

Lowe's Grove American Legion Post 416, NC

AMERICAN  
LEGION

THE SENTRY

Issue #58, July-September 2025



## “Citizenship Through Sportsmanship” at Post 416

-Written by Bill Granger, Post 416 Adjutant



Photo by Laurie VanDine

These words, citizenship through sportsmanship, comprise the defining principle of American Legion baseball at Post 416. As we celebrate the centennial year of American Legion baseball, we are excited our total efforts on behalf of 19 young men who are part of the 2025 senior team have reached new heights of success towards that goal.

But what does this look like in a practical day-to-day environment? The most important change in this year's baseball campaign has been our amazing coaching staff who have demonstrated a quiet and steadfast consistency with our young men beginning with our head coach, Derrick DePriest. He's committed to have the Star-Spangled Banner and Code of Sportsmanship administered live before each game, not to mention the manner he leads our team through countless small actions that demonstrate he's willing to live

our ideals in front of the team. And let's not forget the great cast of Jason Beaulieu and Ken VanDine who also work tirelessly with the team. Long before the actual season began these men were effectively leading our baseball players. We certainly could not have achieved the astounding transformation our team has witnessed this season without their efforts. Having a united coaching staff who each contribute their unique talents to the team's success has been crucial to the amazing transformation we've seen in these young men comprising the 2025 edition of the Post 416 Legion baseball team.

- Baseball continued on page 3

## 2025-26 Post 416 Officers Announced

Effective July 1, 2025, the following members were elected to lead Post 416 through the 2025-2026 office term:

### The American Legion (TAL)

Commander: Johnny Clinton  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander: Larry Strickland  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Commander: Zack Drum  
Adjutant: Bill Granger  
Finance Officer: James Snyder  
Sergeant-at-Arms: Rob Kaufman  
Chaplain: James Lowe

### American Legion Auxiliary (ALA)

President: Jennifer Weideman  
Vice-President: Sandra Rich  
Secretary: Elaine Wrenn  
Treasurer: Faydean Spencer  
Sergeant-at-Arms: Toni Hawkins

### Sons of The American Legion (SAL)

Commander: Phillip Goldsby  
Adjutant: Bill Granger

These members will be installed at our upcoming meeting on July 8, 2025. Congratulations and thank you for your service to Post 416!

## New Flag Drop Box Installed

Our most frequent questions emailed to the post from the public are: (1) do y'all take flag donations for retirement, and (2) where do we leave them? Up until June 2025, the answers to these questions were not obvious to the general passer-by. However, thanks to the efforts of Johnny Clinton and Bill Granger, we now have a retired flag drop box located at our front gate.

"This new drop box is just the latest tool in Post 416's arsenal to honor America, making it easier for those unfamiliar with The American Legion to leave their worn and/or unserviceable flags for honorable retirement," stated Commander Johnny Clinton. "Not only is it easy for folks to leave their flags since it's located at our front gate, but it is also attractive and complimentary to our permanent flag display facing South Alston Avenue."



**AMERICAN LEGION**  
LOWE'S GROVE, NC POST 416

The Sentry is a free, monthly publication of Lowe's Grove American Legion Post 146, NC.

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# BE THE ONE

*- Baseball continued from Page 1*

But let's discuss the different outcomes we've seen during the past months that demonstrate we are actually "walking the talk" with regards to our core principles. How about we celebrate the young men who come in and volunteer during their weekends to help out around the post? From peanut cooking, roadside trash pickup, BBQ chicken help, and repainting the hallway in the rear building, these young men have contributed real and sustained effort that allows us to serve our community more effectively. In addition, a couple of these individuals have also joined our Sons of The American Legion squadron as charter members, demonstrating their commitment to our ideals. I have lost track the numerous times I have heard, "Hello Mr. Bill!" around town just to see another baseball team member greet me. I can't even begin to tell you how much their kindness has encouraged me to double-down and work towards growing our baseball program so we can reach more young men with our unique Post 416 brand of citizenship through sportsmanship.

Yes, we have achieved an 11-3-1 record this year, our first winning season ever. Yes, we have reached the playoffs for the first time in history. But I submit our win-loss record is not defined solely by on-field excellence, but through our quiet determination to see our core principles executed in a real and tangible way at Post 416. The investment made in these young men will last much longer than the baseball record which will eventually fade over time. Let's go, Bull City!



*Photo by Laurie VanDine*



## UPCOMING ACTIVITY REMINDERS

- **7/8/25 – Quarterly TAL/SAL/ALA membership dinner @ 6pm**
- **7/8/25 - TAL/SAL/ALA membership meeting @ 7pm (officer installation)**
  - **7/22/25 – TAL/SAL membership meeting @ 7pm**
  - **8/12/25 - ALA membership meeting @ 1:30pm**
  - **8/12/25 - TAL/SAL membership meeting @ 7pm**
  - **8/26/25 - TAL/SAL membership meeting @ 7pm**
  - **9/9/25 - ALA membership meeting @ 1:30pm**
  - **9/9/25 – BBQ chicken planning meeting @ 7pm**
  - **9/23/25 - TAL/SAL membership meeting @ 7pm**
    - **9/28/25 – BBQ chicken dinner**

**TAL** – The American Legion    **ALA** – American Legion Auxiliary    **SAL** – Sons of The American Legion



## **Squadron Commander's Corner**

*-Written by Phillip Goldsby*

I am honored, humbled and proud to be the acting Commander for Lowe's Grove Squadron 416 of the Sons of The American Legion. I've been an SAL member for over 10 years, in honor of my father and both grandfathers, all of whom served in the US Navy. The SAL is an important part of the American Legion family, and our Squadron will be integral to the good work being done now and in the future at Post 416. I'd like to recognize the diligent work by Adjutant Bill Granger, who will also serve as the acting Adjutant for our Squadron. Without his tireless effort, this Squadron would not be a reality.

I'd also like to thank all the other charter members of our Squadron:

Sean Canoy	Ewan Hanson
Steven Goode	Liam Hanson
Ronald Goodson	Julina Rouse
W. Patrick Granger	Leo Scrivner
Logan Greene	Felix Stumpe



For now, our Squadron meetings and other activities will be in conjunction with the Legionnaires and Auxiliary Unit. As our Squadron grows in number, capability and activity we will take on our own identity, set our own goals and mark our own achievements as we honor our veterans and enrich our community.

Lastly, I want to emphasize that each of us have an equal stake in OUR Squadron. As the Commander, I am responsible for advocating the needs and goals of the Squadron to Post,

Division and Detachment leadership, as well as communicating the needs and goals of that leadership to the Squadron. To that end, please know that your comments, suggestions and ideas are always welcome. Reach out to me at any time, and together we'll work to make Squadron 416 exceptional.

## **Fall BBQ Chicken Dinner is Approaching**

Our fall BBQ chicken dinner is scheduled for Sunday, September 28. As usual, the meal is comprised of a 1/2 chicken in the best Eastern North Carolina BBQ sauce, baked beans, potato salad and a dinner roll. Meals can be carryout or dine-in, and must be picked up between noon-2pm. \$12 tickets will be available soon, or you can order online right now at <https://al416nc.square.site/s/shop>.

## **2026 Membership Drive Starts in August**

Just a reminder, our 2026 TAL/ALA/SAL membership drive will begin in August. Dues remain constant this year: TAL is \$40, ALA is \$31, and SAL is \$30. All members can renew three ways: (1) cash/check in-person at a membership meeting, (2) mail a check to our P.O. box address, or (3) online using the POST 416 website at <https://al416nc.wixsite.com/al416nc>. TAL members can also renew online at <https://mylegion.org/personifyebusiness/>. Please renew before December 31 to avoid any interruption in your membership!

**LOWE'S GROVE, NC POST 416**

 **AMERICAN  
LEGION**

# BBQ Chicken Dinner

**\$12/meal**

**(Cash, check, or credit card)**

**Dine-In or Carryout from Noon-2pm**

**Advance Ticket Purchase Required  
Before September 22**

**SEP  
28**



**5419 S. Alston Avenue, Durham, NC 27713**

**<https://AL416nc.wixsite.com/AL416nc>**





LOWE'S GROVE, NC POST 416

# CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF **LEGION BASEBALL**



## **2025 SEASON PROGRAM**



# STAFF



**Derrick DePriest**  
Head Coach & Pitching Coach



**Ken VanDine**  
General Manager



**Jason Beaulieu**  
Player Development & Recruiting



**Ryan Kelly**  
Financial Manager

# TEAM



**Beaulieu, Matthew**  
#17



**Carrow, C.J.**  
#1



**Coker, Vince**  
#15



**Daly, Philip**  
#10



**Doucette, Eli**  
#0



**Ferrell, Gabriel**  
#31



**Freeman, Zach**  
#6



**Greene, Logan**  
#22



**Kozink, Peyton**  
#12



**Ludlum, Brody**  
#9



**Mangum, Harris**  
#25



**Mills, Keenan**  
#21



**Pena, Alex**  
#8



**Przybycien, Max**  
#27



**Sotak, Anders**  
#13



**Stewart, Nick**  
#7



**Uhlenberg, N.J.**  
#16



**VanDine, Kaden**  
#28



**Zedek, Caleb**  
#11





# SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Opponent	Time	Location	Address	Conference
5/26/2025	Monday	vs Ahoskie Post 102	1:00 PM	E. Carolina Athletic Park - Field #1	871 Buckswamp Rd, Goldsboro NC	
5/26/2025	Monday	vs Garner Post 232 (AAA)	4:30 PM	E. Carolina Athletic Park - Field #4	871 Buckswamp Rd, Goldsboro NC	
5/28/2025	Wednesday	Chatham Post 305	6:30 PM	Jordan HS	6806 Garrett Rd, Durham NC	
5/29/2025	Thursday	at Chatham Post 305	TBD	Jordan Matthews High School	910 E. Cardinal St, Siler City NC	
5/31/2025	Saturday	at Raleigh Post 157	5:00 PM	Enloe High School	128 Clarendon Crest, Raleigh NC	
6/2/2025	Monday	Garner Post 232 (Nationals)	7:00 PM	Historic Durham Athletic Park	500 W. Corporation St, Durham NC	
6/5/2025	Thursday	at Aberdeen Post 72	7:00 PM	Pinebluff Athletic Park	490 S. Currant Street, Pinebluff NC	
6/7/2025	Saturday	Aberdeen Post 72	12:00 PM	Jordan HS	6806 Garrett Rd, Durham NC	
6/7/2025	Saturday	Aberdeen Post 72	3:00 PM	Jordan HS	6806 Garrett Rd, Durham NC	
6/9/2025	Monday	at Garner Post 232 (AAA)	TBD	TBD		
6/10/2025	Tuesday	Raleigh Post 157	6:30 PM	Jordan HS	6806 Garrett Rd, Durham NC	
6/12/2025	Thursday	Garner Post 232 (AAA)	6:30 PM	Jordan HS	6806 Garrett Rd, Durham NC	
6/14/2025	Saturday	at Beaufort Post 99	3:00 PM	East Carteret High School	3263 US Hwy 70E, Beaufort NC	
6/14/2025	Saturday	at Beaufort Post 99	6:00 PM	East Carteret High School	3263 US Hwy 70E, Beaufort NC	
6/18/2025	Wednesday	at Edgecombe Post 19	7:00 PM	Southwest Edgecombe HS	5912 NC-43, Pinetops NC	yes
6/19/2025	Thursday	Edgecombe Post 19	6:30 PM	Jordan HS	6806 Garrett Rd, Durham NC	yes
6/21/2025	Saturday	Edgecombe Post 19	1:00 PM	Jordan HS	6806 Garrett Rd, Durham NC	yes
6/25/2025	Wednesday	Wake Forest Post 187	6:30 PM	Jordan HS	6806 Garrett Rd, Durham NC	yes
6/26/2025	Thursday	at Wake Forest Post 187	6:30 PM	Flaherty Park	1100 N. White St, Wake Forest NC	yes
6/28/2025	Saturday	Wake Forest Post 187	1:00 PM	Jordan HS	6806 Garrett Rd, Durham NC	yes
6/30/2025	Monday	at Garner Post 232 (Nationals)	6:30 PM	TBD		

## RON & MARY HELEN MITCHELL LEGION BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIP

Lowe's Grove American Legion Post 416 has created a new \$250 Legion baseball scholarship in honor of Ron and Mary Helen Mitchell. Ron served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict, and both he and Mary Helen were both long-time members at Post 416. Ron transferred to Post Everlasting June 2023 at 86 years of age. The scholarship is chosen by our coaching staff and is awarded to a player that has a positive impact on his team, who shows up for every game and puts others ahead of himself. This year the awardee of this inaugural scholarship who best represents these qualities is Alex Pena. Congratulations!



## GEORGE C. SCRUGGS LEGION BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIP

Post 416 has also created a new \$250 Legion baseball scholarship in honor of a co-founder of Legion baseball at the post, George C. Scruggs (photo on left). George served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and worked in multiple post officer roles over the years before transferring to Post Everlasting March 2025. To honor George, the team will wear "GCS" on their uniform sleeve this season. In addition, a scholarship chosen by our coaching staff will be awarded in his name to a player that best represents "citizenship through sportsmanship". The awardee of this inaugural scholarship is Gabriel Ferrell. Congrats!





# A CENTURY OF 'CITIZENSHIP THROUGH SPORTSMANSHIP'

It was a big vision from a Big 10 commissioner. On July 17, 1925, the collegiate athletic executive spoke to The American Legion Department of South Dakota convention.

"There is nothing in our national life which stresses certain qualities that are expressed in our athletics," said John L. Griffith, a former World War I major and Legionnaire. "Intelligent courage, fighting instinct and cooperation are some things which I believe are visibly expressed in our athletic games ... American Legion posts, as a matter of citizenship training, could easily carry on such athletic activities throughout the United States."

Seven years removed from a war in which young Americans were not physically fit, Griffith understood the need for fitness to answer their nation's call if needed. After his address to the convention, state and then national resolutions were passed, and American Legion Baseball was born.

The program was a hit. By 1926, more than 52,000 players participated. Legends and war heroes such as Yogi Berra, Ted Williams and Bob Feller would comprise some of the 89 Hall of Famers who played American Legion Baseball over its first century.

By 1947, none other than New York Yankees great Babe Ruth would serve as a national spokesman and consultant for the program. The program grew substantially in the 1950s, to historic highs of team numbers and players.

In 2010, the American Legion National Executive Committee selected Shelby, N.C., as the home of The American Legion World Series, starting with 2011. Series coverage by ESPN soon expanded. Attendance records soon have been shattered almost annually since the single location was established.

Over its first century, more than 10 million young people have played American Legion Baseball. At various times, over half of Major League Baseball rosters were filled with former American Legion players. Many more were propelled into careers of service and success, thanks to lessons learned in this veteran-run program.

## AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

I will keep the rules,  
Keep faith with my teammates,  
Keep my temper,  
Keep myself fit,  
Keep a stout heart in defeat,  
Keep pride under control in victory,  
Keep a sound soul, a clean mind,  
And a healthy body.



**AMERICAN  
LEGION**

Veterans ★ Defense ★ Youth ★ Americanism ★ Community