Vol. XCI No. 10 michiganlegion.org December 2023

COMMANDER MOHLMAN'S MEDIA TOUR



Chatting with Deb Hart and Bob Hoffman on Morning Blend.



Educating Nicole Buchmann on WILX Studio 10.



Talking all things Veterans Day on WFMK with Scott Clow.



Hanging out on Classic Rock 94.9 with MoJo.

Department Commander Brian Mohlman is getting the word out about the Legion using the media to his advantage. Starting on the first of November, several Capital Area radio and TV stations began announcing special coverage of Veterans Day and promoting their support ofveterans. Seeing an opportunity to be a subject matter expert, Department Media and Public Relations Coordinator Jim Showers ensured they had access to our State Commander.

Commander Mohlman did interviews on 5 radio stations and 2 television stations for two weeks. The stations also began airing PSAs or Public Service Announcements, AKA Free ads. The PSAs were produced by our National Communications staff and customized with local information.

We won't be sure of the effect of this enhanced media presence, but we encourage all posts to offer a member as a spokesperson to your local radio and TV stations. Once you have opened this communication line, those stations will likely contact you for all things Military and Veteran. Remember, All Press is Good Press!



In Adrian On WQTE for a live interview during Thank-A-Vet 24 hour Salute to Veterans.

EAMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

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1st - Legion Custom 1911 and S&W M&P \$3700 Value 2nd Prize - \$500 Cash 3rd Prize - \$100 Cash

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Make Checks Payable to American Legion Department of Michigan 212 Verlinden Lansing MI 48915

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SUNDAY, February 3, 2024 @ 2:00 P.M.
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LAPFFR

THERE WILL BE A COFFEE/PUNCH/COOKIE RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE SERVICE, AND TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP WITH LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS AND THE COMMUNITY. THERE IS PLENTY OF ROOM!

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80th ANNIVERSARY of D-DAY

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THE NETHERLANDS: WWI sites.

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GERMANY: Remagen Bridge, Rhine cruise, Nurnberg rally grounds & courtroom, Dachau and Hitler's Eagles Nest. Great hotels, many meals, professional guides, & Vi Ranney, escort

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- Hospital HELP Plan Provides benefits for hospital stays including intensive care, cardiac care, care for cancer, rehabilitative facilities, and V.A. hospitals.*
- Cancer Care Provides important protection and a daily benefit if you are hospitalized due to cancer.*
- Accidental Death Helps provide financial protection for you and your family. Up to \$5,000.00 LegionCare AD coverage at no cost to Legionnaires is available: (activation required).* You can also purchase additional Accident coverage up to \$100,000.00.
- On-The-Move Travel Accident Provides up to \$200,000.00 coverage when fatally injured in a
 covered accident while traveling, plus \$500.00 per day if a covered accident lands you in the hospital.*
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- Health & Dental Insurance Request a quote on various Health & Dental Insurance Plans
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 emergency so you can live confidently and independently.

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"The Accidental Death, Cancer Care, Hospital Help Plan, and On-The-Move Accident Insurance Plans are underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company, St. Paul, Mit. Plans may not be available in all states, These policies contain limitations and exclusions. Plases wist www. The Life room to review plan details.

Happy Holidays!



Brian Mohlman **Department Commander**

Seasons Greetings, Michigan Legionnaires! As we find ourselves well into the holiday season, I feel it is a fitting time to reflect on the impact we've had on local veterans and our communities this past year. A large number of our Posts have deepened their involvement in their communities through a wide range of veteran and family-oriented events. Events

such as veteran festivals, where local and state resources are brought together to make them more accessible to many in the area. I've had the opportunity to attend several of these events this past year, where veteran attendance frequently exceeds 1,000. I ask you to consider sponsoring such an event in your community this coming year. The positive results far outweigh the effort involved in hosting such a worthwhile event.

Even more, posts have hosted family-oriented events in their communities. One such event was Crafts with Kids at the Howell Post. Weekly, 15-20 young veteran parents brought their families into the post to participate in various fun and entertaining activities. I had the opportunity to learn the art of painting rocks with a little guy named Ben. Aside from Ben telling me I looked like a pickle, I learned a lot, and all the kids had a great time! What a great way to involve our younger veterans and their families in your post!

I also had an opportunity to join in on the Hale Post's Annual Wild Game

Dinner, where bounties from the Fall hunting season were shared with the entire community. I've never had rabbit strips before, and the pheasant was delicious. The important part was that the Hale community became part of that post for the evening and supported all the various fundraising activities the Post put on.

As we look forward to next year, let's keep all those who



may be less fortunate in our Commander at Post 422 in Hale's Annual Wild Game hearts and minds along with

hearts and minds, along with Dinner those struggling through life in general. Keep reaching out, and be sure to Be The One who makes a difference in someone's life!

I wish you and your family the best for this Holiday Season!

YOU HONORED US WITH YOUR SERVICE. Now let us honor you.



Join us for a complimentary meal and pre-planning seminar to learn about VA burial benefits available. For more information, contact Anthony.Lauri@DignityMemorial.com or 586-775-2424.

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DEADLINE DATES

January 2024 is December 8th

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PUBLIC RELATIONS, WEBSITE, NEWSPAPER & SO-CIAL MEDIA

media@michiganlegion.org

ADMINISTRATION

kim@michiganlegion.org

If you have a photo you would like to submit for the Michigan Legionnaire and/or website use, E-mail it to us at media@michiganlegion. org or mail it to Department, Attn: Jim Show-

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Please keep the photo at least 200 dpi or larger. If you are submitting a hard copy photo, please note photos printed from a home printer cannot be used, nor can photos clipped from newspapers.

We look for photos showing Legion caps in action whenever possible.

Interested in placing an ad in the Michigan Legionnaire? Please Contact Jim Showers

> media@michiganlegion.org 517-220-2747

MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE

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Runyan's Ramblings The Gift that Keeps on Giving



Ron Runyan Department Adjutant

Greetings to my fellow veterans, family members and veteran advocates. The year is coming to a close; many are shopping for holidays, and some

have yet to begin. If you are looking for an idea, look no further than in this edition and on our website. You should memorialize yourself, a family member or a friend by purchasing a brick from our Foundation Brick project fundraiser. The bricks are as low as \$50 and can be as much as \$225. Don't waste your hard-earned money spending money on naming a star light years away when you can put someone's name into stone and have it displayed right here at Your state headquarters!

What does the money go to from the bricks, you ask? Well, your Michigan

American Legion Foundation provides many financial benefits to our veterans, youth programs and Posts.

What is a way they give back to veterans and posts? The Foundation provides grants. These can be based on the financial needs of veterans for rent and mortgage payments, automobile payments and repairs, home repairs and other reasons.

Okay, then how do they help posts? Sometimes, posts have financial troubles or building repairs that need to be addressed, and there is no funding to help them. You see, posts and its members keep our organization alive. Without members and posts, there can be no meeting place and members to support the organization's efforts. So, in some cases, it is better to help a post stay active and alive in its community. Recently, we assisted a post with its fire suppression to keep its only source of revenue open: its kitchen. They could not survive

| December 2023 | Michiganlegion.org | without its Friday night fish fries, and it was about to close without the mandatory fire suppression.

How does a veteran or a post qualify or request a grant? On our website, under the FORMS tab on the top menu, it says Temporary Assistance Grants. Click this link and fill out the form. It can be emailed or sent via regular mail. If you do not use the website, you can call the state headquarters, and our staff will mail one to you.

Realize, however, that all grants must be reviewed by the finance committee and Foundation to verify that there is a need and that they qualify for a grant. This will mean the veteran or posts must submit a grant application and financial/banking documentation. In some cases, bills to be paid and repair quotes are also looked at.

Grants awarded are never written directly the veteran or post in need. Checks are remitted to vendors, and contractors are awarded bids for work to be done.

In closing, may each of you have a safe and joyous holiday season!

The Membership Report



Dan Cooper

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication. Let's keep going strong. Our next target is 75%

on December 13th, Pearl Harbor

Day. We can do it!

As we're nearing this year's halfway mark, we need to keep our momentum going. Work with one another, share ideas, or reach out for assistance. We have a dedicated membership team. You can draw from their talents. Each one has strengths and ideas that you may not have thought of.

If you need assistance with Revitalizing your Post, contact our Revitalization Chair, Leo Cowdry. Include your Zone Commander and your District Membership team as well. There are resources all around. We merely need to utilize them. Together, we will make it happen.

The Marines have a slogan: 1st Vice Commander "Adapt, Improvise, and Overcome." if anything is blocking or getting in your way of reaching

your goals, find a way around it, over it, under it, or through it. Doing whatever is needed to succeed.

Let's pick up our phones, "Buddy Check" our members, let them know their presence is greatly missed, and see if they need anything. As you build relationships with your members, showing them that they are more than just a number, they will be more apt to get involved and renew their dues without asking.

I'm looking forward to a very busy December. Great things are going on everywhere, every weekend all the way through to the New Year. This is the season of giving; let's make sure that every veteran has an enjoyable holiday.

I wish each and every one of you a wonderful and safe Holi-

The Americanism Report



Wayne Blank 2nd Vice Commander

I hope everyone receives a gift they always wanted or needed, but we know that Legionnaires don't think about themselves first. Legionnaires are always putting their post, their community, and their citizens first. The real purpose of

legionnaires and the American Legion is to assist youth and their community in furthering themselves.

How can we assist our youth and our community? By presenting them with the chance to achieve excellence by and through our programs. We also can honor our adult Community heroes by honoring them for their accomplishments over and above the call of duty. Nominate them for Law Enforcement Officer or Firefighter of the Year.

Christmas is a time of giving, a time to make others happy, and that is what our programs could and should do for someone in your community. So, get off the couch, put the beer down, and start being a legionnaire with a mission to help and give.

As I promised last month, I requested Post 53 Commander Corey Murray to tell us about their post activity that is attracting new members who go the extra mile. Check out his article under the Post Spotlight on page 14 of this edition of the Legionnaire.

2024 Membership: November 29th Goal = 54,119 Current Total: 32,263-72.77%

District Meetings

First District Meetings start at 1 pm.

January 21, 2024

Knights of Columbus Post 390 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI . 49152

February 18, 2024 American Legion Post 32

9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48150 <u> April 21, 2024</u>

American Legion Post 147

100 W Dunlop Street, Northville, MI 48167

May 19, 2024

Knights of Columbus Post 390

19801 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48152

June 16, 2024

American Legion Post 32

9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48150

July 21, 2024

American Legion Post 147

100 W Dunlop Street, Northville, MI 48167

Second District

Meetings start at 11 am with the SAL followed by the Riders at Noon with a Lunch VSO starts at 1 pm and Legion meetings are at 2 pm.

January 14, 2024

Post 514 Ida

11601 Lewis Ave. Temperance, MI 48182

734.854.5910

March 10, 2024 Post 550 Onstead

333 Connor St, Onsted, MI 49265

517.467.0191

May 19, 2024

Jackson- Rose City Post 324 1190 Falahee Rd. Jackson, MI 49203

517.662.3387

Third District

Meetings Officers at 11:30 am, Lunch is at 12pm, and Business at 1:00 pm. Training will take place once the meeting is adjourned.

January 7, 2024

Charlotte Post 42

1000 W. Lawrence Hwy. Charlotte, MI

March 3, 2024

Battle Creek Post 298

228 N 20th St. Battle Creek, MI

May 5, 2024 TBD

Fourth District

Service officers training at 11:00 am Dinner at 12:30 pm Meetings at 1:30 pm.

January 7, 2024

269-281-2133

March 3, 2024

269-301-3549 May 5, 2024 Hastings 269-331-0623

Fifth District

Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Dinner @ 5:30 pm and Meeting @ 7 pm.

January 11, 2024

American Legion Post 179

March 14, 2024

American Legion Post 208

May 9, 2024

Post 28

Bangor

July 11, 2024

LOCATION TBD by Next Commander

Sixth District

Service Officer School at 11:10 am (when scheduled), Lunch at Noon, Meetings at 1 pm January 14, 2024

Devereaux Post 141

3265 W Grand River Ave., Howell, MI 48855 517-546-2534

March 10, 2024

Pinckney Memorial Post 419

9807 Whitewood Road Pinckney, MI 48169

May 19, 2024

Buck-Reasoner Post 238

1785 Cedar Street Holt, Michigan 48842

Seventh District

Lunch at 12:30 wilth meetings at 2:00

January 14, 2024

Lapeer post #16 1701 W. Genesee

March 10, 2024

Vassar post #15

651 State rd; (M-15)

May 19, 2024

Lapeer post #16

1701 W. Genesse

Eighth District

Trainings will start at Noon, Dinner at 1:00pm with Legion and Auxiliary meetings immediately following.

January 21, 2024

Owosso Post 57

201 E. Mason St. 989-723-4046

March 17, 2024

Carson City Post 380

121 N. Mercantile St. 989-584-2455

May 19, 2024

Greenville Post 101

1320 W. Washington St. 616-754-5063

Nineth District

Executive meetings are at 11:00am with Lunch at noon. Meetings at 1:00pm.

December 2, 2023 Post 381

Croton, MI

March 9, 2024 Post 76

Ludington, MI

May 11, 2024 Post 69

Whitehall, MI

Tenth District

All meetings will start with lunch at noon. Meetings at 1:00 pm.

January 6, 2024

Sandford, Post 443

March 2, 2024

Morely, Post 554

May 4, 2024

Luzerne, Post 162

Eleventh District

All Meetings Start at 10 am, with Lunch to after.

Locations TBD

Twelfth District

Starting at 10 am, with a lunch and additional hour after lunch if needed.

December 2, 2023

Greenwood Post 114

Future locations TBD

Sixteenth District

All meetings start at 7:30 pm. December 12, 2023 * Southgate Post 478

January 9, 2024* Stitt Post 232

February 13, 2024* Fort Dearborn 364 March 12, 2024 Wyandotte 217

April 9, 2024* Trenton Post 426 May 14, 2024** Lincoln Park Post 67

313-388-2088

June 11, 2024 Garden City Post 396

313-381-2245

* Service Officer School at 6:30 pm **Memorial Service & Elections

Eighteenth District

All meetings Meeting for the District Legion and Auxiliary Convene at 2:00 p.m

TBA

Nineteenth District

Meetings will be held at the Gaylord Bowling Center, 1200 Gornick Ave, Gaylord, MI

49735. Meetings start with training at 10:00 am, Social Meet and Greet at 11:00 am, lunch served at noon. The both the Legion and

Auxiliary will start at 1:00 pm.

You can Renew!

Your renewal is just a click away. Click on your organization to renew on the national website right now.



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212 N. Verlinden Ave, Ste. B, Lansing, MI 48915 New Phone: (517) 267-8809



Department of Michigan

December 2023





Shannon Werner I am very happy to report that we were awarded the Michigan Non-Profit Re-Executive Director, lief Fund grant that I applied for many months ago. I requested and received the Secretary and Treasurer highest amount available of \$25,000. This is the perfect time of year to receive this grant money to help in giving and sharing with our veterans, their families

and our communities.

If you haven't decided yet whether to go to the Departments Auxiliary Winter Meeting, maybe I can sweeten the pot. We recently have confirmed the National Central Division Vice President, Carol T. Robinson will be attending out winter meeting as a special guest. If you haven't registered already there is still time.

Lastly, In the future, mileage and offsets for expenses will not be generated until after the activity and/or trip has been completed. The only exception is National Convention which will still be paid prior to the function.

18th District

Ellen Jackson, President

This year is flying by so fast. As the 18th District President, I want to apologize for the hiccup in last month's article. I did not sanction it or endorse that article in place of mine. I am immensely proud of all the units in the 18th District. That is why we are known as the Mighty 18th.

All Units work hard on our programs and help our veterans. Farmington Unit 346 held a flag cremation ceremony. It was an awesome event and a wonderful way to honor our unserviceable flags. They also do a lot in their community. I will find out more about what they are doing after attending one of their meetings. Clarkston Unit 63 donated towels to the 18th District to take to Wilwin Lodge for the Loft that the 18th District adopted. These are first-class towels, and people from Wilwin loved them. Clarkston Unit also works within the community. Royal Oak's Unit 253 celebrated veteran Dick McLaughlin's 100th birthday, which included an interview with Rich Luterman from Channel 2 along with Rosie the Riveter! They also work on many of our programs, and I will find out after attending one of their meetings. Unit 143 in Auburn Hills has been donating items to schools and is planning for the upcoming year along with fundraisers. Unit 20 Cook Nelson had an awesome kid's party in the community and has a community outreach program for education.

Our Junior's have been active this year also. They adopted two veterans

from Michigan Veterans at Chesterfield. They took cookies and cupcakes for Christmas, and many units donated and worked for Chesterfield's first Christmas Gift Shop, which included our Juniors. They are helping at future events.

Milford Unit 216 has had a veteran's dinner at no cost to our veterans. Rochester Unit 172 had a breakfast for veterans in their community during Veterans Day. Many District members attended the Veterans Parade in Detroit to honor our veterans. I was especially delighted when my unit dedicated our Military Museum to honor our veteran James Parkhurst and re-named the museum after him for his years of service to the American Legion and our community.

We had many from the 18th District go to Mission Training. What an awesome training and learning experience. It was a wonderful trip with the Department of Michigan President Kim Champion and Honorary Junior President Abbie Jones. What a treat it was to watch how the Department Junior Chairperson Dawn Burton and Abbie worked together learning the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary and had fun doing so. These two are a perfect match. The Pictures are on page 7.

I am sure our units have done so much more than this because they all have dedicated members who want to help our veterans and our communities. Units I have not attended will fill me in on all the events and programs they are working on to make our organization very successful. This will be included in our year-end reports. What an honor it

is to represent the Mighty 18th as the District President.

I am looking forward to a very successful, fun-filled year.



RELATIONSHIP TO VETERAN:



- MOTHER
- DAUGHTER
- SISTER
- GRANDMOTHER
- GRANDDAUGHTER
- SELF FEMALE VETERANS WHO HAVE SERVED
- MALE or FEMALE SPOUSE

ELIGIBILITY PERIODS: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941

TWO PATHS FOR ALA ELIGIBILITY

PATH ONE

The potential member is related to a living veteran by one of the relationships stated above and the veteran is living AND a current member of The American Legion.





only needs to have served during the eligible time periods to be eligible for ALA membership.

PATH TWO

The potential member is related to a deceased veteran who served during the eligible time periods and was honorably discharged.





member of The American Legion in order for the potential member to join the ALA.

For more information, visit www.ALAforVeterans.org

10 Members Represent the Michigan Auxiliary at **National Mission Training in Cincinnati**



National 1st Vice President Trisha Ward & **Honorary Junior President Abbie Jones**



Abbie Jones and Central Division President Carol T Robinson



Dawn Burton with Abbie Jones on the Suspension Bridge connecting Ohio and Kentucky



Junior Chairman Dawn Burton with National 1st Vice President Trisha Ward



Honorary Jr. President Abbie Jones with the National Junior Chairperson Barb Washburn



Abbie Jones, Ellen Jackson, Dawn Burton, and **Kim Champion**



L-R Kim Champion, Ellen Jackson, Dawn Burton, Abbie Jones



L-R Darlene Jones, Kim Champion, Dawn Burton, Abbie Jone, Ellen Jackson, Trisha Ward

Something Happening at your Unit?
Submit it to the Michigan Auxiliaire!
Send your articles and Pictures (with Cutline) to: info@michalaux.org



Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Michigan

John Beeman



had different activities, including flag etiquette, flag retirement, honor guard training, stories with veterans, and plenty of other things for them to do. Every pack was teamed up with a veteran for the day. What a great event.

Detachment Commander 2023-2024

I was invited to a photo shoot for the new Fisher House in Detroit. I met up with Department Commander Brian Mohlman and had several pictures taken. We returned a week later for the Fisher House Michigan Gala 2023 event. It was a great evening.

I volunteered to help Garret Veihl cook and serve meals for the women Veterans for the weekend during their female Veterans retreat and leadership event at Wilwin Lodge at Cygnet Cove. What a great time and learning experience for all.

Big Earl Ruttkofsky and I went to Indian River, where we met up with Fred

Ruttkofsky, our V.A. &R. Chairman, for a dedication ceremony for PFC. Justin T. Paton Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic. What a beautiful clinic that should help lots of Veterans in Northern Michigan. That has been most of my travels since the last paper.

Let's get the membership renewals in. Don't sit on them. We need to keep pushing for new memberships, too. I know you will do a good job. Don't forget to thank a Veteran or give them a helping hand. Until we meet again, keep up the good work.

For God and Country John C. Beeman

Zone 1 Report

Greg Price Zone 1 Commander

There were a lot of smiles at the many Halloween parties held at various American Legion Posts. Many costumes represented themes from cartoons, sports figures, movie stars, animals, and some homemade scary-looking ones. There was laughter and joy mixed in with candy and camaraderie for many Legion family members.

an education! They

Veterans were again honored this year in the Detroit 2023 Veterans Day one-mile-long parade in Corktown. There were roughly 2,000 veterans and their families in the parade. The American Legion Riders were part of the parade along with other Motorcycle Organizations that rode their bikes to pay tribute to the men and women who have served our country.

Thanksgiving will soon be here, and I have seen Legion Posts who have decided to serve a delicious meal and have invited any Veteran who may like to spend some time with Legion Family members and enjoy some Turkey and Fixings.

I would also like to remind our Sons of The American Legion who have not yet paid their 2024 membership dues that your 2023 membership card will expire on December 31, 2023. Some of our members have been renewing their membership on the Web, and others still like to visit the Post and pay their dues there. If you know someone who may not have the means to pay their dues, maybe your Squadron can help them with that.

If you are thinking about attending the Winter Meeting that will be in Flint on February 9th-11th, you can now register and book a room. Our meeting will be on Saturday, February 10 at 9:00 a.m. Hopefully, you will be able to attend.

LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

...AND THE AWARD GOES TO...!



SAL District 3 Commander Tony Smith presents Joseph B. Westnedge Squadron 36 Commander Brent Reeves the American Legion Department of Michigan District 3's, Certificate of Achievement for reaching 120% membership goal for 2022-23



Joseph B. Westnedge Squadron 36 Commander Brent Reeves presents to Sergeant-at-Arms Dave Shugars the Sons of The American Legion, Continuous Member Certificate for being a member in good stating for 12 continuous years. Congratulations Dave!

The Scouting Report!

It's that time of year that all our programs in the American Legion have started. Our programs have registration forms and deadlines on our Department

website, including Eagle Scout of the Year.

If your Post sponsors a Scouting Troop, I would like to see ALL the Eagle Scouts. If they would send a picture to media@michiganlegion.org, it could be put in the MILegionnaire along with a blip about their Eagle Project. As we all know, not every Eagle Scout is eligible for the Eagle Scout of the Year. I believe, though, that every Eagle Scout should be recognized for their accomplishment in Scouting.

Here are a few things to remember before submitting an Eagle Scout of the Year candidate. Please make sure all places that need signatures are signed, and also, please make sure the Scout already has had their Board of Review before the form is sent to the

Department Headquarters.

The deadline is March 1, 2024 for this award.
Department Eagle Scout Award \$1,000
National Eagle Scout Award \$10,000
Eligibility Requirements

THE NOMINEE MUST:

 Be a registered, active member of a Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew chartered to an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit or Sons of The American Legion Squadron.

OR

 Be a registered, active member of a chartered Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew, and the son or grandson of a Legionnaire, Sons of The American Legion or Auxiliary member.

AND

Received the Eagle Scout Award.

 Be an active member of his religious institution and must have received the appropriate Boy Scout religious emblem.

Have demonstrated practical citizenship in

church, school, Scouting, and community.

 Have turned 15 and are enrolled in high school at the time of selection.

Reside in the department (state) to which he ap-

plies.

Note: Eagle Scouts still in high school who reached their 18th birthday during the nomination year remain eligible if otherwise qualified.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Doug Carignan

carignandoug@yahoo.com

586 - 484 - 4354



Troop 90 Scout Builds Pergola for Local Veterans



Marcus Arambulo of Boy Scout Troop 90 wanted to help veterans by building a pergola at the Victor I. Rieck Post 351 in Utica for his Eagle Scout project.

The pergola is outside the front of the post on Cass Avenue and provides complete cover to those underneath it.

Arambulo is a 17-year-old senior from Sterling Heights at the International Academy of Macomb.

SCHOOL OUTREACH

Steve Hamilton



Each fall, near the beginning of the school year, the Post 49 South Haven Honor Guard holds a school outreach program at local elementary schools. This program teaches the students about Veterans, the National Anthem, our organization, and more. They also demonstrate a three-round volley, played Taps, and taught proper flag etiquette and the meaning behind each of the thirteen folds. During the presentation he also read an inspiring story of how Francis Scott Key came to write the Star Spangled Banner.

After the program, the post donated a new flag to fly over

the school.



Answer From The Judge



Barry Wood
Department Judge Advocate
Department of Michigan

How often do we become upset with an officer or a member of our Post and think, "I wish we could get rid of this person." We may believe it is just that easy if only I knew how to make it happen. It is not that easy. A process has been outlined to ensure all

involved have the opportunity to state their case. And there is even an appeals process if one or more parties feel the outcome is not what it should have been.

Let's start by looking at the "Member Trial Procedures." These can be located on the Department website under "Forms" and then under "Department information." You will see right away these were revised just this past July at the Department Convention. Any charge brought against a Legionnaire must be in writing, and the charge must be "Conduct Unbecoming a Member of The American Legion." Once you have put your charge(s) in writing, you present them to the Post Commander or other officer of the Post as stated in the procedure. Once you have initiated this process, specific events and timelines must be met. Please follow this procedure exactly as it is looked at very closely in the event of an appeal. If you are the accused, please follow this procedure as accurately as the accuser. Note that the timeline for appeal to the Department does not change if there are inter-

NTERESTED IN A PUFL?
Paid Up For Life800-433-3318

Chaplains Corner"A Vision for the Forgotten"

M. Schlaack, Assistant Department Chaplain

The month of December is always the most joyous and the most hectic time of the year. In a single month, we find several holidays converging to create a time of joyful togetherness but also overwhelming activity. Christmas (Christian), Hannukah (Jewish), Bodhi (Buddhist), as well as several other observances, help us to realize that the end of the calendar year is a time for celebration as well as for personal spiritual reflection.

December should be more than just a deep sigh of appreciation for surviving another year: It should also be a time to clean out our spiritual closet of all the unwanted cluttered accumulated over the past twelve months. Please don't wait until the Spring to do your cleaning: Do it now! Take an inventory of all that has happened over the past year and see what you can throw out: Those unneeded prejudices, anger, and grudges. Maybe there's a sinful "dust bunny" hiding in the corner that can also be swept out. Get with those you may have offended by word, deed or thought, and begin to set those relationships back on the right track.

One of the names of the Messiah of Israel is "Emmanuel," which translates as "God with us." December is the time to commit ourselves to living our lives as if God is with us. Take the time to clean out your spiritual house and make it a temple for the Spirit of God. In that way, we can welcome a new year with happiness and the hope for a better future.

mediate appeal processes. Also, note that an officer of the Post must set in the judgment of the Post membership and not the "Committee of three (3) Legionnaires." Please take the time to read and understand this procedure. Hopefully, you will never need it.

Please use some process to negotiate through an issue before turning to this process. This is a thing that can cause any number of hard feelings within a post and can take a long time to recover from. So often, just misunderstandings are at the root of the issue.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS FILED WITH DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

If you are being informed that the Department does not have a copy of your constitution or bylaws (C&BLs) on file, you may be asked to send a copy to Kim. But how do you know the version you are sending has been approved by the Department Judge Advocate? You will have a letter from the Department stating your C&BLs have been approved. If you do not have this letter, it may have not been approved. Then, you need the minutes in which your Post members approved the version you are sending in. In this case, send in a copy of those minutes with a copy of the C&BLs. If you have neither the letter of approval nor the minutes, then present your Post's C&BLs to the membership to gain their approval. Then, you can send in Post C&BLs and the minutes for the Department Judge Advocate's review.



Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all. As the Christmas season approaches, we celebrate a new beginning, a chance to reflect on all the positives in life. The ride received an early Christmas present. The Sault Ste Marie Convention and Visitors Bureau has made a major donation to our ride. Not only will we be featured in their magazine with a two-page article, but they have given \$2500 in cash to our partners. This is such exciting news.

We are moving forward with routes. The routes have been set for us to review and look at the need for road blockers and police escorts. We are working hard to not only make this an enjoyable ride but a safe ride.

As I sit and reflect on the things that have happened in the last six months since the idea of this ride began, I cannot help but realize each day is like Christmas Day for a kid. So many amazing things happen daily with this ride, from sponsors to the number of people registering and getting excited about what we are trying to accomplish. I would really like to thank all of you that are supporting us.

Rémember, no one is alone. We will always have your 6. If you start feeling alone, please reach out to someone. I know my admin team, and myself are available 24/7.

Scott "Hawk" Igo Assistant Director, ALR Post 3, Sault Ste Marie, Mi

Legislative Update

Tim Poxson Legislative Chariman

I want to answer two frequently asked questions about the property tax exemption given to qualified veterans.

The first, why is it a tax credit and not a tax exemption?

It is actually not a tax credit to the Veteran filing for the exemption. It is a tax credit

to the local taxing authority in charge of local property tax exemptions. The local taxing authority grants the exemption, and then the State of Michigan Department of Treasury repays the local taxing authority the lost revenue from other sources of state taxes. The property taxes are reimbursed without the legislators budgeting the expense each year, preventing a shortfall in the budget. The property tax exemption has been an issue for some local taxing authorities. Under the Michigan Constitution Article 19 subsection 29, the State can not impose on local units of government that cost the local units of government additional money unless the State is willing to repay those lost funds. From the State's estimate, this will cost between 50 million to 70 million each year. Those costs will increase as property taxes rise and more veterans get this benefit.

They also differ regarding filing for the exemption. Most

veterans eligible for the exemption do not file income tax returns. Veterans not required to file an income tax return would file an affidavit with their local taxing unit. If the Veterans file an income tax return, they will also file an affidavit with the local taxing authority. There are many variations of this issue in the proposed bills, and it is hard to know the

Some Lawmakers would leave the issue to the local taxing unit to decide whether to give this benefit. You could have some properties next to each other, one getting the benefit with the other not. We oppose this answer to the issue and have told lawmakers so. To clear up another misunderstanding, this is a State of Michigan Veteran benefit not a Federal mandate.

The second question: why are there so many bills on the same issue?

Legislators often have multiple bills on the same issue. In this case, the legislators are trying to fix the problem that they are getting much pushback from the local units of government that are now at a loss of the tax revenue from this State-mandated benefit. Some of the bills on this issue address other areas, such as whether the unmarried spouse of a deceased veteran can keep the exemption in future properties that the qualified veteran never lived in. I am urging multiple Senate and House Committees to gather everyone, including the American Legion and the Michigan Commanders Group, to work out what is best for our veterans and their



Transition Successfully Into Civilian Life

Columbia Southern University's dedicated military support staff is comprised of current and former military members who understand the unique needs of these students and their families. Our military support team is here to help with:

- » Tuition Rates Below DoD Cap.
 - » Textbooks Provided At No Cost » GI Bill* Transferability
- » Courses Offered Completely Online
- » Military Training Credits
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ColumbiaSouthern.edu/Mil 877.347.6050

Orange Beach, Ala. | Gainful employment information available at ColumbiaSouthernedu/Disclosure.

offered by VA is available at the official U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government websites at www.benefitsva.gov.igibit. "Paid ad. No federal endorsement of advertisers) intended. Any wiference or U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) personnel, products or services does not constitute or imply endorsement by the DoD.



2024 NATIONAL COMMANDER BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Friday, February 9, 2024 Gateway Hotel, 5353 Gateway Centre Boulevard, Flint, M 48507

| | Social: | 6:00 p.m. | | Dinner: 7:00 p.m. | |
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| NAME(s): _ | | | | | |
| ADDRESS: | | | | | |
| EMAIL: | | | | PHONE: | |
| Please sele | ct type of dinne | r and quantity | of eac | <u>h</u> : | |
| | x # of dinners | | | | |
| CHICKEN | x # of dinners | x \$40 | = | \$ | |
| FISH | x # of dinners | x \$40 | = | \$ | |
| VEGGIE | x # of dinners | x \$40 | = | \$ | |
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Paypal link available at www.michiganlegion.org

| redit Card: | Exp | CVV | |
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Questions: Contact Kim at kim@michiganlegion.org or 517.220.2753

Deadline for reservations is Monday, January 8, 2024. No refunds after this date

Veteran Service Office Locations

Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building

477 Michigan Ave. Rm 1231 Detroit, MI 48226 Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm Phone: 833.648.3826 ext. 1

AL Post #257 7475 B Drive North Battlecreek, MI 49014 Hours: Thursday 8am-4pm

AL Post 558 400 E. Ludington Dr. Farwell, MI 48622 Hours: Tuesday 8am-4pm

AL Post 412 5480 Clark Rd Bath, MI 48808

Hours: 3rd Wed 8am-4pm

AL Post 301, 10584 N. Main St. Rapid River, MI 49878 Hours: Wednesday 8am-4pm

AL Post #194 455 Bay St. Petoskey, MI 49770 Hours: Tuesday 8am-4pm

AL Post 491 422 Woodworth St. Leslie, MI 49251 Hours: 2nd Tue 6pm-10pm

AL Post 44, 700 W. Bluff St. Marquette, MI 49855 Hours: M, Tu, F 8am-4pm

Delta County Veterans Office 2840 College Ave, Ste 2, Escanaba, MI 49854 Hours: Wedbesday 8a-4pm

AL Post 76 318, N. James St. Ludington, MI 49431 Hours: 1st & 3rd Wed 8:30am-4:30pm

AL Post #245 3564 S. Reserve Rd. Prudenville, MI 48651 Hours: Tuesday 8am-4pm

AL Post 248 1240 W. Grand River Laingsburg, MI 48848 Hours: 1st Wed 8am-4pm

AL Post 28 700 S. Harbor Dr Grand Haven, MI 49417 Hours: Mon 9am-2pm

AL Post 305 9548 Cherry Valley Ave SE, Caledonia, MI 49316 Hours: 2nd & 4th Fri 8:30-4:30

AL Post 443 2080 N. Meridian Rd Sanford, MI 48657 Hours: 2nd & 4th Thurs 8-4

AL Post 396 6860 Middlebelt Rd, Garden City, MI 48135 Hours: Friday 8am-4pm

AL Post 297 3590 Conklin St, Ravenna, MI 49451 Hours: Wednesday 9am-2pm

Ann Arbor VAMC 2215 Fuller Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48105 Hours: M-F 7am-3pm

Charlevoix County OVA 301 State Street Charlevoix, MI 49720 Hours:2nd & 4th Wed 8:30am-4:30pm

County Office, 400 River St. Manistee, MI 49660 Hours: 2nd 4th Thurs 8:30-4:30

Department Headquarters 212 N. Verlinden Lansing, MI 48915 Hours: Daily 8am-4:30pm

Jackson County OVA 1715 Lansing Ave. Rm 252 Jackson, MI 49202 Hours: T,2&4W,F 8am-4pm

Kalkaska County OVA 890 Isl. Lake Rd. NW, Rm 8 Kalkaska, MI 49646 Hours: 1st & 3nd Thurs 8:30-4:30

Mackinac County OVA 100 S. Marley St. St. Ignace, MI 49781 Hours: Tue & Fri 8am-4pm

Mecosta County Office 14330 Northland Dr. Big Rapids, MI 49307 Hours: Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

Michigan Works Bldg 401 North Lake St., Suite 700 Cadillac, MI 49601 Hours: Mon 8:30am-

4:30pm

Otsego County OVA 225 W. Main St, Room Gaylord, MI 49735 Hours: Wed, Thur 8am-

Presque Isle County Veterans 151 E. Huron, 3rd flr. Rogers City, MI 49779 Hours: M,W,Th 9am-4pm

Saginaw VAMC, 1500 Weiss st Saginaw, MI 48602 Hours: M,T, W-8am-4pm

Schoolcraft County OVA 300 Walnut St. #206B Manistique, MI 49854 Hours: Tue & Wed 8am-4pm

Sault Ste. Marie CBOC 509 Osborn Blvd, Ste 306 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 Hours: Monday 8am-

Wyoming CBOC 5838 Metro Way SW Wyoming, MI 49519 Hours: Tues 9-2, Th 8-4

Downriver Community Conference Building 15100 Northline Road Southgate, MI 48195 Hours: T,W,Th 8am-4pm

Grand Rapids Vet Center 2050 Breton Rd SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Hours: Tuesday 8am-4pm Phone: 616.268.8073

& Rehabilitation **Gary Easterling** Director

Veterans Affairs

Our staff is dedicated to providing the very best veter-

ans' advocacy to Michigan Veterans and their families.They can assist with Claims Preparation, Presentation and appeal counsel in Veterans' benefits services. Let us assist you and your dependents in getting the benefits that you have earned by your service to your country.

Gary Easterling, Director geasterling@michiganlegion.org Cell (313) 549-8557

Tripp Cantwell, Assistant Director Office Phone (313) 964-6640 Fax (313) 964-5697

Call for a Service officer in your area:

833.648.3826 Option 1

e-mail - al.vbadet@va.gov like us on Facebook @Michigan-**VAR**

Service Officers **Shay Grady Daryl Kinder** Elizebeth Cuddington **Stephanie Fisher** Thomas Kaiser Rebecca Lewis **Rick Wiles Patty Breas** Phillip Babcock **Tommy Simpkins**

Courtney Thurber Lisa Misenko Check out all your benifits at

www.mivabenifits.org

Stacy Thill

VFW Post 5670, 54 N. Mitchell Rd, Gwinn, MI 49841 Hours: Thursday 8am-4pm

Radcliff Center, 1751 Radcliff St, Garden City, MI 48135 Hours: Monday 8am-4pm

DON'T FACE THE VA ALONE!

Find an American Legion Veteran Service Officer near you. Use an Accredited Veteran Service Officer. Here are where American Legion Department Service Officers are. If one is not near you call 833.648.3826 Option 1 and they will guide you to an accredited veteran service officer who will help you.

19th District Report

Patrick McGinn 19th District 2nd Vice

November 2, 2023, saw the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the newly built VA Clinic in Indian River. The facility was dedicated to P.F.C. Justin T. Paton. Present at the ceremony were representatives from the American Legion Department of Michigan, District 19, Posts, Sons of the American Legion, Auxiliaries, VFW, and Riders.

Post 95 in Cheboygan has been busy taking down over 200 Veteran banners throughout the City of Cheboygan. The banners will be displayed in both Cheboygan City Hall and Cheboygan County offices over the winter and reinstalled before Memorial Day 2024. On November 10, our Veterans will be outside four local stores selling poppies - proceeds are going toward the Post's building repairs. In addition, we have Veterans at our local schools teaching the children how to fold the American flag and its history. Finally, the local Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Veteran's Dinner on November 11 to honor those who served and are still serving.

Post 227 in East Jordan has been working very hard over the summer building G.A.R. Veterans Park in East Jordan. This has been a great project for the entire community. The Post has partnered up with the Shoe Club in East Jordan Schools to fundraise. The Shoe Club wrote grant requests and has secured the funding necessary to complete the project. The project is called the Honor and Service Project. We are anticipating the park will be dedicated on Memorial Day 2024.



Garrett Veihl, Chairman Boys State

Michigan Boys State is a program for young men entering their senior year of high school. This year's program will take place at Grand Valley State University, Allendale campus, June 23 - 29, 2024.

The Boys State Committee needs the help of every Post in the Legion to get the job done. If every Post were to send one (1) young man, we would have just under 400 delegates at this year's program. After doing a little research, I found out we have about 112,00 juniors in this year's class. That gives us about 56,000 young men to choose from. So, I am asking all members of the Michigan American Legion to please help us get this program back on track. Get into your school and recruit, and why you're at it, recruit some young ladies for the Girls State Program. For more information about Boys State, go to www.michiganboysstate.org. Thank you!









8th District Report



Gene W. Nethaway 8th District Commander

I hope everyone has had an awesome Veterans Day, a special Thanksgiving Day this year. Thank you for your energy in getting Membership happening in most Posts. Right now, every Post is supposed to be at 65%. Since my last letter in August, our Dis-

trict has had its 30-day meeting at my Elsie Post, and all but 5 posts came, thank you. In September, we had our First Regular meeting in St. Johns, and we had 16 of 23 of the Posts from the District came to that meeting. Training was available, and a few asked for assistance. Thanks to the St. Johns Auxiliary for putting on the meal. The meal was terrific. After eating, we split up, the Auxiliary had their meeting, and we had ours.

Our next meeting happened at American Legion Post 439 in Saginaw on Sunday, November 19. The Post is the Home of PDC and Alternate NEC Committeeman Brett Holt, a leading Contender to be our next National Commander. It is also the home post of our 8th District Adjutant, Jeff Terrain. This is Jeff's first year as the Post Commander. He is also their newly trained Post Service Officer.

Okay, so what is your post doing during this time? The Michigan Legionnaire needs your information and images on what you've done for this year's Halloween, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving. Were you in a parade, or did you host an event in your community? The Michigan Legionnaire would like to include your Post with a story and images. Make sure that you have American Legion Caps in the picture.

I am the VAVS Representative for the Saginaw VA Hospital, and they need clothing to help veterans and their families during this cold time of the year. If your post or community can donate new clothing, please contact the Volunteering office and make sure that you get credit for what you contribute. Make sure you put this information on your CPR report because they will send your post a letter listing the value of what you've donated.

By this time of the year, we are coming down on Christmas, and my post will be completing Toys for Tots and giving the youth in our area gifts that will brighten their holiday. Does your Post want something to do during the holidays? Consider Operation Handshake at the Bishop Airport in Flint and Grand Rapids Airport. Operation Handshake greets Veterans, Military and First responders traveling for Thanksgiving. We will be doing this again at Christmas at the same Air Ports, but we won't know what days until December.

Also, the Oratorical competition at posts should be happening in December, and our District will be hosting our 8th District Competition on January 13 at the Elsie American Legion Post 502 at 220 S. Ovid St. in Elsie starting at 10 A.M. The Zone Competition will happen on February 3. This will happen either in Swartz Creek or in Troy, depending on how many competitors in our 8th District.

I wish to send my holiday wishes for a wonderful Christmas Holiday period at this time and also for your New Year celebration. Know that all you and your post do to help other

veterans and their families is so important, and thank you for being a part of the American Legion here in Michigan.

POST 53 Spotlight



Hillsdale Post's Mobile Canteen at work. Part of their three phase commitment to the community that is bringing in new young vets

In 2021 the Leighr A. Wright American Legion Post 53 established The American Legion Disaster Response program, and a few months later launched it's Mobile Canteen Unit.

The MCU provides logistical support to our county firefighters. Post 53 provides water, Gatorade, light snacks, shade canopies, industrial misting fans, ice packs, moist towelettes and other small comforts to any fire department in Hillsdale County involved in extended on-scene time. The goal of the MCU is to keep our firefighters hydrated and in the game longer. Since its inception, we have not had one firefighter suffer a heat-related illness!

The American Legion Disaster Response program launched in October! Along with Hillsdale County Emergency Management, Post 53 has organized a Community Emergency Response Team composed of energetic veterans who want to continue their service locally. The CERT team capitalizes on their baseline and advanced training in first aid, land navigation, teamwork, critical thinking and problem-solving skills as they stand ready to respond to missing persons, lost or disoriented hunters and natural disasters.

Both the mobile canteen and the CERT have been critical in growing our Gulf War and Global War on Terrorism era veteran base. With them come Auxiliary members, SAL members and Riders. Our members now fill voids in our community and join together for camaraderie and esprit de corps through selfless service.

We are recruiting younger members wanting to be involved with the programs, leveraging their military training and capabilities for the greater good. Hillsdale Hospital has provided \$2,000 in seed money to launch the program, allowing the CERT team to be equipped with personal protective equipment upon their certification in December.

In 2024, Post 53 intends to launch "Phase 3" of The American Legion Disaster Response program in reviving an Amateur Radio Club (ham radio) to fulfill another Emergency Management need in Hillsdale County.

If you want more information on how your post could add a Disaster Responce Program contact me directly at: cmurrayhdn1@gmail.com or by cell at 517-932-8600

Corey Murray

In the Spotlight is a new Feature of the Michigan Legionnaire. If you would like your Post featured, send a rundown of what makes your Post strong and I will put the word out across the State! Send to:

MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE

Around the State...

Owosso MI: Post 57 in partnership with its neighbor Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 851, held their annual trunk or treat event



26 lap blankets donated to the VA Outpatient Clinic in Canton, MI by the SAL and Honor Guard from Post 32 in Livonia.



Vassar Post 15 helping with the American Flag at the Nascar race at MIS



| December 2023 | Michiganlegion.org 15 Berkley BBQ and Berkley American Legion Team up for Rib Fest



A BBQ dinner consisting of ribs three ways, Texas style beef brisket, Motor City smoked sausage, Mac and cheese, Tammy's pit-smoked beans, Cole slaw, Cornbread and Berkley BBQ's famous bacon-wrapped Oreos helped raise \$7,500 for the Berklet Huntington Woods Youth Assistance

Riders Chapter 45, Hastings, presented a check to Wheels for Warriors director Brad VandenBerg



L-R Chris Silverman, Sheri Sherk, Brad VandenBerg, Chapter 45 Director Larry Harshman, Melanie Richards and Dennis Emans

Charles A. Conklin American Legion Post 28 presenting a flag to The Pigeon Creek Schoolhouse Preservation Society at Fall Festival



Past Finance Officer Cyndy Wieringa and Past Judge Advocate Larry Lambert

American Legion Post 238 Halloween in Delhi Township Veterans Memorial Park



L-R "Curious" George Woodworth, Jen "Garfield" Gill, Tessa "Gremlin" Penfield and "Tigger" Bobbie Maynard

Vassar Post 15 and Tuscola County Veterans Affairs distribute food



Post 57 members participating in the Shiawassee County's Heros Day in October



Gary Duehring and Dave Mogg



Legion Representatives at the dedication of the new PFC Justin Patton VA Clinic in Indian River



THE MICHIGAN AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION

We are raising money to help support our veteran services and youth programs. The bricks will be placed at the front entrance of the Department HQ. Bricks can be either 4x8 for \$50 or 8x8 for \$100. Legion family and military emblems can be added for an additional \$25 with orders on the website. The bricks will be engraved as printed below, double check spelling and layout.

All American Legion Family and veterans as well as family of veterans in remembrance are welcome to participate.

4 x 8 Grey Brick 8 x 8 Grey Brick



4 x 4 Black Grantie Replica Tile





RONALD J. PILOZZI **US ARMY 101 ST ABD** NICHOLAS F PILOZZI US ARMY 10 TH MTD

| Color & Size | Price without Clipart | Price with Clipart |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 x 8 Grey Brick | \$50.00 | \$75.00 |
| 8 x 8 Grey Brick | \$100.00 | \$125.00 |
| 12 x 12 Grey Brick | \$200.00 | \$225.00 |

CLIP ART SELECTIONS Below each clip art is a number that denotes which one selected



























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Limited time only - Bricks will be sold until space is filled If you have any questions, please call 517-371-4720 YOU CAN ALSO ORDER ON OUR ON-LINE ORDERING WEBSITE: https://polarengraving.com/themichiganamericanlegionfoundation

ANY SYMBOL IS CONSIDERED ONE SPACE (PERIOD, COMMA, DASH) ALL TEXT IS CENTERED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

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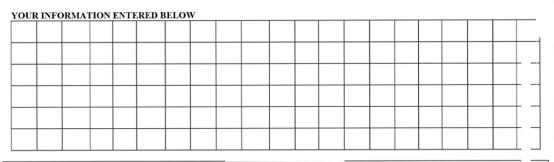












PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE T

The Michigan American Legion Foundation 212 N. Verlinden Suite A Lansing, MI 48915 C/O Brick Project

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