



February 28, 2023



Mail Call ~ American Legion Post 116

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February Meeting Recap

February 16th, the days are starting to get longer and we had a good turnout. 1st Vice Commander held the meeting with 11 members and one guest. Reported that our Commander is doing well and is looking forward to his return in March. New member transferred in, Elmer Crisp "Welcome Aboard." We are three renewals away from 100%. Member donated coffee and snacks, thank you! A list of Post Committees were shared for situational awareness. House Committee was formed and will coordinate with VFW planning & report to Executive Committee. Sgt Love, Louisa County Sheriff's gave a great presentation and invited Legionnaires to partner with them with several youth programs. An update was provided for the Blue Star Ceremony next month. Blue Star and Birthday Celebration was approved for the meeting in March. Post 116 Annual Membership Photo will also be taken in March. National Poppy Day was also discussed and explained we need 8 – 12 members to manage 2 - 3 booths for 4 hours. Funds raised will support all the programs we manage all year long. Meeting ended at 2045 hrs.

Be Part of History—Post History

Next meeting you will not want to miss. The Blue Star Families of Central Virginia will be present on March 16th to explain to us their program and support rendered to our Veteran Families. [The Blue Star Families of Central Virginia](#) was formed in the early spring of 2003 because of Operation Iraqi Freedom and one very determined Army Ranger Mom!

Legion will be Celebrating its 104th Birthday. We will have a cake freshly baked locally and from what I hear it will be really beautifully done!

Inside this issue

- February Recap..... 1
- Blue Star Ceremony..... 2
- Sgt Chuck Love Visits Post 116.... 3
- LEAP, Public Safety Cadet Program, Teen Law Enforcement Academy 3
- Teen Driving Challenge 3
- Citizens Law Enforcement Academy 3
- Final Notes4
- New Website Check us out!..... 4

Special points of interest

- 104th Birthday Party in **March**
- Blue Star Families of Central Virginia visiting us in **March**
- Blue Star Ceremony in **March**
- Post Pictures in **March**
- Don't Miss the **March Meeting!**

MARCH 16TH IS OUR BLUE STAR CEREMONY FOR TWO FAMILIES



WHAT IS THE BLUE STAR CEREMONY?

It's an American tradition to display a Blue Star Service Banner in the window of a home when a loved one is proudly serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. As Americans support troops deployed overseas in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Blue Star Service Banner is a reminder that war touches every neighborhood.

The American Legion also offers Blue Star Banner Corporate Flags for corporations and government organizations wanting to show support for employees actively serving in the National Guard or reserve.

The Blue Star Service Banner was designed and patented in 1917 by World War I Army Capt. Robert L. Queisser of the 5th Ohio Infantry. Queisser's two sons served on the front line. His banner quickly became the unofficial symbol for parents with a child in active military service.

On Sept. 24, 1917, an Ohio congressman read the following into the Congressional Record: "The mayor of Cleveland, the Chamber of Commerce and the governor of Ohio have adopted this service flag. The world should know of those who give so much for liberty. The dearest thing in all the world to a father and mother: their children." Blue Star Mothers and Gold Star Mothers organizations were established during World War I and remain active today.



The Blue Star Service Banner is an 8.5-by-14-inch white field with one or more blue stars sewn onto a red banner. The size varies but should be in proportion to the U.S. flag. Today, families display these banners when they have a loved one serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The blue star represents one family member serving, and a banner can have up to five stars. If the individual is killed or dies, a smaller golden star is placed over it. Gold stars are placed above the blue stars or to the top right of the flag, in the event a flag represents multiple servicemembers.

[The Blue Star Families of Central Virginia](#) will be present on March 16th to explain to us their program and support rendered to our Veteran Families.

During World War II, the Department of War issued specifications on manufacture of the flag, as well as guidelines indicating when the service flag could be flown and by whom. Restrictions were also passed on who can wear the service lapel. The Department of Defense authorized the service flag and service lapel on Dec. 1, 1967, with DoD Directive 1348.1, which implemented an act of Congress (U.S. Code 179-182).

Blue Star Service Banners were widely used during both world wars but were not embraced during the Korean or Vietnam wars with the same enthusiasm. The American Legion rekindled that spirit of pride in our military men and women following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks by providing banners to military families across the nation.

For more information, contact the National Security Office at (202) 263-2987 or aosei@legion.org.

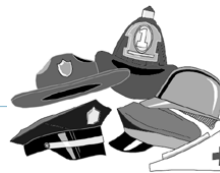
Louisa County Sheriff Office Visits Post 116



The American Legion is very committed to Law and Order and the Youth of our Community. So is the Louisa County Sheriff's Office (LCPO). Sergeant Love spent a great deal of his free evening time visiting & providing the Post a very detailed and informative presentation during our February Meeting. Chuck Love also mentioned there were many veterans in the LCPO and they welcome us to participate in any of these programs to help our Youth. Some of the programs discussed are below.

[Law Enforcement Adventure Program \(LEAP\)](#) was developed to strengthen the relationship between police and our youth, and to give them some insight into basic policing with an opportunity for some hands-on learning with local officers, in a fun, safe manner. The youth camp will not only be educational, but will also have outdoor activities, events, and competitions, to create some teamwork with officers and youth alike. It is also designed to dispel teens' misconceptions of law enforcement, and law enforcement's misconception about teens,

“developed to strengthen the relationship between law enforcement officers and our youth”



[The Teen Driver Challenge \(TDC\)](#) is a defensive driving and vehicle control program designed for teenage drivers. The TDC is designed to provide young drivers with knowledge and understanding of vehicle dynamics and human kinetics, the forces created by an automobile, and the effects of those forces on the human body. TDC will give young drivers a strong foundation from which they can continue to develop and improve their driving skills to a consistently high level while maintaining safe driving habits. There will be a classroom portion and a behind the wheel portion.

The Louisa County Sheriff's Office is proud to be partnering with the [Public Safety Cadet Program](#), a new, national non-profit organization founded and managed by active and retired law enforcement officers and business leaders dedicated to preparing young adults, ages 14 and graduated from the 8th grade up to the age of 20 (until 21st birthday), for careers and leadership in the public safety profession. The program is sponsored by the Louisa County Sheriff's Office as a service to the residents of Louisa County.

Considering a career in law enforcement? The [Teen Law Enforcement Academy](#) provides high school students with an opportunity to learn more about the Louisa County Sheriff's Office, understand all facets of core law enforcement functions, participate in hands-on activities and explore core law enforcement functions.

The Citizen's Law Enforcement Academy (CLEA)

All too often a person's perception of law enforcement is that which is learned from crime-action television shows or movies. The role of law enforcement has always been an interest to the average citizen. The television media has capitalized upon this curiosity with shows such as "Cops", "NCIS", and "CSI". Although these captivate the public's imagination they are not always reality based. Those that depict "real life" situations only reflect a small portion of reality. Each week, real police action is broadcast into the living rooms of millions of Americans. Numerous law enforcement agencies have also benefited from the curiosity that citizens have about the police. These agencies have formed a Citizen Law Enforcement Academy (CLEA) program that create an expansion of their community based efforts; the Louisa County Sheriff's Office wants to educate the Citizens of Louisa on the agency's internal structure and the integral part that the agency plays in our local community. The Citizen Law Enforcement Academy (CLEA) is a program designed to build positive community relationships between the Louisa County Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Louisa County.

Our purpose is to educate the community on the daily operations of the Louisa County Sheriff's Office and dispel any misconceptions about law enforcement in Louisa County.





THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NATIONAL POPPY DAY®

MAY 26 2023

Honor the fallen and support the living. National Poppy Day®
Get involved.

LEGION.ORG/POPPYDAY

- ⇒ 26 FEB—Steve Burrill talked with the Commander and he is doing very well, attending Physical Therapy and is recovering nicely. **HE WILL BE BACK IN MARCH!** We are anxious to welcome him back.
- ⇒ National Poppy Day will be **FRIDAY 26th of May** and will be setting up in high traffic areas, Will be calling for volunteers as date gets closer. We need 12 Personnel to manage three sites for 4 hours on the 26th. Volunteers send an email to Legion_Post116@outlook.com
- ⇒ 2023 Planning Calendars were shared and are available for reference on our website under **“POST CALENDAR”**

Next Meeting 16 MARCH 2023. March’s Meeting will be a ‘Pre-Meeting Ceremony’ which will be an abbreviated meeting with traditional ceremonial openings, a brief business to welcome back our Commander, then introduction of our representative(s) from the local Blue Stars Families organization followed by the Blue Star Ceremony. Birthday Membership Photos will also be taken with all gathered.

- ⇒ Please visit our new Website and tell us what you think!
<https://www.LouisaAmericanLegion.org>

Did you know that Post 116 is not part of the Centennial Page?
Let’s fix this with a Historian!
<https://centennial.legion.org/>

