



USS CYCLOPS (AC-4)



American Legion Dewey Lowman Post #109
January / February 2025 - Our 92nd Year



Commander's Message

So long 2024, it's been good. We've had many good times at great events such as our Annual Bull and Oyster Roast, Crab Feast, Auxiliary and S.A.L. dances. We've shared lots of good food and drink, and fellowship. We joined in an effort to make the new Halethorpe Veterans' Park a beautiful reminder of those to whom we owe our gratitude. We pitched in to provide sorely needed assistance to the hurricane victims in the Carolinas and Florida even as we provided many pints of life-saving blood to the Red Cross. With the good times come the sad times as we lost some members to Post Everlasting, joining that silent Army in the hands of the Commander Of Us All.

Hello 2025. It will be a challenge, but we look forward to an even better year. A couple of the goals I have set for myself and our Post include increasing our membership. Enlisting sons and daughters (and grandchildren) of our members to take advantage of the Boy's State and Girl's State programs. Renewing our dedication to assisting those veterans residing in our VA hospitals and honoring those members of our Post who served in World War II and the Korean War. You'll be hearing more about these goals through the year.

I've been thinking about the differences between "membership" and "members". Some would argue that they are one and the same but when I say "members" I mean *active and involved members*. Specifically, those that spend some time at their Post home. This could be coming by to enjoy football, baseball, or just shooting the breeze with fellow veterans. It might also include participation in our membership meetings where the direction of our Post is determined by the wishes of those present. Going further, active membership can mean assisting with some of the Post activities such as our monthly food offerings or helping out with our Bull Roast or Crab Feast. Think about it... join us as *active members, get involved in YOUR Post!*

A couple of near-term events include our Four Chaplains ceremony on Sunday, February 2nd as well as the S.A.L.'s Valentine Dance on Saturday, February 15th.

We'll look forward to some help raising and lowering the flags along the driveway on January 20th (Martin Luther King's birthday) and February 17th (Patriot's Day). Flags go up at 0800hrs and come down at 1700hrs.

In Veterans Service,

Clyde Thomas

Commander, Post 109

Stay Connected With Post 109

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dewey109/>

Email: Cyclops@AmericanLegionPost109.org

Website: www.AmericanLegionPost109.org

Post Phone: 410— 242 -5956

Chaplain's Report
Called to Post Everlasting:
Daniel Bruno

I hope you all had a safe and joyous Christmas and Happy New Year. Let us go into 2025 thinking about and caring for each other and our fellow comrades. If anyone has any information regarding a Post member entering the hospital, nursing home, recovering from an illness or surgery, or has been called to the post, everlasting, please notify me. Always, we offer Memorial Services upon a family's request.

For God and Country

Shannon Shaffrey, Chaplain

Shaffrey31@gmail.com

**Proudly serving those
who proudly served.**



CANDLE
LIGHT
Funeral Home
BY CRAIG WITZKE

www.candlelightfuneralhome.com
1835 Frederick Road, Catonsville, MD 21228
24-hour assistance: 443-830-0310

Attention All New Members!!!

There will be a “**Swearing In Ceremony**” at the January Membership Meeting. The Meeting will commence at 1900 hrs on January 21st. This is an essential part of becoming a member and will also serve as an opportunity to introduce yourself and meet your fellow legionnaires. There's a free drink for you following the meeting in the lounge!

21 January, 1900 hrs



Dewey Lowman Unit # 109

Auxiliary



Presidents Message

Happy New Year wishes to one and all! We finished up 2024 in Auxiliary style by delivering a Holiday package of personal items from our Post Family to the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Baltimore. And supporting our Post with another successful and fun Children's Christmas party.

There are a few activities planned so far this coming year. During the month of January we will be sending out checks to our lucky winners in our annual Cash Calendar fundraiser. I hope you all bought your tickets so you are ready to win, win, win!

On February 6th, we will host another "Saxy Shrimp Night"---always scrumptious shrimp and awesome music! Our spring dance is scheduled on Saturday, May 3rd with the Band CRUSH...stay tuned for more info in the March-April Cyclops. Look for information on our 2025 school scholarships in this newsletter.

We've had a great 2024 with Auxiliary and Legion Family activities, but let's bring our membership together for an even greater year in 2025! Please renew your membership if you haven't done so already and join us at our monthly meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 in the Post hall. Light refreshments and comradery at 7. Be a part of YOUR Unit.

For God and Country,

Carolyn Hyatt, President 443-833-5532

carolynph711@yahoo.com

Membership

Hello everyone! Membership is moving right along. As of today, we have 258 of the 350 we need to reach goal plus. About 25 of these members are new, coming to our meetings and participating in our events. It's always good to have new ideas and perspectives. I hope this trend continues. Wishing everyone Happy Holidays!

Kathy Gair, Membership Chairman

Chaplain

May 2025 start off with love and kindness. Let us think of one another and be mindful that we all go through things, and try to be there for each other. Thank you for assisting me with the names of any member experiencing medical, mental illness, hospitalization, or a chronic condition. Upon request, the auxiliary offers members memorial and funeral services.

In God's love and peace,

With Love,

Lori Shaffrey (443) 531-8055,

shaffrey_faith@yahoo.com

Holiday Package Delivery to Baltimore VA Medical Center

Thanks to the generous donations from our Legion Family we were able to deliver a generous holiday package to the Baltimore VA Medical Center on November 26. We filled seven large boxes with various toiletries, puzzle books, magazines, socks hats, lounge pants, k-cups, snack cakes and cookies and blankets. Also included were handmade crocheted lap afghans and neck scarves that were donated by friends of the auxiliary. Several auxiliary and marjong members handwrote 100 Christmas cards that were distributed to the hospitalized veterans. Thanks to all who so generously contributed to brighten up the holidays for our hospitalized veterans!

Education Committee

The ALA Dewey Lowman Unit 109 \$1000 Scholarship Application Forms for 2025 are now available! You can obtain a copy from the Education Chair and on the Dewey Lowman website at:

<https://www.americanlegionpost109.org/index.php?id=133>. Please contact Millie Finck, Education Chair, at 443-860-9717 or email jaxok92@aol.com, with any questions or requests. This Scholarship opportunity is open to ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS IN HIGH SCHOOLS AND TRADE SCHOOLS IN ZIP CODES 21227, 21228 AND 21229, on a weighted basis.

We are looking forward to another enthusiastic response!

Maryland Girls State

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Maryland Girls State will be held on June 15 -20, 2025, at Salisbury University. First presented in 1937, Girl's State is one of the most respected learning programs presented in the United States.

The ALA mission is to honor those who have brought us our freedom through enduring commitment to develop young women as future leaders grounded in patriotism and Americanism. While attending this program they become knowledgeable of the democratic progress and how our form of government works at the state and national levels. Students assume the roles of government leaders, campaigning in mock parties to become mayors and county and state officials of their ALA Girls State. The program is a weeklong learning experience held on the Salisbury University campus where girls live in "cities" within a dormitory-like setting. Female high school students who have completed their junior year are competitively selected and sponsored by ALA units.

The only cost to the student's family is the \$45 registration fee. The rest of the cost is covered by ALA units in Maryland. This is a highly regarded program that is nationally known and attendance is a big plus on college and scholarship applications. If you would like to submit an application and to be considered for sponsorship by The American Legion Dewey Lowman Auxiliary Unit 109 - please contact Sharon Knecht: 410-227-0169 nonniek@verizon.net

Junior Sports Shooting Club

The Junior Sports Shooting Club continues to look for interested youth for its meetings which are on Tuesdays at 7 pm in Hall B. We now have 12 kids, which is at capacity, and five adults at our meetings.

The club provides a fun learning experience and education in gun safety for youth between the ages of 8 and 18. Adults from the Post family and Marines from Ft Meade teach gun safety and provide an opportunity for youth relatives of members, Young Marines and scouting to hone their skills at shooting air rifles.

We are always looking for more instructors especially from the Post.

Contact Tracy Thiels or John Sheldon at juniorshootingsports@AmericanLegionPost109.org if you have youth interested in joining the club.

John Sheldon & Tracy Thiels



Sons of the American Legion



I hope everyone had a happy and safe Holiday Season. The SAL ended the year histing the Shrimp Night on December 5th and Dewey Dogs on December 14th. Starting in January, SAL meetings will be moved to the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30. This is a change in day and time. We are hosting the Valentines Day Dance on February 15th. I would like to thank all the SAL members who have helped with our events. As always, if you have any questions or suggestions please contact me.

Bill Merson

Squadron Commander billfd626@aol.com



POST 109 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY A HUGE SUCCESS

In promoting the 5th Pillar of the American Legion, (Children & Youth), the Post Christmas party for children is a youth activity which instills character to the children through a host of fun filled activities.

Legion members' children, grandchildren & great grandchildren were exposed to several activity stations including: Face painting by Mia; a Crafts table by Beth Milesky (to make Xmas cards for veterans at the Baltimore VA Medical Center as well as a banner for the children to write Christmas wishes for these veterans); a Giving Tree having crochet items made by Charlene Hines; a framing station having individual picture ornaments for each child with Santa & Mrs. Claus. There was an abundance of food—pizza, hot dogs, chips, cupcakes, soda, juice boxes and water for everyone attending.

This Children's Christmas party is a Legion event with 33 volunteers from the Post including SAL and the Auxiliary. Their hard work created a warm, loving Christmas moment for 70 children including 4 students who earned community service hours (Anthony, Brooks & Natalie Tittsworth and Hunter Beno). Each child received a gift or a gift certificate from Santa & Mrs. Claus.

We would like to thank Phil Johns for the Christmas music and stage lights. Additional thanks to the kitchen volunteers including: Richard Sigwald, Greg Christie, Randy Miller, Linda Foehkolb, Doc Reisz, Darrell Jackson and Commander Clyde Thomas.

A grateful and special thanks is given to Paula Reisz & Sandy Jackson for their timeless effort and service to our Post in planning & organizing this wonderful holiday event.

Merry Christmas Everyone—Ho! Ho! Ho!



Dear Family and Friends,

03 December 2024

I hope this message finds you in good spirits as we begin the holiday season and look forward to a new year full of possibilities. This January, I'm excited to take on a challenge that has become both a tradition and a passion, the "Polar Bear Plunge" at Sandy Point State Park on January 31st. This will be my 14th Plunge and also my 81st Birthday and since I will be doing it for you, you won't feel the pain.

This year, I'm proud to plunge as part of "The American Legion Family Plunge Team", joining forces with the "Police and Law Enforcement Community" in support of a cause that is close to my heart, "Special Olympics Maryland". With the unwavering support of our incredible community, I'm ready to dive into the icy waters once again for an unforgettable experience.

This event is about more than just the plunge—it's about empowering the nearly 19,000 Special Olympics athletes and their Unified Teammates to achieve their dreams. Every dollar we raise helps provide essential resources, training and opportunities for these incredible individuals.

My fundraising goal this year is \$20,000.00 and I would be honored if you'd consider contributing. Whether it's a small gift or a larger donation, every bit helps create a world of inclusion and possibility and is 100% tax deductible. I'd love to bring that 1st place trophy back to the Department of Maryland.

Here's how you can support this mission:

Donate online: <https://support.somd.org/fundraiser/5676188>

Send me a check made out to "Special Olympics of Maryland" with "Bill Ganz/5676188" on the memo line.

I'd be happy to deliver it personally during one of my visits to the Special Olympics HQ!

This year, our team is in a friendly competition with the Police/First Responders to take the top spot in fundraising. Your support will not only help us reach our goal but also remind these athletes that their bravery and determination inspire us all.

The athletes live by the words: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." That spirit is what drives me to participate year after year.

Thank you for your generosity, encouragement and belief in this incredible cause. Together, we can make a difference.

With heartfelt gratitude,
William J. Ganz, Jr.

Chairman, The American Legion,
Department of Maryland Special Olympics Committee

Auxiliary Supports Maryland Special Olympics

At our Christmas Party meeting on December 10, we presented Bill Ganz with a check for \$500, for the Maryland Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge. Hopefully Bill made his goal of \$20,000 and "showed law enforcement comrades how the American Legion Family does it!"



 *Sons of the American Legion Squadron 109 present:* 

VALENTINE'S DANCE



With **NEW CENSATION**

Saturday, Feb. 15th

7pm to 11pm




Tickets \$30 or Reserve a Table of 8 for \$200

**Includes: Live Music, Cold Beer, Wine, Soda,
Chips, Pretzels, Assorted Desserts,
& Door Prizes. Table Snacks are Welcome.**


1610 SULPHUR SPRING RD. HALETHORPE MD 21227

** Tickets available at the Post Canteen or call Don Goetz for more info 410-456-7901 **

January ~ 2025 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 Live Band - Timeless 7p-11p
5	6	7 Home Committee Officers Meeting 7p-8p	8	9 S.A.L. Meeting 6p-7p	10 Karaoke 7pm-11pm	11 Live Band - Roll With It 7p-11p
12	13	14 Auxiliary Meeting 7:30pm Taco Tuesday 6:30-8:00pm	15 MLK Day 	16 Spaghetti Dinner 4-7pm	17 Live Music The Shore Thing 7pm-11pm	18 Live Band - Greater Image 7p-11p
19	20	21 Membership Meeting 7 pm	22	23	24 Karaoke 7pm-11pm	25 Live Band - Boogie Lou 7p-11p
26	27	28 Taco Tuesday 6:30-8:00pm	29	30 27 Flags Meeting 7p-8p	31 Karaoke 7pm-11pm	

February ~ 2025 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Live Band - 8 Ball Deluxe 7p-11p
2 Four Chap- lains Ceremo- ny 10:00 am	3	4 Home Committee Officers Meeting 7p-8p	5	6 Shrimp Night 5-7pm	7 Karaoke 7pm-11pm	8 Live Band - Wild Grey Hairz 7p-11p
9	10	11 Auxiliary Meeting 7:30pm Taco Tues- day 6:30- 8:00pm	12	13 S.A.L. Meeting 6:30 pm	14 Karaoke 7pm-11pm	15 Live Band - Blue Line 7p-11p
16	17 Presidents Day 	18 Membership Meeting 7 pm	19	20 Spaghetti Dinner 4- 7pm	21 Live Music Ville Vibe 7pm-11pm Chili Cook- Off	22 Live Band - Major Com- pany 7p-11p
23	24	25 Taco Tues- day 6:30- 8:00pm	26	27 27 Flags Meeting 7p-8p	28 Karaoke 7pm-11pm	
30	31					

American Legion Dewey Lowman Post 109

SPAGHETTI DINNER

All You Can Eat Pasta

Every Third Thursday of the Month

4 pm to 7 pm

1610 Sulphur
Spring Rd.
Halethorpe, MD
21227



\$10.00 Dinner includes: Pasta, Sauce, Meatballs, Sausage, Salad, & Texas Toast. No Doggy Bags.

Drinks, Desserts & Carry-Out Dinners are available!

Children 6 yrs. and under eat Free. Ages 7 to 13 receive a \$5.00 student discount.

FRIDAY NIGHTS

Dance, Sing, & Party

7PM - 11PM

JANUARY:

- 1/3 - KARAOKE
- 1/10 - KARAOKE
- 1/17 - BAND - THE SHORE THING
- 1/24 - KARAOKE
- 1/31 - KARAOKE



FEBRUARY:

- 2/7 - KARAOKE
- 2/14 - KARAOKE
- 2/21 - BAND - VILLE VIBE (CHILI COOK-OFF)
- 2/28 - KARAOKE



Saxy Shrimp Night

Thursday, February 6, 2025

5 to 8 pm
(Members & Guests Only)

1 Pound Steamed Shrimp
Just \$12
(Half pound \$7)



Live Music Saturday Nights

In the Post Lounge
7 pm - 11 pm

January

- 1/4 Timeless
- 1/11 Roll With It
- 1/18 Greater Image
- 1/25 Boogie Lou



February

- 2/1 8 Ball Deluxe
- 2/8 Wild Grey Hairz
- 2/15 Blue Line
- 2/22 Major Company



TACO TUESDAYS

JANUARY 14TH & 28TH
FEBRUARY 11TH & 25TH
6:30PM - 8:00PM



American Legion Post 109
1610 Sulphur Spring Rd.
Halethorpe, MD. 21227

\$2.50 Beef Taco served with Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Sour Cream and Salsa on a Crunchy Hard Shell

Taco Special: \$9.00 for 4 Tacos



All Legion Family Members & their Guests are welcome to come and watch or play!

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY PROUDLY PRESENT:

SHOW ME THE



MONEY SUNDAYS

2 PM - 4 PM

\$2.00 FOR 1 SET OF CARDS (3 CARDS IN A SET)
\$5.00 FOR 3 SETS OF CARDS.

COVER ALL CARDS IN A SET TO WIN 50% OF THE INTAKE. WHEN YOU HAVE 2 CARDS COVERED, SHOUT OUT "HOLDING." IF MULTIPLE WINNERS IN A GAME, THE POT WILL BE SPLIT EVENLY AMONG THE WINNERS. 25% OF THE INTAKE IS ADDED TO THE JACKPOT GAME. THE JACKPOT WILL HAVE A \$200 LIMIT. THE REMAINING 25% IS DONATED TO COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMS.

SUPER BOWL PARTY



SUNDAY, FEB. 9TH
6 PM

*** Potluck Buffet ***

Please Bring a Dish to Share!

POST 109 FOUR CHAPLAINS SERVICE SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2025 @10:00AM



POST 109'S ANNUAL
CHILI
COOK-OFF
FRIDAY, FEB. 21ST
7 PM

LIVE MUSIC BY
VILLE VIBE

*ALL CHILI ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 6:30 PM.
PRIZES AWARDED FOR 1ST, 2ND, & 3RD PLACE WINNERS*



Post 109 Hall Rental

Our hall can accommodate both large and small events with ample parking. Contact Vivian for competitive hall rental prices and the best service around.

Contact Vivian at: HallRentalDL109@gmail.com

The Original 27 Flags

In November we had 3 activities: November 9: The 27 flags provided a patriotic background for the Halethorpe Veterans Park Dedication Ceremony. Stop by the park to read the plaques and bricks. The Post, SAL and Auxiliary are named on the “*Sponsors and Friends*” plaque displayed.

November 11: The unit marched in the Arbutus Flag Pole Veterans Day ceremony carrying the 27 Flags to honor all Veterans. We did not have enough Dewey Lowman members so we reached out across our community for help. Several members of the Halethorpe Improvement Association and GABA came through with volunteers to help us carry our U.S. flags in the ceremony. We greatly appreciated their support in our time of need.

November 12: We visited the Arbutus Senior Center and presented the 27 Flags Educational program honoring community Veterans with a U.S. Flag tac pin. The folks at the senior center loved the presentation and shared a delicious Mission Barbeque lunch with us.

In December, we provided a patriotic background for the Wreaths Across America tradition at the Baltimore National Cemetery. The program honors veterans, active duty military and their families by placing a wreath on the gravesites of soldiers, saying their names out loud as they do so. Our Post and Auxiliary sponsored wreaths to the Baltimore National Cemetery.

THE 27 FLAGS UNIT IS STILL DESPERATELY IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO HELP US PAY DUE RESPECT TO OUR FLAG, VETERANS AND COUNTRY. WE DO NOT WANT TO TURN DOWN ANY REQUESTS FOR OUR SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY, BUT IT IS EMBARRASSING WHEN WE CANNOT CARRY ALL 27 FLAGS AS OUR NAME IMPLIES. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP US CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE COMMUNITY EVENTS AND SHOW OUR RESPECT FOR OUR *UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FLAG*, PLEASE CONTACT RICHARD SIGWALD AT 410-868-0728 TO JOIN OUR UNIT.

Carolyn Hyatt, 27 Flags Unit



January / February Flag Raising Schedule

The Original 27 Flags Unit along with help from additional post member raise and lower the flags on the poles lining the post driveway. When all the flags are up it is a very impressive site.

Please consider taking a little time to meet us at the Legion and help us accomplish this duty. It usually takes less than 30 minutes. Thanks in advance for your help!

Flags go up at 8 am and down at 5 pm on the following days:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Wednesday	January 15th
President's Day	Monday	February 17th

Post #109 Officers

Commander	Clyde Thomas	443-917-9821
1st Vice	Duayne Driscoll	
2nd Vice	VACANT	
3rd Vice	Vernon Wilkens	
Adjutant	William Ganz	410-418-5597
Judge Advocate	Sandy Merson	443-848-9473
Finance Officer	Darrel Jackson	410-782-5937
Chaplain	Shannon Shaffrey	
Historian	VACANT	
Service Officer	William Ganz	410-418-5597
Sgt.-At-Arms	John Calvert	410-370-7629

Unit #109 Auxiliary Officers

President:	Carolyn Hyatt	443-833-5532
1st Vice:	Kathy Gair	443-591-8897
Treasurer:	Rose Mary Tittsworth	
Secretary:	Mary Beth Wire	
Chaplain:	Lori Shaffrey	
Sgt at Arms:	Patricia Calvert	
Historian:	Beth Milesky	
Exec. Comm.:	Millie Finck, Cindy Klapproth, & Linda Lohrfink	

Post #109 S.A.L. Officers

Commander	Bill Merson	443-848-9473
1st Vice	David White	
2nd Vice	Bob Wire	410-979-6530
Finance Officer	John Moylan	
Chaplain	Russ Schellhaus	
Adjutant	Jim Bowlin	
Sgt-at-Arms	Dennis Clark	
Historian	VACANT	

American Legion Post #109
Department of Maryland
1610 Sulphur Spring Road
Halethorpe, MD 21227

Time Dated Material

Please Do Not Delay

Deliver by January 1st



IN GOD WE TRUST

The American Legion
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

The Cyclops

January / February 2025

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of
American Legion Post #109

Auxiliary Meetings 2nd Tuesdays 7:30 pm January 14 th February 11 th	Membership Meetings 3rd Tuesday 7 pm January 21 st February 18 th	S.A.L. Meetings 2nd Thursday 6:30 pm January 9 th February 13 th	27 Flag Meetings Last Thursday 7 pm January 30 th February 27 th
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