

MI LEGIONNAIRE

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February 2024

REMEMBERING PDC RICHARD CHATMAN



It is with heavy hearts and minds that we acknowledge the loss of Past Department Commander Richard 'Dick' Chatman, who passed away on January 22, 2024. Richard Irving Chatman (affectionately known as Dick) was born on December 20, 1948, in Detroit, Michigan, to Hura Tee Chatman and Lee Ethel Jeter. He was the eldest of seven children.

Dick graduated from Detroit Northwestern High School and continued his education, earning degrees at Wayne State University and Marygrove College. Dick served as Staff Sergeant in the United States Air Force (1968-1972). He later retired from AT&T in 2002 after 35 years.

Dick was very active at all levels within the American Legion, where he held several positions and offices and served on numerous committees. He was the first African American to hold the position of State Commander from 2011-2012. PDC Chatman also served as the 1st Zone Commander and 1st District Commander. Dick was also the Chairman of several committees, including the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, the Internal Affairs Committee, the Public Relations Committee and the Homeless Veterans Task Force Committee. On the National level, Dick held positions with the Americanism Council, Legislative Council and the Media Alliance.

PDC Chatman loved fishing, playing baseball and chess. He participated in many Veteran events and served as a Veteran Mentor for Third Circuit Court's Veterans Treatment Court program. Dick was also very passionate about the restoration and relocation of the Michigan War Veterans Memorial.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents Hura Tee Chatman and Lee Ethel Jeter, and three brothers, Ralph, Dana and Garry, and one sister, Raheer. Dick leaves behind to cherish his memory, two sisters Denise and Laverne, a Goddaughter Dionne, three nephews, two nieces, five great-nephews, six great-nieces, his American Legion Post 202 family, and a host of friends and Veterans. And lastly, his beloved dog Chloe.

Veterans Honoring Veterans

Help Support The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial



When the nation needed them, Michigan's Greatest Generation answered the call. Over 600,000 Michigan residents served in the Armed Forces; 15,458 never came home. On the home front, every aspect of life was altered. From the mines of the Upper Peninsula to the manufacturing plants of lower Michigan, our state played a major role in the war that changed the world. Now it is time to honor them.

The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial is the state's officially recognized tribute to its contributions during WWII, both overseas and at home. Located in Memorial Park, Royal Oak, in the heart of the Arsenal of Democracy, Phase 1 of the Memorial was dedicated in August of 2023.



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AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

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February 2024



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Welcome to 2024!



Brian Mohlman
Department Commander

As we head into February, I invite you to participate in our Annual Winter Meetings in Flint. A wide array of training opportunities will be available for the entire Legion Family. We'll also be able to honor our National Commander, Daniel Seehafer, at the National Commander's Banquet on Friday evening.

As you may know, my special project for this year is the new Detroit Fisher House. Several Posts, Districts, and individuals have so generously stepped up to help make this project a reality for Veterans and their Families who receive services from the Detroit VA Hospital. During a recent visit to Mt. Clemens Post 4, an impromptu fundraiser raised over \$600 in about 15 minutes! A huge Thank you to the Members of Post 4! The Chief Pontiac Post 377 Family has been diligently working to raise funds for the Detroit Fisher House, and their outstanding efforts are greatly appreciated.

Progress on the new Fisher House is well underway, with the elevator shaft nearing completion already. This much-needed facility will be a reality within a matter of months, thanks to the generosity of our entire American Legion Department of Michigan Family!

I want to thank all of you for your commitment to the Buddy Check programs at your posts. Working hand in hand with the Be The One Campaign, these important Buddy Checks put us directly in touch with so many of our members who need your personal contact. You may never know when your simple "How are you doing?" phone call turned into a lifesaver for a struggling Brother or Sister.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge all the hard work and dedication put forth by all of the members of your Department Committees. So much good work goes on behind the scenes, away from the limelight and out of public view. Thank you for being so committed to our Communities and Veterans!

Runyan's Ramblings 2024 CSU Scholarships Now Available



Ron Runyan
Department Adjutant

2024 CSU Partnership has many scholarship opportunities for everyone!

As your State Adjutant and a current student at CSU, I cannot express to you the great opportunity we all have as a Michigan Legion family! Our partnership with CSU has several ways to take advantage of trying or starting to earn college credits, expound on your current path of education or qualify for a **\$32,700** 60 semester hour scholarship. This can be applied towards an undergraduate, graduate or doctoral degree.

Open to all members of the Department of Michigan American Legion, Auxiliary and SAL.

Opportunities Include:

- One Course Scholarship: new and current students that enroll in a degree program or can be transferred with immediate family to spouse or dependent; limited to one per family
- Learning Partner Scholarship: Legion Family, spouses and dependents \$32,700 value
- Discounts: 15% discount on tuition
- Complimentary evaluation of prior education and training
- Free online textbooks



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 State Adjutant. Ron Runyan
 1st Vice Commander Dan Cooper
 2nd Vice Commander Wayne Blank
 1st Zone Robert Kamin
 2nd Zone. Duane Miller
 3rd Zone Jerry Kunzelman
 4th Zone Randy Gilbert
 5th Zone Ray Carlson
 Chaplain. Norm Soli
 Finance Officer. John Bradford
 Historian Robert Higley Jr.
 N.E.C Larry Money
 Judge Advocate. Barry Wood
 Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Salamon
 Immediate Past Commander- Marilyn Britten
 Alt. N.E.C Brett Holt
 VA and R Director Gary Easterling

DEADLINE DATES

March 2024 is February 8th

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HEADQUARTERS DIRECTORY

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The American Legion Dept. of Michigan
 212 N. Verlinden, Lansing, MI 48915
 (517) 371-4720 Fax: (517) 689-6100

michiganlegion.org
media@michiganlegion.org

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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 Showers.

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

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The Membership Report

Dan Cooper 1st Vice Commander

Congratulations! As we head into February, we have already met and exceeded the first six membership target dates. We are on our way to a record year. What you are accomplishing this year is nothing short of phenomenal, and I cannot Thank You enough for all your hard work.

We are currently in 8th place at National. Let's keep this membership drive going and get Michigan over the top with 110%!

February is also a month when the "blues" can set in, with the holidays long past and the nice weather seemingly weeks away. This, however, is the perfect opportunity to focus on Post Events, Buddy Checks, Membership Renewals, and Transferring 225 members. A good reason to renew their membership or to transfer to a Post so their dues directly support the community in which they live through Legion programs for veterans and their families, our children & youth, and supporting our military.

The Membership Committee is running a Flash Competition to transfer Post 225 members to your Post between Janu-

ary 8th and March 31st. Your post could win \$1000.00. See the video on the Department website for details.

To find 225 members in your area, commanders and adjutants can:

Log on to MyLegion, Click on your Post in "My Group"

Then, in the menu on the left, under "MY VIEWS," go down to Members and click on Reports/ Labels;
MEMBERS

- Reports / Labels

In the menu on the right under Revitalization, Click on "find members in my area - Distance from zip" or the next line down, "By zip."

REVITALIZATION

- Find Members in my Area - Distance from Zip - Listing (TAL)

- Find Members in my Area - by Zip - Listing (TAL)

On the next page, enter the year, distance, and zip code, then click on "view report." You can print the list if needed.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need help or training with membership or MyLegion, and someone from the membership team will come to you and provide the training you need. Remember, I am only a text, call or email away.

The Americanism Report

Wayne Blank 2nd Vice Commander

Americanism programs should drive our membership, but I believe some posts have either forgotten about Americanism programs or do not care.

Americanism is one of the Four Pillars of the American Legion. We are founded on these pillars. The part of our preamble reads - TO

FOSTER AND PERPETUATE A 100 PERCENT AMERICANISM... Americanism encompasses the ideals of freedom, justice, individual rights and unfenced-in opportunities. It embraces all the freedoms we cherish and all the rights that are guaranteed to us. It is the very opposite of hatred, bigotry and intolerance. Americanism is the creed that has blazed the worldwide trail for justice, fair play, decency, belief in God, private enterprise, universal education, and progress in all human endeavors. It puts a premium on the virtues of loyalty, patriotism, hard work and thrift.

Thank you for your outstanding job on the Oratorical Speech Contest. We have a total of 48 contestants registered for this year's contest throughout the state. All District contests will be completed by January 21, and Zone contests by February 4. The Department Contest will be on March 2 at the Michigan Historical Center located in Lansing, MI. An official invitation will be sent out to the DEC/Committees by the end of the month. The National Contest will be held May 17-19 at Hillsdale College located in Hillsdale, MI. I do not oversee this contest. [The National contest is still looking for Volunteers. Information can be found on legion.org.](#)

Finally, I'd like to share a post program. Post 170 in Three Rivers is attracting younger members with their Patriots Garage program. It allows and encourages all vets and active service members a place to rebuild anything with a motor that moves. Participants are expected to work on their own projects and others with guidance. The owners of the projects are responsible for any cost over budget. The labor is shared and 100% volunteer, and the operation is funded 100% by donations. To find out more contact Richard at (269) 535-3124 EMAIL: President@patriotsgarage.org.

Chaplains Corner- "Americanism Month" Norm Soli, Department Chaplain

Greetings American Legion Family. February is Americanism Month. I thought it would be appropriate to share the following passages from the American Legion Chaplain's Handbook regarding Americanism.

"Service to God and Country" is basic Americanism. It is not a fostering of religious worship to appease any element of our citizenry or draw attention from less desirable social activities. Since it is essentially basic Americanism, it is strictly non-denominational non-sectarian. It is not intended to act independently of religious groups but to cooperate with them to the end that the American people might never forget that God is the source of all their rights and privileges.

Let us recall a scene from the Constitutional Convention that met in Independence Hall in Philadelphia in 1787. Benjamin Franklin, the oldest member of the group, was making one of the greatest speeches of his lifetime. He said, "I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth; that God governs in the affairs of men... We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writings, that 'except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that built it.'" I firmly believe this," said Franklin, "and also I believe that without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel."

This same observation has caused the great American Legion to re-emphasize the spiritual foundations upon which our Nation rests. This is the day when Americans must be spiritually strong if America is to live. It is the aim and objective of this American Legion program, "Service to God and Country," to bring God to the foreground of American life, not merely the religious life, but the social, economic and political life as well. God is an essential part of Americanism. **Without God, there is no Americanism.**

In closing, I ask you to consider this passage from the Book of Proverbs, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

District Meetings

First District

Meetings start at 1 pm.

February 18, 2024

American Legion Post 32
9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48150

April 21, 2024

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.

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.

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.

March 3, 2024

Bangor
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.

March 14, 2024

American Legion Post 208

May 9, 2024

Post 28

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Future locations TBD

Sixteenth District

All meetings start at 7:30 pm.

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

Feb 25, 2024 - Hill Gazette Post 143
248) 852-4880

March 24, 2024 - Hill Gazette Post 143
(248) 852-4880

May 19, 2024 - Chief Pontiac Post 377

*Election of District Officers for 2024
(248) 673-9301

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.



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— Patrick Austin, M.S. Organizational Leadership

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AUXILIAIRE



From the Desk of the President

February 2024



Kim Champion
Department President
2023-2024

I hope everyone had a very happy holiday season. I wish everyone a Happy New Year. I continue to travel around the State of Michigan, visiting Districts, Units and events. I am truly honored and humbled to attend all of the veteran and community events throughout the state.

If you have an event you would like me to attend, please complete the Appearance Request for the Department President Form and the email it to info@mi-chaloux.org. Also, if you would like the Department of Michigan Honorary Junior President Abbie Jones to attend, please include her on the request form or send a separate request. I have been taking Abbie everywhere she can go if it doesn't interfere with her school. If you don't have a computer, a letter can also be sent to the ALA Department of Michigan headquarters at 212 N. Verlinden Avenue, Suite B, Lansing, MI 48813.

Winter Conference is February 9-11, 2024. The agenda will continue to include several schools of instruction and two joint sessions that include the American Legion Family. Please plan on attending this informational conference. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Gateway Center in Flint, Michigan.

The National Central Division Vice President, Dr. Carol T. Robinson, will be in Michigan at the Winter Conference from the State of Ohio to bring greetings. I am looking forward to her attendance. Please greet her when you see her at the Winter Conference.

From The Desk Of the Honorary Junior President Written by Abbie Jones

This year is going by fast. I am having such a great time going to different Districts and Units and meeting a lot of you. I am so thankful for all who have donated to the Juniors Special Project, which is Guardian Angel Dogs. March 9, 2024, a spaghetti dinner fundraiser is planned at Chief Pontiac Unit #377, 4819 Mary Sue, Clarkston, MI 48346. From 3 pm to 5 pm, there will be fun and games for all ages, and from 6 pm to 8 pm, there will be a dinner with a guest speaker from Guardian Angel Dogs. Please come and support our project. If you want to donate, please send a check to the Department of Michigan American Legion Auxiliary, make checks payable to ALA Department of Michigan, and on the memo line, write Jr. Special Project.

There are two veterans in Michigan on the waiting list, and I would like to see them both get a dog. This is a reasonable goal; if every unit would donate at least \$2.00 for each member, we would have plenty of money to make this happen. I look forward to more invites to visit Units and Districts. I have met a few juniors while visiting and have asked them to come to our Junior Department Convention.

I went to Mission Training this year with the Junior Chairman, Dawn Burton and had a wonderful time. I learned a lot and talked with a lot of people. It was so nice having Dawn around to help me with questions and, take me to my meetings and pick me up. Dawn and the National Junior Chairperson even had plenty of time to talk. Past Department President Ellen Jackson and Department President Kim Champion were with us also. These ladies are fun, and I would like to thank them for their support, of course, my Nana (Darlene Jones).

I hope to see you all at Winter Conference 2024 in Flint, Michigan and consider donating to my fundraiser to support our Veterans.

VA&R

Julie Becker, Chairperson

Happy New Year!

With the new year comes new volunteer opportunities. You can start with the National Cemetery Administration home page (www.cem.va.gov). There are many ways to serve our country. Honor and remember the veterans who gave us so much. Here are a few ways to volunteer with the National Cemetery Administration.

Honor Veterans at the time of Burial.

- Serve in Military Funeral Honors Details
- Play live TAPS at veterans' funerals.

Staff the Public Information Centers

- Greet visitors
- Assist veterans and visitors with information about the cemetery.
- Provide directions around the

grounds

- Provide administrative support
- Join the Support Committee
- Plan ceremonies for Memorial

Day

and Veterans Day

- Donate helpful items such as golf carts used to transport visitors who need assistance in reaching a gravesite.
- Recruit volunteers for the ceme-

tery.

- Coordinate volunteer activities during special events.
- Help Maintain and Beautify the

Hallowed Grounds

- Prune and sculpt cemetery trees.
- Mend cemetery flags and ensure they are in perfect condition for public display.

- Sponsor a burial area or flower bed and maintain it all year long.

Optional training opportunity for you as well. VA S.A.V.E is a 30-minute training that will help you develop a general understanding of the problem of Veteran suicide in the United States, understand how to identify a Veteran who may be at risk for suicide, and finally know what to do if you identify a Veteran at risk. This training can be found online at: <https://learn.psycharmor.org/courses/va-save>.

Also, it is not too early to start getting ready to do your year-end reports. I look forward to reading about all the amazing things you have been doing for the VA&R program. Please include photos and narratives.

Updates and Useful Information



*Shannon Werner - Executive Director,
Secretary and Treasurer*

As you may know, our American Legion Auxiliary is 27,000+ members strong. There is constant activity across our state being led and supported by our members. We do great work by sharing information and assisting our Veterans, their families and all the communities across our beautiful State of Michigan. I volunteer at my home, Unit #42 (3rd District), every opportunity I have available. I love seeing the positive effect our actions have during events, gatherings, parties, performances, and training opportunities at my Unit and others.

Joining the Auxiliary as the Executive Director, Secretary and Treasurer is much more than a job. Being involved in this organization has become a large part of my life. Hopefully, you are aware of all the possible opportunities available at the Unit, District and Department levels. You can be active, utilize your unique skill set, assist, receive training and volunteer. If not, seek out those possible occasions and instances by talking to other members or researching on your own.

Joining the Auxiliary as the Executive Director, Secretary and Treasurer is much more than a job. Being involved in this organization has become a large part of my life. Hopefully, you are aware of all the possible opportunities available at the Unit, District and Department levels. You can be active, utilize your unique skill set, assist, receive training and volunteer. If not, seek out those possible occasions and instances by talking to other members or researching on your own.

Most of the information we receive from calls and emails can be found on our website at www.michalaux.org or National's website at www.alaforveterans.org. This gives you immediate access to the information that is available at the time. This eliminates the wait time it will take for me or Sara to return your call or answer your email.

Specific membership information can be found and obtained by completing an ALA MIS application. Each Unit can have two users, and if you hold a District level position, there are possibilities for access as well. Sara and I strongly encourage members to gain access to this handy tool. It can stop delays, empower your Auxiliary, give you more control, and increase most processes significantly. You will not realize the benefits until you use the system and experience it for yourself. Don't be nervous or afraid of using a program you are unfamiliar with. National provides tutorials, and you can also seek help from members who have used the system in the past from your Unit or District.

Sara and I continue to address and work through the unfinished, incomplete and inaccurate backlog of tasks (many years) that we inherited. We are establishing processes and procedures to ensure this does not occur in the future, no matter who is employed here at Department. We both appreciate your patience and grace as we work through our extremely long list of action items and attempt to keep current business up to date.

8th District – Marcy Jorae, President

The 8th District is off to the races with participation in many Auxiliary activities. As of the writing of this article, we are in 9th place in the Department Membership Race. We will work to improve, but we are doing better than in previous years, and that is encouraging.

Also encouraging is our unit's participation at district meetings. Historically, we may have four to six of our 16 Units attend a District Meeting. There were 19 members representing 10 Units at the November 2023 meeting. Several of those members had not previously attended a District meeting. We have at least three Units in the 8th District that have new leadership and are trying to revitalize their Units.

We had good discussions on Auxiliary topics. One Unit held a cancer drive, traveling from Post to Post to raise funds for cancer patients at their area hospital. Several Units talked about the events they had to honor Veterans on Veterans Day, whether it was a lunch or dinner or some

other activity. Many Units were preparing for holiday programs such as gifts for Veterans or less fortunate members of their communities and holiday parties for the children of their communities.

With so many new members attending the meeting, we discussed the im-

portance of Annual Reporting. We also promoted ALA Girls State and asked Units to start looking for Delegates to attend the 2024 session at Michigan State University. The Americanism Essay contest was also promoted to encourage the Units of the 8th District to participate and get essays from the schools in their communities.

My Special Project this year promotes "Be the One," the joint Mission of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion. It seemed only natural to choose this Mission after my Special Project last year as Department President. That project was raising funds for 92 for 22, a non-profit whose purpose is to raise awareness of suicide prevention in the Veteran population and help Veterans with their needs so they don't find themselves thinking of suicide as an option. The "Be the One" program asks each of us in the Legion Family to reach out and Be the One to contact Veterans to let them know they are not forgotten - do they want to talk to somebody, do they need assistance that we can provide? You might just make a difference in their life and give them hope; your interaction with them may prevent them from making a decision that can't be reversed.

Be knowledgeable of the new hotline number for Veterans to use when they feel they can't go on. Dial 1-988 and press 1 to connect to someone who will listen and be there for them. It is not just veterans who need these calls from us; family members/caretakers might also welcome a friendly call to see how they are doing, as well as our active military and their families. Many resource materials are available on both the Legion and Auxiliary National websites to help promote this Mission. I encourage everyone reading this to get involved - Be the One to reach out and ask a Veteran how they are doing.

With the revitalization occurring in the 8th District, plans are underway to hold an 8th District Leadership Workshop to assist members in learning more about the Legion Family: our history, the programs, and other basic information. The date and location are yet to be determined, but this workshop is tentatively scheduled for mid to late February. Stay tuned for more information on this workshop. While this is intended to be for 8th District Units/members, everyone is welcome. Learning something new and meeting members from different areas of our lovely State is always good.

Something Happening at your Unit?

Submit it to the Michigan Auxiliaire!

Send your articles and Pictures (with Cutline) to : info@michalaux.org

A New Year — A New Beginning – A New YOU

Anita Mennel, Chaplain

I trust you had an awesome Holiday celebration; however, you chose to celebrate. We move into the New Year and often reflect on our lives. Did you make any New Year's resolutions?

Have you found yourself waiting until the new year to start dieting, exercising, adjusting your behavior or attitude, getting better organized, maybe reading your Bible every day, or any other healthy habit? I think we long for a clean slate so that everything feels new, fresh, and exciting.

All too often, this desire leads us to focus on what the world desires for us – a new and improved version of ourselves. But God's Word reminds us otherwise. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10). "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your

faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23). Wow! Did you catch that? God renews us, and His mercies are new every day! "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

While in the American Legion Auxiliary, we are about "halfway" through the year, it is still a great time to make improvements and refocus on our mission. Perhaps we might do better with a "To Do List" rather than a resolution list.

I hope you take a few moments to pause and contemplate your New Year-New You.

Unit 49's Quilts of Valor

Diane Cabiness

The South Haven American Legion's Auxiliary and the Cozy Quilters group create colorful quilts for Local Seniors at the South Haven Nursing home and Rehabilitation Center. Post 49's Auxiliary Chaplain Vicki Olson and Dayla McMullen of the Cozy Quilters decided to provide a handmade quilt for local veterans residing at the nurs-

On Tuesday, December 12, the South Haven American Legion Post 49 hosted a luncheon for the veterans in nursing homes. The sun was shining, and the view of the Lake was a spec-



acular change of scenery. Vicki provided a home-cooked meal. Members of the Auxiliary served the food and visited with the veterans to share stories.



When lunch was complete, the patriotic quilts were presented to each gentleman to provide warmth over the winter and as a token of gratitude for the sacrifices made by our veterans.



ing home. The purpose was to provide comfort and warmth to those who have served our nation. Dayla and the Cozy Quilters created unique quilts, but all



have a distinct military theme by using their red, white and blue fabrics.



American Legion Auxiliary

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY EXPLAINED

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.



If the potential member is a female veteran, she 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.



The deceased veteran did not have to be a member of The American Legion in order for the potential member to join the ALA.

For more information, visit www.ALForVeterans.org

Cards for Soldiers

Dual member from Grayling post/unit 106 & 10th President Charly Mathews put together Cards for Soldiers, providing 17,000 greeting cards for the troops.



Port Huron Unit 8 Celebrates Christmas with Vets

Susan Svacha, VA&R Chairman, worked with Medi Lodge to put together a Christmas event in which the veterans were asked to make a "Wish List," and the Charles A Hammond Unit #8 Port Huron fulfilled their wishes. We had a Christmas party for the veterans, and they received their gifts. They Fulfilled the Christmas wishes of 14 veterans.



**DON'T MISS THE NEXT CHAPLAIN
WORKSHOP
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024
JOINT FORCES LANSING, MI**



Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Michigan

JOHN BEEMAN

Detachment Commander 2023-2024



Hello, my brothers and the Legion Family. We have started a New Year. Let us make this year better than ever by helping each other, making us stronger than ever, carrying out the Legion ways and helping veterans in any way we can. I am still traveling around the state at different events. Last month was closer to home, going to Jackson on Pearl Harbor Day for the USS Arizona Memorial. Earl and I dropped off Christmas presents to the department workers. We were invited to go out to lunch with State Commander Brian, Adjutant Ron, and the rest of the office workers. What a great time we had. Two days later, I headed to Tecumseh for Wreaths Across America, where I participated in the ceremony. What a great moment. Afterward, I went to Post 34 and had a fine meal.

As you all know, I have a special project raising mon-

ey for golf carts at Wilwin. Many of you who have been to Wilwin know how important golf carts are for transportation. To go from the veterans' village to the many trails, the main beach and docks are a necessity. They are the main transportation once you get checked in. Yes, there are golf carts up there, but some are getting pretty tired. So, if you have any money to donate, I would really appreciate any large or small donations. When you donate, make checks out to the Department of Michigan. In the memo area, put in the detachment commander's special project. The address to send checks to is 212 N. Verlinden Avenue, Lansing, MI 48915.

Winter conference is coming up fast in February. Hope to see a lot of you there. If not, hopefully, I will see you on my travels. Do not forget to help a vet. You can be the one to make a difference. Until next time, keep up the good work.

1st Zone Article

Greg Price, Commander

As we continue into 2024, upcoming events will allow us to meet and share happy memories and future ideas. I look forward to our getting together at the American Legion Michigan Winter meeting in Flint on February 9th-11th. Our Sons D.E.C. meeting will be on Saturday, February 10th, in the Taylor room. The meeting will begin at 9:00 am.

Speaking of winter, we will surely get our fair share of snow. If you have an opportunity, maybe you could see if someone at your post or in your community who cannot clear the snow off their sidewalk or driveway would surely appreciate some encouraging help. They may also have trouble taking out the trash cans because of the inclement weather.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended The Service that was held for our Granddaughter, Allison Ara Chouinard (Hammond), who recently passed away from Cancer. It meant a lot that Detachment Commander John Beeman, Department President Kim Champion, and many other Legion Family members had traveled far to share their Strength and Prayers with Our Family.

SAL MEMBER HONORS OUR FALLEN VETERANS

This is about a wall honoring Michigan's fallen military from Desert Storm/ Desert Shield.

Sixteen years ago, Bill Lynn saw a memorial wall honoring Michigan's fallen military. It was made by Brad Cook (a Veteran) and a couple of his friends. The Display was getting ready to shut down after Brad lost his engraver, but Bill bought a small machine to do the engraving in his basement. After traveling with the wall to events for a few years, he bought it when Brad and Joanne Cook retired. After a couple of years, he sold it to AMVETS Post 29 at cost.

Recently, Bill decided to build a new traveling memorial that honors not only combat killed but also accidental deaths and suicides. He takes it wherever and whenever as his work permits. His goal is not only to honor Michigan's fallen but also to remind and teach the public the meaning of a gold star family and the price being paid for our freedom. He only charges to cover expenses, and any excess donations support the Michigan Veterans Home in Chesterfield Township.

As a member of the Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 4 he would like to work with American Legion posts in other states to expand on the traveling memorial. If you would like this display at your post or function, please contact Bill Lynn at billvmw4@gmail.com.



**2024 SAL Membership: February 2nd Goal = 26,236
Current Total: 21,365 -81.43%**

CWF AND NEF

Sandy Lipman, Chairman

My fellow members of the Legion family, I hope you all had a fantastic Holiday season! But now it is time to get back to work on achieving our goals for this year. The Legion charities are important for all of our members and their families! CWF, NEF, VCF, Fisher House, Homeless Veterans, and others we support.

Child Welfare Foundation is here to help our families and their children in many ways. The Sons are the largest contributor to this fine charity, and we are shooting for the Ten Million Dollar plateau this year. We want to thank all who have donated this year. Let's continue to bring in these donations, and as Chairman Nave says, be creative on how you raise these funds. Our goal is a dollar per member, but as of the last report, we are at 43 cents per member nationally. Here in Michigan, we are at 22 Cents per member; we need to step it up!! Four grants were given out last year, totaling \$684,050. Our next Zoom meeting is March 18th at 8 PM.

Don't forget the CWF fiscal year ends on May 31st, 2024. All donations must be in by that date to be credited to the current year. If you send them directly, please make sure I receive a copy. You can send them to me at Sandy Lipman 95@hotmail.com or snail mail at 13663 Vernon St, Oak Park, Michigan 48237. This also works for the NEF donations, and I will have a table at the Winter Conference, so please stop by!

The NEF began in 1969, establishing the fund "to meet the most urgent needs through the American Legion channels.

"Since then, the NEF has provided Millions of Dollars in direct financial assistance to Legionnaires, posts and Sons! Members can receive up to \$3000 in NEF Grants, and posts may receive up to \$10,000. To request a grant, download the form at www.legion.org/nef. Please continue to donate!

POST 32 SAL DONATED TO TOYS FOR TOTS



L-R Art Morgan, Roger Black, Tom Pellerito, Rich Snyder, Jerry Gonzales, Larry Fenner (SAL Commander), and Bob Gibson.

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

Greg Price

On December 20th, I attended a Committal Service for David Frank Adamski at Fort Custer National Cemetery. Sergeant Adamski, an Air Force Vietnam veteran, was an Unclaimed Hero at Christiansen's Michigan Cremation & Funeral Care in Greenville, MI. Rob Christiansen contacted the Patriot Guard Riders to ask if they would be part of an Honor Mission to help this Veteran be interred with Full Military Honors.

The Patriot Guard escorted the hearse from Christiansen's Cremation & Funeral Care, which carried David Adamski to the Committal Shelter to receive his Military Honors. Some Patriot Guard members are in the Color Guard; others are Pall Bearers. There were (2) representatives from the Air Force who folded and presented the flag after the rifle volley and taps.

After the Committal Service, I spoke with members from at least (3) different American Legion Posts (79-257-298) who are members of the Patriot Guard or came out to be at the service.

The Director of Fort Custer National Cemetery, Rodney Heard, said David Adamski would be interred in Section 12... Grave Site-150.

Steve Fletcher from the Missing in America Project said that those who locate an unclaimed veteran and set up an interment would please contact him or me to share the veteran's information with the National Missing In America Project database. Steve's email address is stephen.fletcher@wowway.com, and my email address is grinnerman@msn.com.

Thank you to everyone who helped locate these Forgotten Veterans, who remain unclaimed in funeral homes across Michigan and the United States.

THE SAL FROM MYRON BEALS POST 32 IN LIVONIA DONATED SNACK FOOD TO THE VA CLINIC IN CANTON



L-R Tom Pellerito, Roger Black and his wife Donna, Art Morgan, Commander Larry Fenner, and Louis from the Clinic

INTERESTED IN A PUFL?
Paid Up For Life-
800-433-3318

In the Spotlight



MLBA offering Deep Discounts to Posts!

The Michigan Licensed Beverage Association (MLBA) was founded in 1939 with the purpose to improve the business climate for its members by playing proactive roles with the Michigan Legislature and the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

MLBA has also implemented innovative and useful membership services, such as insurance discounts, excellent server training discounts (\$35 discount/person trained), and a robust communication network to ensure that our members have the most up-to-date information regarding their business and their liquor license.

We represent all entities that serve alcohol on their premises. We advocate for neighborhood bars, golf courses, motels/hotels, bowling alleys and, of course, social clubs. In fact, a significant portion of our membership consists of clubs like The American Legion, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

We believe that by forging a closer relationship with The American Legion Posts and their members, that both entities can benefit significantly.

Here are some compelling reasons why we think The American Legion Posts should also consider a membership with the MLBA:

1. **Advocacy and Representations:** Together, we can amplify our collective voice and advocate for common interests with the Michigan Legislature, ensuring that our concerns are heard and addressed. We are currently fighting against a host of anti-business labor bills, including legislation that would allow for local minimum wage rules, mandatory predictive scheduling, and the limiting of background checks. We are also working hard to save the tipped minimum wage from being abolished, ensuring a future for redemption games, and maintaining .08 BAC laws.

2. **Access to Exclusive Resources:** Our association offers exclusive resources, such as a monthly magazine, weekly email blasts with current news, legislative updates, and a wide array of discounts for insurance, server training and credit card processing.

3. **Consulting Services:** MLBA members have access to our full suite of consulting services at no additional cost. We can assist you with questions about licenses, permits, promotions/events, and general liquor law to ensure you are in MLCC compliance.

We believe that collaboration can lead to a stronger, more unified front in achieving our goals. MLBA dues are

\$395/year, but we are currently offering a one-time \$95 discount for all American Legion Posts, so your first-year dues would only be \$300 (or \$25/mo. via ACH). For a discount, Posts must join by March 31, 2024.

[Please reach out if you are interested in joining the MLBA. Thank you for your consideration.](#)

<h3>Join Now</h3>	<h3>Get More Information</h3>
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Chief Pontiac Post 377 kicked off 2024 by hosting its first Wild Game Dinner in support of the Fisher House Detroit, Michigan, on Saturday, January 13th. Dedicated volunteers from the Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and Legionnaires didn't let the adverse winter weather detract them from their fundraising goal. The event brought in almost double the amount expected by organizers.



Carvin Chapman SAL Commander, Christine Robertson VA&R Chairman, Terry Dubey Post 377 Commander, Ron Runyan Department Adjutant, Jeff Robertson, & Telitha Pankowski, President

Mother Nature threw a curve ball with snow and high winds that knocked out power to thousands of residents in the area and made travel challenging. The roads and lots were cleared of snow, and the day was spent preparing and cooking for the guests. Those who braved the weather enjoyed a feast including venison stew, chili, meatballs, crock-pot bear meat, and deep-fried turkey.

The event raised \$9122.00, exceeding the goal by more than \$4000. Proceeds came from ticket sales, a live auction, a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle and contributions from members. Post 377 thanks Ron Runyan & Julie Becker, who traveled from the Department of Michigan, Lansing, to support the event.



Carvin Chapman, Ron Runyan



Donna VonKuren & Emma Kendall, Auxiliary Unit 377 Members

The Sons of the American Legion, Auxiliary, and Legion Members each presented Ron with a \$1000 check. The Fisher House has been supporting military families for over 30 years. The organization provides families a place to stay at zero cost when their loved one is receiving medical care at a military or VA facility. Ann Arbor is home to Michigan's first Fisher House, which opened in 2020. Construction has begun on a building in the Detroit area. For more information about the organization, its history, and ways to contribute, visit fisherhousemichigan.org/ or follow on [Facebook at Fisher House Michigan](#).

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:

media@michiganlegion.org

Legislative Report

Tim Poxson
Legislative Chairman

I hope you had a great Christmas and that your New Year is safe and happy! 2023 was a hectic and fruitful year for movement on some Legislative

issues. We had three bills passed by the Michigan Legislators and signed by the Governor. The bills corrected part of the problem with the property tax exemption some Veterans get. The problem was some spouses of veterans who had passed away were told they could no longer get the exemption if they moved to a property where the qualified veteran had never lived. This was based on a court decision. The First bill corrected that, clarifying that spouses would continue getting the property tax exemption, regardless of property, until they remarry.

The second bill would allow the spouse to reapply if they had already been turned down for the exemption. Before this, once a Veteran or Spouse had been denied, they could not reapply.

The 3rd bill created a one-time filing for the exemption so that the veteran or the veteran's spouse would only apply once for the tax exemption after 2024. The exemption would stay in place until a life event changed the vet-

eran's or the spouse's status. Life event changes would include a change in address, loss of VA rating that qualifies the veteran, change in marital status, and change in the deed of ownership. The Veteran or the Spouse reports any status changes to the local taxing unit. The taxing authority can do an audit to make sure that the status of the veteran or the veteran's spouse has not changed since the filing.

We still have work to do with clarifying the issue as to who is going to repay the local unit of government's loss of revenue from this tax exemption. This is based on the Michigan Constitution article 19 subsection 29, which requires the state to repay local units of Government for their revenue losses based on any law or requirement that the State mandates them to do.

Other priorities the American Legion Dept. of Michigan is working on include free admission for veterans to all State of Michigan Parks. The Governor already supports this legislation. We are working with the legislators to make it law so she can sign it. We also seek rollover funding for our service officer program, and two bills have been introduced to make it happen.

Veteran Suicide reduction is a daily issue we work on, and we are looking at many different opportunities to reduce the number. We are working diligently to limit the overprescription of psychiatric drugs and hope within the next few years to make some headway on this issue. Of course, like all chang-

es we may ask for, this will be an issue that requires a lot of work and changes in the status quo.

Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatments for veterans suffering from PTSD and TBI, we have been able to get some Legislators to look at this option and funding sources. Legislation has also been introduced to correct the issue of Michigan veterans who were in the Military from 1973 to 1975 but did not receive the Vietnam Veteran Bonus from the State of Michigan because the State recognizes 1973 as the year the Vietnam War ended.

We are still working with our elected officials to get more Michigan Veteran Homes and on the placement of a Veteran Cemetery in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. We thought we had a solution for the cemetery, but the funds for the study were not available across the State.

We are working with Michigan Legislators to extend electronic absentee voting to military spouses stationed overseas. We are still working closely with the Governor's office and state and Federal Legislators to ensure that all Veteran benefits, State and National, are maintained and improved.

I hope to see all of you at the Winter Conference in Flint on February 9-11-2024, because I am sure we will have some new legislative priorities by then. Best of all, it is a time to spend with old friends and make new friends.

HELL TO PARADISE UPDATE

Happy New Year to all! I hope that your holidays were filled with laughter and joy.

Well, it is here. 2024. The ride is getting closer and closer. As of mid-January, we already had over 140 registered riders and 100 paid riders. That is an amazing number. With the ride still being seven months out, I cannot imagine how big this will get.

The community of Paradise has shown extreme excitement about us visiting with this ride. Multiple businesses have offered discounts on various items. A list will be compiled and placed on our Facebook and web pages.

The town of Gaylord, where we will spend Friday evening, is also getting very involved. The bowling alley located close to Zips Harley Davidson will have special offers and camping.

As we move closer and closer to the ride, we are searching for sponsors who want to help make this ride even larger. If you would like to become a sponsor, email us or reach out on Facebook.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 374 FAMILY CHRISTMAS FOOD DELIVERY

The Berkley Post 374 once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment to supporting veterans in the Detroit Metro area. As thirty-five food boxes, with a complete Christmas dinner, were hand-delivered to deserving veterans. Surplus food beyond the thirty-five boxes was graciously redirected to the Berkley Cares Food Pantry



Dave Cunningham Sr Vice, Natalie Tocco, Berkley Cares Food Pantry, Tim Lekander



Front Row: Paul Malloy, Dale Hagland, Cas Solak Back Row: Dan Booms, Tara Rasmussen, William Isenhour - Commander



Post 374 Commander William 'Ike' Isenhour delivering to a deserving veteran.

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: Wednesdays 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 & 3rd 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
104

Gaylord, MI 49735

Hours: Wed, Thur 8am-4pm

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-4pm

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

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Gary Easterling Director



Our staff is dedicated to providing the very best veterans' 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

Stacy Thill

Courtney Thurber

Lisa Misenko

Check out all your benefits at

www.mivabenifits.org

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.



Does your Post support a Scout Troop? Scouting and the American Legion both support the principles of Americanism. When you support Scouting, your post stands out as a pillar in the community, allowing youth to learn life skills that will serve them for a lifetime.

Please send us the pictures and information about your local Eagle Scout projects so we can continue to celebrate their accomplishment.



Commander Tim Shosey Post 4 and Matthew Oliver Troop 1402 Fraser, at his Eagle project, which was constructing a bridge that crosses a ditch to our new Flag poles. The bridge will be used for our Memorial programs.



Brian Agbay from Troop 1491 Roseville, his Eagle project was to build shelving units for Kennedy Middle School in St. Clair Shores. The shelving will be used for storage of athletic equipment. Brian is a senior at Roseville High School.

Wreaths Across America



Cmdr Nichols honoring one of our past members



Post 49 and 106 Honor Guards Salute at Wreaths Across America



Chris Campbell and Dave Draper saluting the graves of veterans.

Several Posts Squadrons and Units participated in Wreaths Across America, an annual honoring Fallen Veterans. This is what some of those posts were doing. Post 160 helped place 324 wreaths at Arlington in Bangor while Post 49 returned to Lakeview to place 336 wreaths there.

Post 46 Commander Scott Nichols, Executive Board member Chris Campbell, and Vice Commander Dave Draper went to Great Lakes National Cemetery on Saturday, December 16, to lay wreaths at the gravesites of post members and relatives of those members. The weather was better than it had been in previous years. Around 16,000 wreaths were handed out just at Great Lakes for the event.



Rodney Tolbert, of South Haven, places a wreath by the grave of Civil War veteran William Piper



AL Post 49 Adjutant Bob Dargis



AL Post 49 Commander John Barkley



The wreath on the columbarium for past member Steve Duncan

2024 Membership: February 2nd Goal = 54,119
Current Total: 48,308-89.26%

Hometown Hero Award 3rd District Commander, Sonja Patrick

During our last District meeting, I presented this award. Ron Runyan, Commander Mohlman, and Duane Miller were all in attendance for the meeting. The latest recipient is Joe Robb. It is an honor to be able to introduce you to this most amazing veteran.



Joe Robb, from American Legion Post 257, served in the U.S. Army from 2002-2005 as an 11B (Infantryman). While in the Army, Joe served as a machine gunner, platoon radio operator, platoon armor, Bradley gunner, fire team leader, Bradley section leader and squad leader. During his 15-month combat deployment to Iraq from 2003 to 2004 with Aco 2/6 INF, Joe was afflicted with intense moral injury from witnessing the deaths of many civilians and children.

After his medical discharge from the Army in 2005, Joe was unable to manage the emotions and memories of what happened during his deployment and found himself struggling with alcoholism, substance abuse, and persistent suicidal thoughts. Over the next 12 years after his discharge from the U.S. Army,

Joe struggled with his substance abuse challenges, PTSD, severe depression, anxiety, and continued suicidal ideation, along with a failing marriage that ended in 2017.

During this time Joe also attended Northwood University, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, as well as a Master of Business Administration Degree. In spite of high academic achievements, success in the business world, achieving sobriety, and being blessed to find his current wife, Betsy, he was still struggling with suicidal ideation.

In September 2020, Joe found his way to a suicide prevention program called Save A Warrior, which saved his life. Save A Warrior, an integrative, intensive intervention, peeled back the layers of Joe's struggles in life and allowed him to reconcile with the past and move forward in life with a new sense of purpose, hope, a will to live, and a desire to share the message with others. To best sum up Joe's experience at Save A Warrior: "When I got home from Iraq, I always felt that part of my soul was left over there. At Save A Warrior, I got my soul back".

Today, Joe is the Director of Culture, as well as a lead program facilitator at Save A Warrior. His purpose is to return for other suffering veterans and share the message of healing and recovery that he gave freely to him.

When not in Ohio leading the program, Joe works from his home in Ceresco, MI, screening applicants to Save A Warrior, and travels the state fundraising for Save A Warrior, speaking at Veteran Service Organizations, and sharing information about Save A Warrior and encouraging Veterans to apply if they are truly ready to be done suffering.

Memorial-Continued from Page 1

The non-profit organization is raising funds to complete the Memorial as designed, to provide a year-round multi-purpose destination that tells Michigan's unique story as we honor our heroes, celebrate the freedom we enjoy because of them, and carry on their legacy through education.

Looking to the Future

Future additions to the Memorial include an imposing entrance wall, the Wall of Stars honoring lives lost, and extensions to the Walk of Honor. Eight additional



full-sized sculptures will tell the home front and warfront stories through the eyes of those who lived them. Other elements will teach how society was forever changed. Educational opportunities for visitors and classrooms are also being developed.

How you can help
It took the state to

come together to help win the war; it will take Michigan to come together again to build the Memorial.

For more information on The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial and how you can donate and help us honor our WWII heroes, visit our website (www.michiganww2memorial.org). You can also follow us on [Facebook](#).

Post 294 Sponsors State Champion JROTC Drill Team

Post 294 JROTC Drill team won the State Drill Championship. The team came out on top of the 22 schools at Cass Tech High School in Detroit. Their Platoon Drill, led by Cadet Yekaterina Babenko (Goodrich HS), placed first, as did our First-Year-Cadet Team, led by Addison Turkington (Davison HS). Cadet Babenko also led our Inspection Team to 3rd place, and Natalie Steward's (Goodrich HS) Color Guard was second in the State. For the individual competition, we had three of the top five: Natalie Steward placed 5th, Ruth Davis (Genesee Early College) placed 3rd, and Justin Brown (Genesee Early College) placed 2nd.



Around the State...



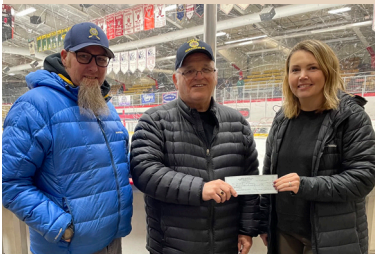
Gladwin Post #171 delivered Christmas gifts to Veterans at the Gladwin Nurse and Rehab in Pratt Lake, The Horizon, The Brook and the Pines. Twenty Veterans were thanked for their service, given gifts and honored with a salute.



L to R: Jim Volant, Post 171 Commander, Mike Perry, Service Officer, Cheryl Parmer, and Adjutant, Dr. Rick Bratton

Marquette Legion Post 44 Supports Youth Hockey

Presenting a \$10,080 check to the Post's Bantam Hockey Team, from funds raised by the post's Queen of Hearts raffle.



L-R Greg Scott, team manager, post representative, Jim Provost, & Jolynn Blackburn, team finance manager.

Post 49 in South Haven Presents a Certificate of Appreciation

Doug Landers, Owner of South Haven Wolverine Ace Hardware, was recognized for his generous donation to support the Medal of Honor monument construction for Medal of Honor Recipient Jim "Doc" McCloughan.



Post 49 Commander John Barkley, Post 49 Trustee Bruce Thatcher, Doug Landers and his wife

Post 57 Owosso Chili Cookoff

The Post's second annual chili cookoff was open to the public, and attendees were encouraged to bring a toy for Toys for Tots. People sampled 8 different chilis and filled the collection box, donating \$80 to Toys for Tots.



Chili Cookoff winners, The Toys collected for Toys for Tots and Judge Gene Nethaway addresses the crowd

Post 46 Hosts Bingo At The VA Medical Center

Ann Arbor Post 46 hosts bingo monthly at the Ann Arbor LTC Charles S Kettles VA Medical Center in their Community Living Center (CLC). Everyone has a great time, and all the patients are grateful that we break up the boredom of their stay at the hospital.



Bingo Caller Glen Johnston



\$56 Cover-All Winner

The McDonald-Osmer Post 451 gives \$40 in Christmas money to every resident in the Veterans Home at Grand Rapids. They presented the donation in the form of a check for \$4,960 to Rob Troost, the President of the Home's Members Council.



Post 48 in Grand Ledge host National Guard

Once a month the Post opens its doors to feed some hungry Guardsmen. A great way to introduce the American Legion to potential new members, and the burgers are great!



The National Guard of Grand ledge sit down at the post for a Saturday Lunch during drill weekends



Larry Fennel mans the grill at Post 48, with snow on the ground.



John "Old Dude" and Larry Archer on kitchen duty getting everything ready for some hungry guests.

Register Now!

JULY 26-28, 2024

PARADISE



HELL TO PARADISE

PTSD AWARENESS RIDE

Presented by: The American Legion Riders



HELL



JULY 26-28, 2024

MOTORCYCLES AND MOTOR VEHICLES WELCOME
\$35 PER RIDER, \$20 PER PASSENGER



THIS WILL BE A 2 DAY
PTSD AWARENESS RIDE.
Come join us in raising awareness and funds
for Mission Six Service Dogs, ZeroDuck30,
Bikes and Battle Buddies and Wilwin Lodge.

EMAIL: alrhell2paradise@gmail.com

FACEBOOK: ALR HELL TO PARADISE



More info to Follow

WILWIN LODGE
At Cygnet Cove

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS PRESENTS

JUNE 13-15, 2024

8TH ANNUAL

PROCEEDS GO TO
VETERAN AND CHILDREN
FOUNDATION

LEGACY RIDE 2024

2 DAYS OF
RIDING



KICK OFF PARTY - IDA POST



FOOD, LIVE MUSIC, RAFFLES



EVENTS EACH EVENING



COST \$40 PER PERSON

SPONSORS AND DONATIONS WELCOME

MUST REGISTER TO RIDE

SKIP0626@YAHOO.COM

More Information ROB KAMIN 313-207-5246



THE MICHIGAN AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION
BUY A BRICK PROGRAM

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



12 x 12 Grey Brick



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



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

- 4 x 8 Brick (\$50) 8 x 8 Brick (\$100) 12 x 12 Brick (\$200) With Clip Art Graphic (Add \$2)

EXAMPLE

				R	I	C	H	A	R	D		D	U	B	A	Y				
					U	S			A	I	R		F	O	R	C	E			
	D	E	P	A	R	T	M	E	N	T		C	O	M	M	A	N	D	E	R
					2	0	2	1	-	2	0	2	2							

YOUR INFORMATION ENTERED BELOW

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

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

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email Address: _____ Amount Paid: _____