Legionnaire Bruce Welling for taking this on singlehandedly. If you are interested in helping with the painting project, please call Richard Hahn @ 703-508-1544 to schedule times and ensure all necessary materials are available and accessible.

Eagle Scout Project Completion

A recent Eagle Scout project improved the area below the shed with heavy duty exterior benches to create an outside area for a conversation pit or a smoking area. Three benches are in place and usable and we plan to extend the utility area by further clearing the ground, putting down weed

blocker and pea gravel and building a table (or tables) to accommodate food and drinks. Anyone that would like to participate in any aspect of the project is welcome and the time is now. Please call the Post @ 804-794-9785 to schedule your participation.

Job List Posting

An **updated job list** has been posted in the stew room and will be provided to any requesting member. Contact richardahahn@verizon.net. This list is open to anyone **willing to fund, act as project manager or individual worker**. Please review the list of needs and let us know of any level of interest you may have. If you have an idea for a project, please contact the Post @ 804-794-9785 to discuss and plan any necessary budget.

In addition we would also appreciate any donations such as flower bulbs, mulch, pea gravel. Just coordinate your donation with Dick.

Trees overhanging the fence in the upper parking lot have been "limbed up". Those shrubs and small trees that were growing against the fence on our side of the parking lot have also been removed. We plan to rake the debris remaining on the ground to create additional clear parking in the upper lot. The task of loading and removing the cuttings has been included on the job list.

Examples of some of the remaining work:

- Clean/Re-dress stone beds
- Fill seating area below shed with stone
- Build table(s) below shed
- Remove planting beds and prepare lumber for reuse
- Scrape/clean stew room floor
- Repaint/clean hall trim
- Repaint/touchup kitchen paint
- Build cover for HVAC unit outside Lounge door
- Kill weeds in stone beds around building and shed

Here's a thought, since it's summer and school is out, instead of your child or grandchild laying around and playing video games, bring them out to the Post and we'll find some work for them. Again, contact Dick Hahn at the Post to coordinate.

Main Entrance Improvement

April 2023



The new canopy has been installed over the main entrance. The company provided us with swatches of the Pacific Blue material to use in matching paint for the building trim.



Bruce Welling graciously volunteered to paint the doors and trim around the building. And Dick Hahn repaired the enclosure in the front of the building. It really looks good. A big thanks to Bill and Dick for a job well done.



Repaired enclosure in the front of the building.



The most popular table at the Post.

Honor Guard:

Billy Heflin, Honor Guard Coordinator

The mission of the Honor Guard is to show reverence to those veterans who have passed on by providing a proper, distinguished military memorial, and to support patriotic events, in order to promote and preserve our nation's independence.

The Post continues to solicit volunteers to be members in the Post 186 Honor Guard.

The Post will subsidize 50% of the cost of personal uniforms up to 3 new volunteers.

The Honor Guard normally meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7pm.



The Commander overseeing the servers.

The Easter Breakfast

April 8, 2023

There was anticipation in the air while everyone awaited the arrival of the Easter Bunny. Several children arrived carrying their Easter baskets for the Easter egg hunt.

The children, and all of the adults, didn't have to wait long. The long eared fellow soon appear to the delight of everyone.

Mr. Bunny passed out eggs filled with candy and visited with each and every child.

As usual, the breakfast was delicious, the company was even better, and the children had a great time.

Thanks to all that made it possible. The smiles on the kids' faces said it all.



Lookin' good!



A few of the satisfied customers.



Waiting for the Bunny to show up.



Showing the Bunny his egg.



He made it!



Didn't take long for the kids to find him.



Young and old enjoyed Mr. Bunny.



Little one taking it all in.



Someone is very happy.



Everyone enjoyed his visit.

Visit by Congressman Wittman

On April 13th the Post was fortunate to have Congressman Rob Wittman, 1st District, visit with us. After an introduction by Scott Maddrea, from District, Congressman Wittman discussed various legislative matters dealing with both veterans and active-duty personnel.



Among the topics covered was a bill to allow automatic transfer of medical records directly to the VA after the individual is discharged from service.

Also discussed was the soon to be opened VA facility near Fredericksburg. The Fredericksburg Health Care Center will offer services to veterans who now have to use the Richmond VA facility.

The Congressman took questions from the group and stressed the importance of caring for the well-being of veterans and our military.



The Easter egg hunt is off and running!



The Post thanked Congressman Wittman for his time and enlightening information.

April Dinner/ Meeting

April 18, 2023

The weather was great and the meal was fantastic! The Brunswick stew, cornbread, and salad were delicious. And the desserts were so yummy. We saw a lot of familiar faces and a few new ones.



Prior to the meeting Katie Miller of the American Red Cross spoke to the assembly. She thanked the Post for our service to the Red Cross and commemorated the Post's service with a plaque.

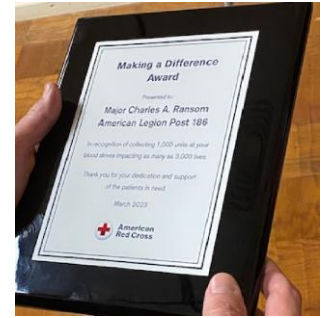
Katie reported that the last blood drive held at the Post collected 56 pints, the largest single day donation since we started. In March we hit a milestone of 1,000 pints of blood collected.



She presented a plaque commemorating the achievement and she hopes to return in the future to present more awards. Katie said she and the American Red Cross are incredibly grateful to the Post.



Thom Morgan and Billy Heflin showing the plaque.



The Job Fair

April 29, 2023

The weather cooperated and plenty of help showed up for the Post hosted Job Fair. A considerable amount of time and effort was spent by Randy Lofland organizing this event. And, as always, Dick Hahn and his crew had things set up for the arriving recruiters.



Everyone ready for the applicants to show.



Vendors were also set up outdoors.



Hamburgers and hotdogs hit the spot.

As reported by Randy:

"Though I was disappointed that there were not more prospects and applicants, the feedback I received from the recruiters was extremely positive with most advising they would be interested in doing it again."

In addition, our crew that worked the event, setting up, cooking, managing the parking and tearing down, did a most excellent job. The entire event was executed without a hitch.

Many thanks to Dick and Linda Hahn, Billy Heflin, Doug Carroll, John Hagar, Brad Williams, Bob Boyd, Mike Black, Shay Black, Henry Bowe and the Ladies Auxiliary for their investment of time and energy."

The New Floor

May 2, 2023

Work started on installing the new floor. Although work was delayed by one day, things progressed and at very quick pace. Stop by and check it out!



Let the work begin!



After the sanding.



Getting started



Looking good!



Entry way & Library



The crew of servers were ready.



Looking good and ready for business!



The chow hall is open, these guys are ready!

May Breakfast

May 13, 2023

With a brand-new floor and overcast weather, breakfast was served! Attendance was sparse but everyone that did show up was treated to a delicious breakfast.



Billy, the head cook was on duty.



Pleasant conversation after breakfast.

As always, the breakfast was great. We hope to see each of you at future events here at your Post.

Memorial Service

May 13, 2023

Following the breakfast, a memorial service was held for all our members that have gone to the Post Everlasting. Randy and Billy conducted the service. After prayer and the reading of the names, Billy stated that in the last two years 21 members have passed.



Randy Loflin and Billy Heflin.



Good food, good friends.

May Dinner/Meeting

May 23, 2023



Waiting for business



Meeting called to order.



Behind the scene.



Listening closely.

June Breakfast

10 June 2023

It was a super nice day and spirits were high. The food, as always, was delicious and there was plenty to go around. The next breakfast will be in October.



The breakfast chow-line



Time to dig-in.



Great conversation along with breakfast.

June Dinner/Meeting

June 20, 2023

The last dinner meeting until fall was filled with several events.

Auxiliary Unit 186 swore in new officers.



Auxiliary Unit 186 swore in their new officers.

Legionnaire of the Year

Commander Heflin announced at the June meeting, Legionnaire of the Year, Doug Carroll. Doug is always around helping out and making sure the hall looks good for our renters. Well-deserved Doug!



Certificates of Appreciation

Also at the meeting, Billy spoke to the group and handed out several Certificates of Appreciation for the many volunteers and workers at the Post.



New Officers swore in.



New officers were sworn in.

The gavel was passed to the new Post Commander Don Pierpont.



We know Don will do a great job!

Law Cadets Luncheon

June 22, 2023

The Post held an annual luncheon for 48 Law Cadets and their instructor staff. As always, the group of young men and women enjoyed a lunch of hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, chips, and the favorite, ice cream sandwiches.



A special thanks to those who volunteered to help out.

Historian

Bill Lipsett



The Last Battles; 1945

With the war in Europe over with Germany's unconditional surrender in May of 1945, the task of defeating the Japanese forces, and a possible invasion of the sacred home island seemed very real 78 years ago.

The campaign to bomb these home islands of Japan would require needing an emergency landing strip for the many B-29s returning from their bombing runs from Saipan. To secure this landing strip, the battle for Iwo Jima would last 5 weeks beginning in February of 1945. Because of stubborn enemy resistance on the Japanese island, it would be the bloodiest battle of WW II resulting in almost 30,000

Americans killed or missing out of 110,000 ground troops involved. 27 Americans would receive the Medal of Honor for their heroics on Iwo; more than any other battle in our nation's history.

Unthinkable because of the cost of lives, the Allied forces would still require one more battle to put an end to this war. The battle for Okinawa would be even closer to Japan's home islands; defending this larger island would become the most difficult and costliest of any one battle known to mankind.

The Japanese had 110,000 land forces, and the Allied forces totaled 180,000. The logistics of this battle would dwarf the D-Day invasion, only a year before, by three times. It lasted almost three months beginning in March, and resulted in almost 50,000 US casualties; 24 Americans would receive the MOH. Only 8 weeks after securing Okinawa, the first atomic bombs were used in warfare.

Even with the immense devastation caused by these bombs, it was estimated that overall, 1.5 million lives were saved. The legacy left to us, told by General McArthur on the deck of the USS Missouri on September 2, 1945, 'It is my earnest hope, and indeed of all mankind, that from this solemn occasion, a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past, a world founded upon faith and understanding, a world dedicated to the dignity of man and a fulfillment of his most cherished wish for freedom, tolerance, and justice. Let us pray that peace be now restored to the world and that God will always preserve it.

Never let it be lost how much sacrifice the American people put forth to make this a better world to live in. The next time you are present at a ceremony honoring 'the Greatest Generation', think of those who never hesitated to preserve democracy and peace, no matter the odds we faced.

Rental Manager:

Daniel Allen continues to manage the Post Rental duties. The Post has been rented nearly every weekend for the past few months, keeping Dan busy.



If you, your family, or your friends are interested in renting the Post, contact Daniel at 804-677-1587 or use the link at <http://americanlegionpost186.org/post-rental.html>

American Legion Auxiliary

Bea Miller, Auxiliary President

Ladies Auxiliary Board:

President - Bea Miller

1st Vice President - Maura Seif

2nd Vice President - Christina Smith

Secretary - Derenda Lovelace

Treasurer - Anne Weeks

Historian - Bobbie Murphy

Chaplain - Pat Welling

Sargeant at arms - Frances Bowe

I want to thank the Auxiliary for a blessed year, 2022 to 2023, of working together and your support for our Post. We look forward to another great year of coming together for the great works we do for our Post and community.

And we thank our Legionnaires for supporting us. God Bless you all and have a wonderful and safe summer.

Also, the Auxiliary will be having a fellowship luncheon on Saturday, July 22 at 11am to 2pm at the Post. We invite our Auxiliary members and we want to extend the invitation to our Legionnaire spouses to join us. Please RSVP to me at bmiller75@verizon.net or text me at 804-852-1775. We will have food, games, and great fellowship.

Bea Miller, President

Quote from

"The Mosaic Messenger" News Letter – June 7, 23
"Memorial Day was the unofficial start of summer, and at Mosaic we honored our veterans with a holiday weekend full of celebration. Thank you to Bobbie Murphy and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 186 for donating the poppies for our Friday evening celebration.

It was an honor to wear them in memory of the men and women who gave their lives to protect our freedoms."

ALR:

Den(Leak) Graffum

ALR director

Post 186 American Legion Riders is a group of Legionnaires committed to helping veterans, their families and their fellow Post 186 family in their mission to support our community.

Veterans interested in learning more or joining the group, please contact Denis Graffum, Rider Director 804.305.8090 or email dengraffum@aol.com

Riders June Meeting

June 10, 2023

Legion Riders Chapter 186 held their monthly meeting at the Post following the Post's June breakfast.



Amelia Veterans Cemetery

Denis Graffum

May 24, 2023



Flags set up for Memorial Day 2023.

What Else Does the Post do?

May 13, 2023 Visitors

After things from the breakfast were being cleaned up and put away, two visitors walked into the Stew Room. Mr. Adil Aijaz and his son, Ameer Aijaz, had come to the Post on a mission. As part of Ameer's Clover Hill High School project, he wanted permission to interview members of the Post. Ameer is a junior at the school.



After some discussion, those of us at the coffee table voted that Ameer should interview Richard Jackson. It was felt Richard had had the most varied military experiences and would be more "interesting" than the rest of us at the table.

Ameer asked Richard questions ranging from why Richard had entered service to what he did after getting out. Also, how having been in service had shaped Richard's views of war and the military.

Both Ameer and his father thanked us and especially Richard for his information. Both men were told that they were welcome to come back anytime to visit and talk.

Poppies

May 26-28, 2023

Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate for poppy sales. The scheduled Sunday session had to be cancelled due to the weather. The approximate amount collected for the Friday & Saturday sessions was \$4,700.

A great big thanks to those individuals who were able to volunteer to help.

Retired Flag Dropbox

June 5, 2023

The flag drop box provided by Graham-Michael Mintz was installed next to the little library box in the parking lot. Many thanks to Legionnaire Brian Didio for providing the auger to prepare the hole and the 4x4 mounting pole. This gives us the capability to offer 24-hour flag drop off capabilities.



Howard Graham's Birthday Party

June 16, 2023

Billy Heflin attended Howard Graham's party at Mission Bar-B-Que and presented him with a Post 186 ball cap. Billy commented that for a 99-year-old, Howard is in great shape and very alert.

Flag Etiquette:

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Provided by Bob Boyd

(Copied, in part, from *The Monroe Watchman*)

This information comes from U.S. Code Title 4, also known as "The Flag Code". This article describes the appropriate manner of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

It should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform men and or women should remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand and hold it over the heart.

Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render a military salute. Members of the military not in uniform and veterans may render the military salute in the manner provided for persons in uniform.

Part 2:

Time and Occasions for Display

It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed.

The flag should be displayed on all days, especially on New Year's Day (January 1st); Inauguration Day (January 20th); Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday

(the 3rd Monday in January); Lincoln's Birthday, (February 12th); Washington's Birthday (3rd Monday in February); National Vietnam War Veterans Day (March 29th); Easter Sunday (Varies), Armed Forces Day (3rd Saturday in May); Memorial Day (half-staff until noon)(last Monday in May); Flag Day (June 14th); Father's Day (3rd Sunday in June); Independence Day (July 4th); National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (July 27th); Labor day (1st Monday of September); Constitution Day (September 17th); Columbus Day (2nd Monday of October); Navy Day (October 27th); Veterans Day (November 11th); Thanksgiving Day (4th Thursday in November); Christmas Day (December 25th); and such days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States; the birthdays of States (date of admission); and on State holidays.

The flag should be displayed daily in or near every polling place on election day.

The flag should be displayed during school days in or near every school house.

Persons with unserviceable flags may bring them to Post 186 for proper disposal during business hours or utilize the new drop box in the parking lot.

Fundraising:

American Flag:

Purchase an American Flag from the American Legion Flag and Emblem Store and designate Post 186 to receive a portion of the proceeds when you check out. You simply click the "please click here" below your normal log in, register and designate Post 186, Virginia in the blanks. It's easy and provides our Post additional funds just by showing your patriotic pride with a vibrant new flag. Order here <https://emblem.legion.org/American-Flags/departments/756/>

Post 186 Hat Sale:

Hey! We just received a new shipment of ball caps and visors. Don't miss out on this awesome SWAG! Cost is \$16 ea. Contact the post at [804-794-9785](tel:804-794-9785) to place your order.

Cans for Cash Program:

Save your aluminum cans and bring them to the post for recycling. Minimal effort = cash for the Post!

Geezer Talk:

NOT Forgotten...unable to make it to Post events or would like a visit for conversation? Please contact the Post at [804-794-9785](tel:804-794-9785), or americanlegionpost186@aim.com. We care about you and would like to keep in touch.

Notary Services Available:

Need a notary? Don't look any further than your legion! Barbara Vonada (804-433-9735) is a Commonwealth of Virginia Notary and has volunteered her services to any Legion Family member in need.

Visitation and Transportation:

If you or another Legionnaire you know is in the hospital or confined to their residence due to health reasons, please contact the Post at [804-794-9785](tel:804-794-9785) to let us know and advise us if a visit is appropriate. We take our fellowship obligations seriously and that means assuring our fellow Legionnaires are not alone in times of illness or despair. This also includes assisting with arranging alternate transportation for you if you are uncomfortable driving at night and wish to attend our evening events. It is important you know that when you need us, we will be there for you.

Beyond Our Doors



Department of Virginia Leadership College

Our Department Leadership College was held July 29, 2022. The objective is to ensure attendees receive the mentoring and training necessary to return to their Posts, Units, Squadrons and American Legion Riders Chapters with the knowledge and enthusiasm to promote and develop American Legion Family Programs. More information is available on the Department of Virginia website <http://valegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/2018-Leadership-College-Registration-Package-03022018.pdf>.



Blood Donation Program

The American Legion Blood Donor Program www.legion.org/security/blood is easily supported through our local blood centers such as the American Red Cross www.redcross.org/give-blood and Virginia Blood Services donateblood.vablood.org/. Appointments are available at blood drives through their websites or

in person. Persons in good health between 17 and 65 are eligible to donate blood. Donors older than 65 may need special permission from a blood center's medical director. Current standards set an 8-week interval between donations or limit them to no more than 5x a year.



The American Legion recognizes its donors with a series of blood donor tacks available through the American Legion Store emblem.legion.org/Activities/products/338/2/0 and even a certificate when each level of giving is achieved. National, Department and Post recognition also supports dedicated participants in the program.

My Legion:



MyLEGION.ORG
A MEMBERS-ONLY WEB PORTAL

Take a moment to register at

MyLegion.org through the American Legion website at legion.org. Select MyLegion.Org at the top right of the page to connect to the Introduction Page and choose the "Members" site. You will benefit from the additional information available to you and the ability to view and edit your personal information. You will also assist your Post leadership provide the best support and administration.

THANKS

Thanks to everyone who sent in pictures and articles dealing with Post 186 related events.

If you have something of interest to the Post, you may submit your article/pictures to:
communications186@gmail.com

Please try to keep your articles short (two to three paragraphs) and appropriate for the News Letter.