

**HASLETT AMERICAN LEGION POST 269, PO BOX 245, HASLETT, MI 48842**

**Phone 517-339-9018 (<http://www.haslettpost269.org>)**

**American Legion---AL Auxiliary---Sons of the AL---American Legion Riders**

**Newsletter, Edition June 2024**



**From Post # 269 – Captain Stephen W Frank**

**\*Hours of Operation: Please check on-line for revised Spring/Summer Hours**

\*Updates: [www.facebook.com/HaslettPost269](https://www.facebook.com/HaslettPost269) or Website: <https://haslettpost269.org>

**Officers for 2023-2025**

Commander – John Meka, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice – Barney Roepcke, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Vacant, Adjutant – Randy Seida, Finance Officer – Brian Bender, Judge Advocate – Fritz Stoll, Sargent at Arms – Jim Suehr, Chaplain – Vacant, Service Officer – Dean Aronson, Historian – Kevin Shandor, Members At Large – Dave Pierce, Maikel Piloto, vacant.

**Important Military Dates June 2024**

- **D-Day Anniversary (June 6, 2024):** Commemorating the World War II Allied invasion in Normandy, France, which played a crucial role in the eventual defeat of Nazi Germany
- **Flag Day (June 14, 2024):** A Day to celebrate the adoption of the U.S. flag.
- **Army Birthday (June 14, 2024):** Honoring the establishment of the United States Army.
- **Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday (June 23, 2024):** Recognizing the contributions of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

**John Meka – Post Commander Comments**

My comments for this newsletter are dedicated to Kent R. Verhougstraete who passed away May 20<sup>th</sup>. He was dedicated and deeply cared about this Post, its members and guests. He strived to elevate the Post as part of his roles serving on the Executive Committee as well as other Post Committees.

Kent had been the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for the Post for over six years. He chaired both the Bar/Lounge Committee and the Liaison Committee and served on the Food Service Committee.

Kent was instrumental in the introduction and facilitation of many fund raiser events, to name a few; Queen of Hearts, Last Man Standing, Meat Raffle, Paddle Bingo, Wagon/Wheelbarrow raffles and more.

He will be greatly missed!

A Celebration of Life, June 2, 2024, 1-4PM, DeWitt Moose Lodge, 15557 Old US-27. The Post will be having a Celebration of Life at 2 PM on June 14<sup>th</sup>, opening an hour early on this date recognizing Flag Day and the Army Birthday – Obituary for reference -

### **Scholarships**

This year “Captain Stephen W. Frank Memorial Scholarships” of \$1500 each was presented to five seniors of Haslett High School, Class of 2024 during Senior Recognition Day. They are Hailey Sheridan, Reagan Ostrander, Weber Gower, Luke Armstrong, and Paige Ide.



Post Commander, John Meka far left Post Adjutant Randy Seida far right. Over \$30K in scholarships have been awarded by the Post to Haslett Seniors.

### **Post Birthday**

In our May Newsletter we referenced the Post’s Birthday that took place on April 28<sup>th</sup>. At the end of the newsletter is the list of names with length of membership.

### **Mark your calendars**

- Burger Night starts June 7<sup>th</sup>, ending August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

And don’t miss out on Trivia, Bingo, and Euchre nights. A wonderful time to socialize, have fun and laughter.

### **Volunteers are the backbone of the Post.**

If you are interested contact:

Brian Bender: 517-881-8598

### **From the Service Officer**

If you or someone you know is in need of guidance regarding benefits through the VA, please contact Dean Aronson by leaving a note at the Post.

### **Donations – Tax Exempt**

Post 269 is a 501(c)(19) qualified tax-exempt veterans' organization. As such any donations made to the post are deductible for income tax purposes. Donations may be made to the Post General Fund or to other specific funds, projects, or purchases. Those include the Building Fund, Scholarship Fund, Poppy Fund, or Newsletter support.

A thank you to the following who made donations:

- Mike McKenna - Scholarship Fund
- Jim & Barb Hulliberger - In Memory of Jim Wheeler

### **Areas to consider/Contact Person:**

Executive Committee – Executive Committee member – open positions, contact Executive Committee member if interested:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- Chaplain
- At Large

Liaison Committee – Michael Mitchell

Bar Committee – Open

Auxiliary - Valerie Weeks

Sons of the American Legion: Michael Mitchell

Riders: Bob Derek

Food Committee: John Meka

### **Monthly Post Meetings/Events – a great time to enjoy the Post**

Your participation is important because ideas from the members help make the Post a safe place for its members. Attending one of our meetings is the best way to get involved, besides sitting down at the bar or at one of the events will bring a smile.

## **Sons of the American Legion**

### **Officers**

Commander - Michael Mitchell, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice – Mike Peterson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice – Tom Szedlak, Adjutant/Membership – Michael Mitchell, Finance – Chris Guy, Sargent at Arms – Donny VanderWaals, Chaplin – Jeff Peterson, Historian – Patrick Kalil

### **Membership**

Renewals for 2024 are available for \$25.00. There are envelopes at the bar for renewals and to sign up as a new member. Or contact me, Michael Mitchell, and I may be able to get you signed up immediately.

### **Monthly Meetings**

The Sons General **Meetings have changed from the first Thursday of the month to the first Wednesday of the month** at the American Legion Post #269 at 1900 hours (7:00p.m). These meetings resume in September.

## **eMails & Phone # Reminder**

We need to have every member's email address and phone numbers so that we can contact you as things come up that you need to be aware of. Please give them to any of the officers. Or send them to me, Michael Mitchell, [mdruemitchell1948@gmail.com](mailto:mdruemitchell1948@gmail.com).

## **Auxiliary**

### **Officers**

President - Val Weeks, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice - Linda Mitchell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice – Kristel Weeks, Treasurer – Heidi Hopper, Secretary – Gerre Lou Imhopp, Chaplain- Patty Bolle, Historian -Sharie Day/Rhodope Martin, Sergeant at Arms - Sue Ward, Members at Large - Linda Mitchell, Patti Denike, and Gerre Lou Imhoff.

The Incoming Officers inducted at our meeting May 19<sup>th</sup> are:

Val Weeks - President  
Linda Mitchell - 1st Vice  
Kristel Weeks - 2nd Vice  
Heidi Hopper – Treasurer  
Secretary – Gerre Lou Imhopp  
Shari Day & Rhodope Martin - Historians  
Patty Bolle - Chaplain  
Sue Ward - Sargent at Arms.

### **President's Note**

Thank you to everyone that attended our May 19th meeting. It was nice to see a good turnout for our meeting. Our next meeting will be September 8th.

### **Kentucky Derby hat contest**

It was a good turnout with 15 hats being made. There was great creativity shown. Thank you to all that attended.

Thank you to everyone that attended our May 19th meeting. It was nice to see a good turnout for our meeting. Our next meeting will be September 8th.

### **Poppy Days**

On May 17 and 18, Poppy Days were recognized by our members and the community. Poppy Days are a time to honor the fallen and support the living. Traditionally, crepe paper poppies are distributed throughout the community wherein inviting a donation at this or her discretion. Learn the history of Poppy Days at [ALA Poppy Guide.pdf \(legion-aux.org\)](#).

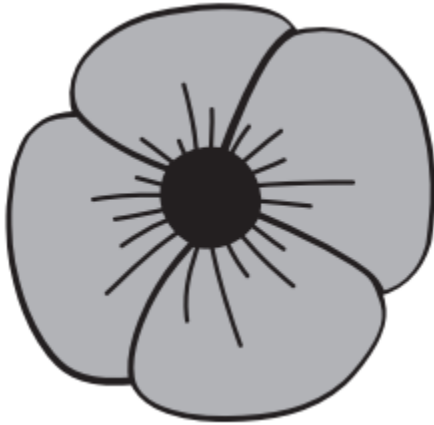
This year, we had over 35 volunteers distributing poppies at seven different locations (Post 269, Midwest Power/Ace, Monticello's, Tom's Food Center, Haslett True Value, Joey's Pet Outfitters, and the Farmer's Market in Okemos).

Poppy Funds may be used for the following:

1. For the rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces after April 6, 1917.
2. For the welfare of the families of veterans of the above-named period.

3. For the rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals.
4. For the welfare of veterans, active military personnel, and the families of veterans and active military personnel of the above-named period where financial and medical need is evident.
5. For the purpose of poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the poppy fund.

Contact the Auxiliary if you are aware of a veteran in need and/or want to assist with next year's Poppy Days (never too early!). Thank you to all of the volunteers, donations, and continued support!



Respectfully,  
Val Weeks, Auxiliary President

**American Legion Riders**

**Officers**

Director - Bob Derrick-Director, Ass't Director - Matt Bonner, Secretary - Michael Mitchell – Treasurer, Secretary - Heather Derrick, Chaplain – Tim Clay, Sgt-at-Arim – Kevin Shandor, Historian – Sharie Day, Road Captain – Jim Day

HASLETT AMERICAN LEGION POST #269  
June EVENTS 2024

Sun. Jun 2<sup>nd</sup> - Kent Verhougstraete's Celebration of Life 1-4pm at the DeWitt Moose Lodge, 1557 Old US-27

Sun. Jun 2<sup>nd</sup> - Queen of Hearts 50/50 Progressive Raffle Drawing TBD

Mon. Jun 3<sup>rd</sup> - Liaison Meeting 5:30p, Bar Lounge 6:00p

Wed. Jun 5<sup>th</sup> - TRIVIA 7:00p

Thur. Jun 6<sup>th</sup> - SAL GENERAL MEETING 7:00p

Fri. Jun 7<sup>th</sup> - EDDIE'S BURGER NIGHT 5-7p



Sun. Jun 9<sup>th</sup> - SAL Convention Breakfast at Legion 7-10a

Sun. Jun 9<sup>th</sup> - Queen of Hearts 50/50 Progressive Raffle Drawing 3:00p

Wed. Jun 12<sup>th</sup> - American Legion Riders Meeting 7:00p

Thur. Jun 13<sup>th</sup> - Executive Meeting

Fri. Jun 14<sup>th</sup> - FLAG DAY

Fri. Jun 14<sup>th</sup> - EDDIES BURGER NIGHT 5-7p



Sun. Jun 16<sup>th</sup> - FATHER'S DAY

Sun. Jun 16<sup>th</sup> - Queen of Hearts 50/50 Progressive Raffle Drawing 3:00p

Wed. Jun 19<sup>th</sup> - JUNETEENTH NATL INDEP. DAY

Thur. Jun 20<sup>th</sup> - SUMMER BEGINS

Thur. Jun 20<sup>th</sup> - BINGO 7:00p

Fri. Jun 21<sup>st</sup> - EDDIES BURGER NIGHT 5-7p



Sun. Jun 23<sup>rd</sup> - Queen of Hearts 50/50 Progressive Raffle Drawing 3:00p



Fri. Jun 28<sup>th</sup> - EDDIES BURGER NIGHT 5-7p

Sun. Jun 30<sup>th</sup> - Queen of Hearts 50/50 Progressive Raffle Drawing 3:00p

*\*Additions or changes will be made as they come up.*

### Legion Awards List 2024

Name	Years
Carl McDaniel	5
Frederick Stoll	5
John Voorheis	5
Michael Bobinski	10
Richard Cortright	10
Wayne Denniston	10
Douglas Hamlin	10
Ray Irvine	10
Ronald Marinch	10
Thomas McLellan	10
Joel Schiebner	10
John Yeager	10
Sean Caswell	15
David Kuenstler	15
Robert McGillicuddy	15
Jack Suehr	15
Albert Boyce III	20
Richard Ingersoll	20
Michael Jenkins	20
Walter Kopf	20
Chester Lewis	20
Michael Middlewood	20
Richard Perkins	20
James Pocock	20
Douglas Ratterree	20
Clarence Sedell	20
Darryl Smith	20
Joseph Beatty	25
Angelika Decker	25
Leslie Baehre	30
Harold Old Jr	30
John Bourland	35
Richard Reist (Deceased but paid 2024)	35
Richard Epple	40
Michael Brown	45
Michael Johnston	45

## SAL Awards List 2024

<b>Name</b>	<b>Years</b>
Wayne Vaupel	10
John Booth	4
Lonnie Cross	4
William Fedewa	4
Sam Fortino	4
Jason Goodale	4
Toby Goodale	4
Steven Honsinger	4
Warren Kenny	4
Douglas Lackie	4
David Miller	4
Michael Parent	4
Marcus Roedel	4
Joshua Roepcke	4
Wolf Wilson	4
Jack Allen	9
Thomas Magee	9
Michael Mitchell	9
Jack Olsen	9
Darryl Chick	14
Peter Datema	14
Bruce Martin	14
Darwin Meirndorf	14
Eric Sheets	14
Richard Datema	19
Russel Dunn	19
Jack Lynch	19
Ken Schaibly	19
Brandon Potter	34

**Kent R. Verhougstraete**

**November 9, 1946 – May 20, 2024**



Kent R. Verhougstraete, age 77, Army veteran, devoted son, brother, husband, father, uncle. Survived by his wife, Donna, mother, Doryce Verhougstraete, son Daniel (Michelle), brother, David (Cris), nephews, Brian (Amy), Brandon (Andrea), Marc (Amy) and niece, Katie (Luke) Mason. Stepchildren, Ron (Paige) Robbins, Tammy (Brian) Bates, Doug (Karie) Robbins, Dan (Sandy) Robbins, numerous grand and great grandchildren, former spouse, Brenda (Barry) Underwood.

Kent was preceded in death by his father, Oscar Verhougstraete and younger brother, Douglas Verhougstraete.

Lansing business owner of Kent Radio &TV, KEI Electronics, Valley View Greenhouse. A 1964 graduate, Lansing Eastern High School. Governor, DeWitt Moose Lodge 2291, Vice Commander, Haslett American Legion Post, Commander, American Red Cross, Mid-Michigan Disaster Services Assessment Teams. Member, of the Lansing Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), proud supporter of the Michigan State Police.

Requested no services. Friends may attend a Celebration of Life, June 2, 2024, 1-4PM, DeWitt Moose Lodge, 15557 Old US-27.

