

THE MIDLOTHIAN LEGIONNAIRE

FOR GOD & COUNTRY

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



Oct/Nov/Dec 2023

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americanlegionpost186.org



Maj. Charles A. Ransom died on April 27, 2011 at Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan.

Maj. Ransom was a graduate of Virginia Military Institute where he majored in computer science.

He served in the Air Force with the 83rd Network Operations Squadron out of Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

Maj. Ransom was killed by enemy gunfire at the headquarters building on an Afghan air force compound in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Maj. Ransom was posthumously awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medals.

Post 186 Calendar

Oct. 2023

3	Executive Board Meeting	7pm
12	Legion Riders Meeting	6:30pm
14	40/8 Breakfast	8am
14	Oktoberfest	4pm-7pm
21	SAL Meeting	10am
17	Membership Dinner	6pm
17	Membership Meeting	7pm
26	Post Social	5:30-7:30pm

Nov. 2023

7	Executive Board Meeting	7pm
9	Legion Riders Meeting	6:30pm
11	40/8 Breakfast	8am
18	SAL Meeting	10am
21	Membership Dinner	6pm
21	Membership Meeting	7pm
23	Post Social	5:30-7:30pm

Dec. 2023

5	Executive Board Meeting	7pm
9	40/8 Breakfast	8am
14	Legion Riders Meeting	6:30pm
16	SAL Meeting	10am
19	Membership Dinner	6pm
19	Membership Meeting	7pm
28	Post Social	5:30pm-7:30pm



From the Commander

Greetings Post 186. I hope this finds you well.

First, let me say it is an honor to be commander of Post 186 and to be working with an outstanding group of people like yourselves. We have had a successful year thus far and I am hoping we will continue to build on this with continued volunteerism by the membership as a whole. I would like to send a big thank you to everyone who has helped me through my first couple of months as your new commander. I would ask that we all step up and help out whenever and however the needs of the post arises. We have some that give all they can. If you can find the time and assist those fellow legionnaires, I would greatly appreciate it.

We have the Oktoberfest coming up on October 14th. It's open to everyone including the general public. Bring your friends and families out to this awesome event the Post 186 Ladies Auxiliary is hosting for us. I remember the last one fondly as it was a lot of fun and a great time. It was also my wife Beth's first experience with the post and she truly enjoyed the music, dancing, and the wonderful food that was prepared for the event.

We are also gearing up for the fall Brunswick Stew Event. We will need volunteers for prep day on Friday, October 27th, and also on Stew Day, Saturday, October 28th. Signup sheets are on the table in the Post Stew Room. Last October, in just one day, we sold all 508 quarts. This past January we made and sold 814 quarts. Let's see if we can sell enough quarts this time to make a full 1,000 quart pot.

Again, I really appreciate all the efforts made by those who sacrificially gave of their time over the past year to see to the needs of our Post.

"When people unite in a common cause, they can do great things together."

"The way to achieve your own success is to be willing to help somebody else achieve it as well."

Executive Board for 2024/2025:

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

Smoking Curtailment:

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

Membership:

Sept 2023 figures:

Renewed: 127

New: 2

On-Line: 35

PUFL: 35

Goal: 314

Percentage of Goal: 63.376%

Shortfall: 115

We have seen a substantial decrease in membership renewals. I will coordinate with Post Communications officer to remind those who have not renewed. For God and Country,
Randy Lofland

Post Everlasting:

Norman W. Garrett Sr.
Ryland Bowen Jr.



Quartermaster:

Should a need arise, electric/non-electric 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.

Building & Grounds

Richard Hahn, Quarter Master

Cover for the A/C Unit

The Post needed a cover for the A/C unit. With no hesitation, Bob Ruehnwein jumped in and had one built in no time. Super job Bob.



Thanks Bob

Post Library

Did you know the Post has its own library? Mike Black, John Hager, and Bob Boyd have gone through and rearranged the entire library.



Stop by and check out the selection of books, both hardback and paperback. It costs you nothing to get a book or two. We don't even ask for a book report when you're done.

Power washing the Post

Denis Graffum went wild and power washed the entire Post building! Looks great Denis, thanks!



You never know what you'll see at the Post.

Fence Cleanup

Dick and his cleanup crew (John and Randy) cleaned up along the fence line getting rid of the tree brush. This will not only add to the beauty of the Post, but will allow for more parking spaces along the fence.

We would ask if you are going to park along the fence, please pull your vehicle in forward, not parallel to the fence.



Surprise!

August 31, 2023

If you are a regular, or just an occasional visitor to the morning coffee get together, then you know that you never know what's going to happen that morning.

The attendees at the morning coffee break got a visit from Mission BBQ, (12630 Stone Village Way, Midlothian, VA 23113). The ladies brought lunch for everyone who was there!



You know what kind of grin this is.



Plenty for everybody!

Thanks again to our friends at Mission BBQ!
Stop by and visit with us. We're there every morning
from 9am till noon, Monday through Saturday. You
never know what you'll hear or see most mornings.

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.

Currently the Post is in need of an Honor Guard
Commander. In addition, the Post continues to solicit
volunteers to be members in the Post 186 Honor
Guard. If you are able to fill the position of Honor
Guard Commander, or become a member of the
team, contact Billy Heflin for details.

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

Commander's Luncheon

July 22, 2023

The Commander's Luncheon was well attended.

For lunch Commander Pierpont made Maryland Pit
Beef. Also served were hamburgers, hot dogs, potato
salad, chips, and cokes.

The Sheriff's Department set up a table for the
collection and disposal of expired prescription drugs.

At the end of the luncheon there were no beef,
hamburgers or hot dogs left!



That's a hunk of meat!



Getting membership renewed.



Good food – good friends!

August Dinner/ Meeting

Aug. 15, 2023

The threat of bad weather didn't stop a good crowd of members from showing up for dinner and the meeting.

Dinner was outstanding and enjoyed by all.

Thanks to all that made this a nice evening.



Time to dig in!



A good crowd.



Sept Dinner

Sept 19, 2023

Photos by Bobbie Murphy

There was standing room only at the September Dinner meeting. Members and guests were treated to a dinner from Mission BBQ. Guests included girls and boys from Boys and Girls State. A young man representing the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program was also in attendance.



Great crowd in attendance.

August Members Meeting

The meeting started with Denis Graffum introducing Bobby Lips from the Patriot Guard. Bobby talked about the Patriot Guard and his personal journey from business owner, through medical tribulation, to volunteer service as a Patriot Guard "Ride Captain".

The organization is handled entirely over the internet. The most recent ride was for a 102- year-old WWII 6 bronze star awardee. With very little representation from family and friends, the Guard was able to fill that gap and provide a "flag line" honor for the funeral.

For more information about the group and how to become a member go to:

<http://www.patriotsmc.us/about.aspx>



A giant cake awaited the guests.



The chow line was long, but worth the wait.



Time to dig in!



Full tummies, happy faces

September Meeting

Sept 19, 2023

Photos by Bobbie Murphy

The meeting began with presentations by the Boys and Girls State participants. Most spoke impromptu about their experiences at the conference. The young man from the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program spoke about his time at the State Police Academy.



Representatives from BSA Troop 876 were also recognized. Tom Ludin, representing the troop, spoke on the possibility of the Post sponsoring their troop. The Adjutant called for a motion. The YEA vote was unanimous.

For additional details regarding the meeting, please refer to the email recently sent to the membership.

Historian

Bill Lipsett

Veterans Day

This well-known American 'holiday' clearly has a few things intertwined with another holiday. To clear things up, here are a few facts you should know.

First, Veterans Day does NOT have an apostrophe. The holiday is not a day that belongs to one veteran, or multiple veterans, which is what an apostrophe implies. It's a day for honoring all veterans. No apostrophe is needed.

Veterans Day is NOT the same as Memorial Day. Let's be honest. That can be a little annoying to all of the living veterans out there. Memorial Day is a day to remember those who gave their lives for our country, particularly in battle, or from wounds suffered in battle. Veterans Day honors all of those who have served the country in war and peace, although it's largely intended to thank our living veterans for their sacrifices.

Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day, commemorating the end of World War I. This war officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. Fighting ended seven months before that date on the eleventh day, of the eleventh hour, of the eleventh month. Congress officially recognized it as the end of the war, and in 1938, it became an official holiday to honor the veterans of that war.

On June 1, 1954, at the urging of veterans' organizations, Congress amended the name from armistice to veterans so that the day would honor the veterans of all wars up until that time. For a while Veterans Day's date was changed, too, and it confused everybody.

Congress signed the Uniform Holiday Bill in 1968 to ensure that a few federal holidays would be celebrated on a Monday. For some reason, the bill set the Veterans Day observance for the fourth Monday of every October. Within a few years, it became apparent that most US citizens wanted to

celebrate Veterans Day on November 11. On September 20, 1975, President Ford signed into law that the annual observance would return back to its original date, November 11th, effective in 1978.

Other countries celebrate Veterans Day, too, in their own ways. World War I was a multinational effort, so it makes sense that our allies also wanted to celebrate their veterans on Nov. 11. The names and commemorations differ. Canada and Australia both call Nov. 11th Remembrance Day. Canada's observance is pretty similar to our own, except that many citizens wear red poppy flowers to honor their war dead. In Australia, the day is more like our Memorial Day.

Great Britain also calls it Remembrance Day, but observes it on the closest Sunday to Nov. 11th with parades, services, and two minutes of silence in London to honor those who lost their lives in war.

There was a group of US war veterans, who are now called the American Legion. The American Legion was formed on March 15, 1919 in Paris France by a thousand officers and men of the Allied Expeditionary Forces. They still promote Americanism and have been instrumental in organizing commemorative events such as Veterans Day for 104 years. Two of the founding members were Lt. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. and Sergeant Alvin York. Have you ever heard of them? Please; on this upcoming federal holiday, let us all remember how great this country is because of our veterans.



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

Fellowship Luncheon

By: Bobbie Murphy

The Auxiliary held a Fellowship luncheon on September 9th at the post with 17 in attendance. Everyone brought a salad for our buffet, along with fresh fruit, rolls and croissants. We played games that gave us the opportunity to get to know more about each other and everyone agreed that it was a very good time!

A special thanks to Beth Pierpont for joining us. It was truly a blessed event.

Thank you to Bea Miller for organizing it, and thanks to all the ladies for the varied and delicious salads! We hope to do it again in November.



Rental Manager:

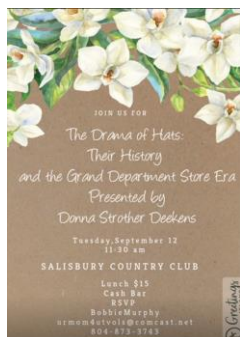
The Post has been rented nearly every weekend this past summer. Dan Allen continues to manage the Post Rental duties. Keep up the great work Dan.



Ladies Hat Luncheon

By: Bobbie Murphy

The Auxiliary ladies attended a luncheon on September 12th at Salisbury Country Club on the history of hats, presented by my former fellow University of Richmond classmate, Donna Strother Deekens, Snow Queen at Miller and Rhodes for 20 years. We all wore our hats and a grand time was had by all!!!



Oktoberfest

October 14, 2023

Mark your calendar so you don't miss the Oktoberfest which will be held at the Post.

Good food, good music, dancing, and so much more!



Tickets can be obtained at the Post from 9am to 11:30 Monday through Saturday.

Here are some raffle items, to name a few, to wet your taste buds:

Best of Virginia-nuts, jams, flours, Gunther's Gourmet salsas, Red Rocker candy, cookbooks and lotions (value \$160.00)

Made in Vermont: Grade B maple syrup, maple pancake mix, maple sugar, maple candy (value \$135.00)

Box of Cigars with humidor.

And a Lodge Dutch oven.

Hope to see you there!

Santa Breakfast

Please join us for our Santa Breakfast on Saturday, December 9 from 8am to 10am. Santa will make an appearance, so bring the children to take pictures with Santa.



ALR:

Denis(Leak) Graffum
ALR director

Post 186 American Legion Riders (ALR) 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

What Else Does the Post do?

Traveling:

July 8, 2023

On a trip back to his "home town", Mike Black stopped by American Legion Post 128 located in Salem, Illinois.

Mike presented Commander Harold Kocher a Post 186 license plate and a Post 186 cap. The Commander in turn gave Mike a Post 128 license plate. It's been placed in the Post Lounge. Salem is the "Birthplace of the G.I. Bill".



Post 186 Golf Tournament

August 28, 2023

By Jim Flores, Golf Tournament Chairman

On August 28th, Brandermill Country Club hosted our annual Charles A. Ransom Post 186 Golf Tournament.

The day before the tournament, Chief Aiesha Rasulala had ten volunteers from the Manchester High School JROTC assist with assembling the Veterans and Athletes United (VAU) flag.

A special thanks to each member of the group!



The memorial itself is made of 7,040 dog tags. Each one represents a service member who died during the War on Terror. Fifty gold stars honor gold star families nationwide.

With a sold-out crowd of 32 teams, 22 teams managed to avoid the rivers of water running through the fairways and across the Greens and finished in the pouring rain!

Lunch was donated by Mission BBQ and dinner provided by Brandermill Country Club.

When it was all said and done, we managed to raise a total profit of \$15,500 which will go to support the various projects and programs we offer to Veterans and their families!

The Team of Kyler Murray, Brian Jones, Cole Richmond and Thomas Glenn was this year's Champions. Their names will go on the Trophy which will be on display in the Post Lounge.

There were several other awards presented including:

Closest to Pin #7 - Steve Fish

Closest to Pin #15 - Larry Corey

Longest Drive Men - Warren Poirier

Longest Drive Women - Audrey Ma

Putting Contest - Bob Williams

Poker/Mulligan Contest - Bruce Saunders

In spite of the weather, everyone had a fun time. We raised a lot of money for the Post and we look forward to next year's event!



Getting everyone signed in.



The gates had security.



Doug, Brad, and a new friend.



Golfers start your engines... I mean start your carts.

Field Days of the Past

Sept 15-17, 2023

With a limited number of volunteers this year, Dick and Linda Hahn, along with the volunteers, were able to pull off another successful event.

Even though the weather people called for rain on Sunday, families still showed up to have a good time.



The ticket booths were covered.

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

Blood Donation Program

We had 50 pints donated August 22 which brought our July 2023-June 2024 total to 100 pints for this American Legion year.

We have blood drives scheduled through April 2024 and dates available through December 2024. Our total blood donated since beginning in November 2020 is 1,287 pints.

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 involvement. Hopefully you know it's impossible to use each and every one, but we still love getting them.

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.