

Charles E. Murray

American Legion Post 186



e-NEWS

No. 2021-1

February – March 2021

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COMMANDER
Eric "SOX" Hunter
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COMRADES:

It is again with a heavy heart that I must report the passing of a very important person to this post. Bud Conaway, our canteen/kitchen manager, passed away on December 30, at the age of 79. Bud had served this post in a variety of roles, including board member, finance officer, bar/kitchen manager, and he was very active with our riders! In his over 16 years as a member here, you could always count on him to volunteer or assist his fellow members! Our heartfelt condolences go out to Huey, Kathy, here in Florida and family members in Pennsylvania! His memorial will be February 12 at the post!

We had hoped that by this time we would be talking about COVID 19 in the past tense. But the vaccination process has just started, so the pandemic continues on! We have had to make some difficult decisions, cancelling events, changing hours, and even closing for the holidays. At our last board meeting, we decided to allow guests, make masks optional, and set standard hours for lunches. We also will restart fish dinners mid-February with a special deal on take outs! We still ask you to maintain social distancing! The board also decided not to restart games and entertainment until further notice!

We do have several events going on this month. The post is offering specials for Super Sunday on Feb. 7! We

have the highway cleanup on Feb.13! So far, we only have 2 people signed up! We need a dozen more so that we can get done quickly and get back to the post for our free drink! The Auxiliary has a basket of love raffle! It's on the bar and tickets are only 6 for \$5! As of this writing, we are at 97% membership! So, if you haven't paid your dues for 2021 yet, please bring them in! It is also time to consider running for an office next year! Come see me if you have any questions about an office!

For God and Country,
Eric "Sox" Hunter

This will be the second edition of the **e-NEWS**.

The first one appeared to be a hit. I received a few comments! If you have any comments please pass them along; jmotzer1@tampabay.rr.com

I am hoping that in the near future, I will be reporting some GOOD NEWS.



**FIRST VICE COMMANDER
Tom Wilson**

Hi comrades. I currently hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. Now that 2020 is behind us please double check that you have renewed your membership for 2021, and be prepared to proudly show your card. If you have not renewed it is not too late. You can either leave your renewal request at the bar or mail to the Post. We continue to provide quick turnaround on your renewals. Every member is a recruiter. If you know another who is interested in joining an American Legion or transferring to our Post, please encourage them and carry a few membership applications. As always, I am available for any questions via e-mail at tswilson@tampabay.rr.com. I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

For God and Country
Thomas Wilson

**SECOND VICE COMMANDER
Eileen Andrews**

In an effort to keep our members and guests safe, we will not be resuming entertainment at this time. This will be reevaluated at our next e-board meeting. Until then thank you for your patience and understanding.

For God and Country.
Eileen Andrews



Fellow Legionnaires,

Your Honor Guard Team hopes and prays that you and your families are safe and healthy. We are starting to move away from the deadly virus that was set upon us from across the Pacific.

Our Honor Guard has added four new members to the team. They are Jane Ware, Thomas King, John Baker and John Motzer. Most of us are getting old and are disabled. We are in need of some younger and healthier team mates to step up and take our place.

We will train you and provide uniforms. It costs over \$200 per person. All we expect from you is to keep the uniform clean and presentable. While in uniform, including cover and shirt, you may not drink alcohol. If you leave the team it is expected that you will turn in your gear in clean condition.

In recent weeks, your Honor Guard has served at the following services:

John Watmaugs. Father of John Watmaugs.
Legion Riders State President Wayne Wootens

Father, John Wayne Wooten. Florida Hills

Vernon Parker, Brother in law of Commander Eric Hunter. Florida Hills

We want every Legionnaire to know that their family and loved ones can request a military ceremony. We never charge a fee. Donations are appreciated, but not expected.

I want to thank Mark Downing for helping us grow and how he treats our lost veterans and families with respect and dignity.

For God and Country
Jimmy Schultz
Honor Guard Commander
352-686-0454



**Steve Tyler
ALR DIRECTOR
potwarp@hotmail.com**

Greetings to all my Legion family. It's a bit chilly as I write this, not very good riding weather at all. We haven't had a lot going on lately, unfortunately.

COVID-19 has really had an impact on us. Wreaths Across America still took place in December, but with no motorcycle escort and no ceremonies at all. Wreath distribution was done on a drive-thru basis, but those who attended still managed to lay 21,701 wreaths, sadly well below 2019. Thanks to all who contributed time and /or money to this important cause.

Due to the shutdown in December, and COVID-19 restrictions when we reopened, we were forced to postpone our annual Lasagna dinner. We will try to do it soon, perhaps in March. If we are still under restrictions, we may do it on a take-out only basis. Other Riders chapters in our district have done this with great success.

Despite cancelling our dinner, we still held our Lotto Board fundraiser. I am pleased to announce that one of our bartenders, M.J. Kenyon, was the winner of the \$100 cash and the \$100 worth of scratch offs. No word yet as of the writing of this article if she won anything on the scratchers. Thanks to all who bought tickets and helped us raise funds towards our various charitable activities.

As you know, we have lost several post members to COVID-19, as well as having many members who fell ill but survived. The one loss that we have all felt so deeply was John "Bud" Conaway. Bud was not only our Canteen Manager, but he was also a long-time Legion member, past Finance Officer, and a dear friend to many. Bud was a devoted member of the Legion Riders, and our Road Captain. Bud led us on many great rides he planned, and over the years took us on some great adventures throughout the Nature Coast. He will be greatly missed.

That's about it for now. We are all hoping and praying that the current pandemic will begin to be brought under control soon, and we can all resume our normal routines. As always, please watch out for motorcycles as you travel the highways and byways of our beautiful Nature Coast.

For God and Country
Steve Tyler
Chapter 186 Riders Director

District News – Bruce Carl

The Next cleanup is scheduled for February 13th. We will meet at the Post at 8:30 a.m. Please wear appropriate footwear and comfortable clothes. The Riders will provide donuts. Water will be available.



**Bruce Carl
15th District
Commander**

COMMANDER
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
Juan Villarreal



Our Monthly meetings are scheduled for February 18th and March 18th. The time is 3:00 p.m.

Please remember to pay your dues.

For God and Country,
Juan Villarreal



Lynda Anderson
Auxiliary President
716-474-7425
lynda6260@aol.com

Welcome Spring! Happy Valentine's Day! Happy St. Patrick's Day! We made it through a very hectic November and December, and once again had a successful Angel Tree Christmas Giveaway. While this is one of our most ambitious and demanding projects, it is also one of our most gratifying uplifting undertakings. Knowing that you have brought Christmas cheer to children and their families brings forth a full range of emotions.

And now, on to other ventures. We will continue to operate under the assumption that all programs will move ahead as scheduled. Of course, we know that due to COVID-19 cancellations are possible, and we may need to, again, think outside the box to achieve our goals, but we will remain positive and forge ahead. In January our focus turns to learning ventures. We start our scholarship program, getting our Unit, as well as National, scholarship forms and information out to the local high schools. That process continues through May, and culminates with the presentation of scholarships at the high school Awards Ceremonies.

Preparations for the Girls State program are also in full swing, with their application and selection preparations and process. Initial interviews have been completed and upon receipt of paperwork from Department, our Committee, headed by Chair Eileen Wilson, will work with our candidates to get them set for the 2021 program.

Our Valentine's Dinner, scheduled for February 13, 2021, has been cancelled. However, we are holding a Valentines' Basket Raffle to be drawn on February 13, 2021, following the Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up. The drawing for the basket, which contains Valentine items, Champagne, Glasses, chocolates and candy, will be drawn after lunch, so if you want to enjoy

lunch at the Post and take a chance on winning this wonderful basket, please do so. Tickets for the basket are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 and are being sold by members and at the Canteen.

Our Americanism Chair and her committee will be visiting Brooksville and Spring Hill Libraries and passing out small flags, pinwheels, coloring books and crayons to children. The event will take place on a Saturday, but the date has not yet been determined. Additional information will be provided via e-mail. Volunteers are needed. Please contact chair, Pat Howard to help out.

Upcoming Events:

February 11 Auxiliary Executive Committee Meeting, 2:00 pm, followed by Auxiliary General Meeting at 3:00 pm

February 12 Bud Conaway Internment at Bushnell, followed by gathering at Post

February 13 Adopt-a-Highway, Post 186 at 8:30 am
Drawing for Valentines' Basket Raffle, 1:00 pm

February 24 Auxiliary Social Luncheon at Post at 12:00 noon

March 5 Tentative District Meeting at Post 248 – 9:00 am reg.; 10:00 am meeting depending on status of COVID, meeting may be cancelled, or held via ZOOM or Conference Call

March 11 Auxiliary Executive Committee Meeting, 2:00 pm, followed by Auxiliary General Meeting at 3:00 pm

March 31 Auxiliary Social Luncheon at Post at 12:00 noon

Check our Auxiliary Boards at the Post for updates or changes to events.

For God and Country,
Lynda Anderson

Please watch the Web Site
FLPOST186.ORG or the Post board
for additions or changes to activities

Our General Meeting is February 4th at 7 p.m.

The E-Board meeting for February is the 25th :2:00 p.m.

If you are a new member or transfer, come on out to a meeting and introduce yourself and meet other members.

Recent Passing's

**John "Bud" Conaway
Jim McNamara
Louis Schimento
Sal Norvello**



NEWS From the Canteen

The Canteen will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Effective immediately, the hours for lunch will be 11:30 to 2:30 PM, Monday through Saturday!



Sundays Noon until 4 p.m. Wing Special.

February 7th will be the last Sunday of the NFL package. We have 8 TV's that are spread around the club. There is plenty of room to socially distance. Our kitchen will be open from Noon until 8 serving wing specials.

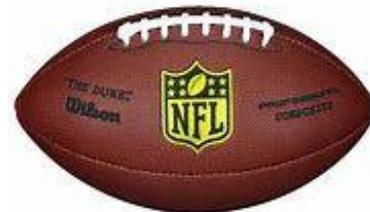


American Legion Post 186 will be hosting a memorial service for John "Bud" Conaway, on Friday February 12. The services will commence at 10 am, at the Downing Funeral Chapel. Our Riders, and others, will be leading the procession to Bushnell. If you plan on going to the cemetery, arrive at the post before then! There will also be a service at Post 186 starting around 12:30 pm!

The BOARD has decided that NO outside food be brought into the post due to COVID 19 restrictions. Because of that, the post will be providing a luncheon after the ceremony!



SUPER SUNDAY is February 7th, so for your benefit, we will extend our lunch hours from noon to 8 PM! That way you can enjoy our wings at the start of the game ! Again, NO food is permitted to be brought into the post !



As of February 1, 2020, 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 publishing. Your generosity is appreciated. The Memorial Section of the Booster Club is supported by the generosity of our members. Thank you for your support.

2060

Carlton & Beth Ann Terrell

2049

Frank & Sharon Sevick

2033

Steve Small

2032

Anna Pellegrini
Jimmy Schultz

2031

Post 186 Honor Guard
Barbara G. Smith

2030

Lloyd Sellers
Arthur Keegan

2029

Joseph & Donna Greenwald
SONS Squadron 186

2028

Joseph Federico

2027

George Coon

2026

John & Joanne Backer

2025

Glen and Beatrice Ohanesian
WACS Softball Team Post 186
Robert Conte
Robert England
Ann and Nicholas Morano

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
Thomas Mach

2023

Frank J. Smith
Jim & Eleanor Krakowiak
John Kellar
James Lackey

2022

Gloria Murray
R. Larry Taddei
Joe & Marge Ruggiero
Wanda Walters
Ronald Rehurek

2021

Ruth Oppert
Diana Austed
Don St. Pierre
Larrie Douglas
Dr. Edward Perreault
Joe & Jan Jarvi

2020

Bob Burch
Bob & Linda Conte
Raymond Frattini
Doris Webster
William Hartill
Paul Andrews
ANONYMOUS (3)
Mary Cracciolo
Anita Lanigan
Nelson Zuppa

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
Philip Cecere
Denny Stewart
William Mackubian
John Higgins
Richard Irish
Ed Kolbasiuk
Paul Howard
Fran Swartz
Bob Alywin
Jack Lyons
William Holobinka
Rick Woods
Tom Shippee

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