



Frank Wendland Post 253
The American Legion
1505 N. Main Street
Royal Oak, MI. 48067

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Legion Officers

Commander	Don Wert
Adjutant	Tom Stremпка
Senior Vice Commander	Ed Burkhardt
Junior Vice Commander	Jack Dawson
Finance Officer	Roger Churchill
Service Officer	Frank Roche
Judge Advocate	Bob Bigham
Chaplain	Tom Stremпка
Historian	John Wendland
Sergeant at Arms	Mike Larkins

Legion Meetings the 2nd Thursday 7:00pm

Auxiliary Officers

President	Barb Dempsey
1 st Vice	June Bentley
2 nd Vice	Patty Anderson
Treasurer	Molly Reiser
Sergeant at Arms	Marlene Chapman
Secretary	Kathy Berquist
Chaplain	Claire McNair
Historian	Jenifer Kirkorian

***Auxiliary Meetings the 2nd Wednesday
7:00pm***



SAL Officers

Commander	Steve Peters
Adjutant	Dave Leasia
Senior Vice Commander	Ed Stogdill
Junior Vice Commander	Jeff Ludeman
Finance Officer	George Elson
Service Officer	Rick Paulson
Chaplain	Kevin Cavanaugh
Historian	Darrel Ruttan
Sergeant at Arms	Kevin McHugh

SAL Meetings the 2nd Tuesday 7:30pm

Legion Riders Officers

Chapter Director	Kevin Cavanaugh
Assistant Director	Mike Nunley
Treasurer	Steve Peters
Secretary	Ron Durbin
Chaplain	Garry Shelly
Sergeant at Arms	Terry Smith
Road Captain	Chris Lau

***Riders Meetings the 3rd Thursday 7:00pm ***

FRIDAY DINNER SCHEDULE NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

Nov. 2nd. Pot Roast

Nov. 9th. Roast Pork

Nov. 16th. Beef Brisket

Nov. 23^d. Baked Chicken

Nov. 30th. Lasagna

Dec. 7th. Pot Roast

Dec. 14th. Pork Chops

Dec. 21st. Bacon Wrapped Meat
Loaf

Dec. 28th. Roast Beef

A FEW NOTES FROM YOUR COMMANDER

Is it my imagination, or are the summers getting shorter and shorter. Oh well, fall is a beautiful time of year in spectacular Michigan.

First, come on by the Post, (better yet stop in) and see our brand new very impressive sign out front. Many thanks to Jack Dawson and a host of other people for seeing this through. Many thanks to Craig Weston, Marlene Chapman and the other members on the "Queen of Hearts" Committee. Without these members raising funds for the sign, it probably would not have happened. Thanks!

Again, thanks to 2nd Vice Commander Jack Dawson, the picnic this year was outstanding. Lots of food, beer, raffles and entertainment for the young ones. We were honored by having our Department Commander Steve Striggow attend along with past Department Commander Carnie Jackson. There was even a bus from the Veterans Hospital that brought several Vets up for the afternoon. They thoroughly enjoyed a day out. Great seeing these fellow Veterans and letting them know they are not forgotten.

Ron Mexicott and the Honor Guard have been really busy doing final honors for a number of Veterans recently. Many who are not even members of Post 253. Makes no difference. No Veteran should be laid to rest without recognizing the service he rendered to his Country. Thanks Ron and the Honor Guard.

I hope this newsletter gets to you in time for you to make arrangements to attend our annual Halloween Party. Saturday October 27th at 7:00 pm. Food provided. A band for your listening and dancing enjoyment, and cash prizes for the best costumes. Such a deal.

We still have karaoke the 1st and 3rd Friday nights at 8:00 pm, also the 2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 pm. Both sessions have proven to be a lot of fun. Not to mention the talent at our Post.

We miss Barb Dempsey, she recently took a spill at her home and caused some damage to her knee. She will be out of commission for a while, but knowing her it won't be long. She's tough! Hurry back Barb.

We are again going to treat all members that have paid their membership dues by Veterans Day, November 11th, to a complimentary dinner. This year we are including all members. Legion, Sons of the Legion and the Ladies Auxiliary. Get your dues in by November 11th. Sometime after November 11th you will be receiving an invitation to attend. Obviously we can't seat everyone all at once, due to space. We will probably have three seating's. More info will follow. The important thing is get your dues paid so you are on the list.

It is our intent to acknowledge years of continuous membership at this dinner.

In closing stop down at your Post and see what has been happening. There will be many Veterans and their families that will be glad to see you.

For God and Country,

Don Wert

Post Commander

Auxiliary News

Our Auxiliary donated \$500 along with lots of baby items to the John Dingell VA Medical Center for their 4th. Annual baby shower.

Many of our members attended the Help for Our Troops fundraiser with guest speaker quadruple amputee SSG Travis Mills. He has a documentary on Netflix try and check it out!

Come and check out our sweatshirt we have on sale, they are fantastic!! \$20.00 ea. Prices are higher for 2X and larger.

Our meetings are held on the 2nd. Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm. The Holidays are coming quick and if you need assistance please contact the Post. 248 546 0490.

Our coming events can be found on the website and on the calendar board in the lounge and include our Cookie walk on December 15th. At Noon.

We will be bringing Christmas Bags of Toiletries, Sweatshirts, Socks & Treats to VA Bingo playing patients at the John Dingell Center on December 19th. If you'd like to attend meet at the Post at 6:30.

Last count was 45 Men & 6 Women at the Vets returning Home Center.

Thank you all for what you do!

Barb Dempsey

Auxiliary President

Legion Riders News

With riding season coming to a close we switch gears and focus on fundraising activities. Our Euchre Tournaments and Sunday Breakfasts have begun so keep an eye on the website & calendar board in the lounge for future dates!

Kevin Cavanaugh

Legion Rider Director

SAL News

The temperature outside might be dropping but your Post 253 SAL is just heating up! Steak Fry's, Turkey Fry's, all kinds of Fry's!

Membership renewal is in full swing so don't wait until the last minute! For those that have renewed their memberships by Veterans Day check your mailbox for the Early Bird Dinner invitation.

Meetings are held the 2nd. Tuesday of the month at 7:30. Come see what we're all about!!

Steve Peters

SAL President

Service Officer News

Summer has come and gone. We now enter the summer and winter seasons. We continue to host our monthly bingo games at the Detroit V.A. Hospital on the third Wednesday of each month. Start time is 7:00 PM. All are welcome to participate. We also support the Stitching Sisters, Quilt of Valor project. This takes place every month, except February, at the Clawson Police Department. Start time is 3:00 PM.

As we look back over the summer months, we remember the great activities we participated in and all the fun we had. The highlight of our summer was our picnic at Scout Park, in Hazel Park, MI. We were visited by fourteen patients from the Detroit VA Hospital and their caretakers. Our own State American Legion Commander, his wife, and staff also attended.

Earlier in the summer we were able to take twenty two patients from the Detroit VA Hospital Mental Health ward on a picnic to Milliken State Park. This is located on the Detroit riverfront. The event was catered by Dave and Busters and a local DJ provided the entertainment.

Our rock painting activity, sponsored by the Veterans Crisis Line, was also a big success.

Our local Girl Scout troop came out and supported us on this event.

In the upcoming months we will be participating in many local Veterans Day events. This our chance to thank those that served, and who at some point in time wrote a blank check to our country that included their life. As we share

time with the students at the local schools, we share our personal history and experiences. From us, the students learn that things are not exactly as they see on television and in the movies. It is their opportunity to capture history firsthand. In the past few years I have found the questions that I have been asked, to be thoughtful and challenging.

A very special thank you goes to Fr. Paul Snyder, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Royal Oak, MI. On a recent Saturday many members of the local community came together for "Mercy In Action Day " or Make A Difference Day. In addition to the many service projects that were organized at his church, we wrote letters and thank you cards to veterans and patients at the Detroit VA Hospital. At Fr. Paul's request we loaned him our Missing Man or MIA table for the morning. This was the second year in a row, that he had made this request. The table was set up and on display in the community center. This was a way of explaining to all, that we as veterans make sacrifices for our country. Fr. Paul wanted to educate and remind those in attendance, just in case they may have forgotten.

Ed Burkhardt, Mike Sherman and I want to thank all of those that help us at the Detroit VA Hospital and with many of our community activities. These service hours count towards the Americanism Award that is given out annually. The Ladies Auxiliary did an outstanding job of supporting us this year, and their contributions to the success of our mission were very much appreciated.

This year we did very well on our yearend review and audit at the Detroit VA Hospital. All help and assistance is greatly appreciated. When we work together as a team, great things are accomplished.

On behalf of my family we wish to thank all of our veterans, and wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving holiday. This is the time we set aside to reflect on the many blessings that we have. Let's all keep up the great work, and stay focused as we move into the new year and prepare to face the many challenges ahead.

Frank Roche

Service Officer

Honor Guard News

Remembering America's deceased heroes: Off the Cuffs

By Ed Okonowicz Special to the Cecil Whig

ELKTON — Cuffs' truck was out of commission, so he called me for a ride. Our destination was the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery, located just over the state line, north of the C&D Canal.

"I try to get here every November, early in the month when they honor each grave with Old Glory," said Cuffs, exiting my car.

The sight of a large meadow filled with thousands of small American flags was emotionally moving, giving the impression of countless red-white-and-blue flowers fluttering in a slight breeze.

"No matter how many times I come here, especially around Veterans Day and Memorial Day," Cuffs said, "I pause and appreciate the beauty and significance of this sight — with a small flag representing every man and woman that served."

I nodded and remained silent as Cuffs walked toward the first of several flat bronze plaques he would visit. They marked graves of his relatives and friends that had earned the right to sleep beside fellow patriots. All had worn the uniform, some during peacetime and many more during war.

"Remember when we grew up, in the '50s?" Cuffs asked. "Everybody knew a vet from World War II or Korea. They were tough guys, who went off to war and were thankful they made it back alive. Now many of them rest here."

We looked at the markers, each showing one's rank and branch, and the war in which they fought. As we strolled among rows of sharp-edged, manicured plots, tended with care, we talked softly — about our country, of how it's changed and the current state of American patriotism.

"Back then all of us kids used to play Army," Cuffs recalled. "We figured we'd go into the service when we got older. It was just a given. Like our parents had done."

Then pausing and shaking his head, he added, "Not like today. Sure, there are a lot of great patriotic people, more women now, too, that have chosen to enter the armed forces. They all deserve our thanks and respect. But the general public's awareness, and close personal connection with the military, has never been the same since politicians ended the draft and went all volunteer, back in the mid '70s."

I agreed, mentioning how few members of the general population and, in particular, lawmakers in Congress and their immediate families, have had military experience.

"The way I see it," Cuffs said, "politicians who have never been in can't really

understand the military's culture, traditions, training and importance."

Shifting to a related topic, Cuffs asked, "Do you remember back when the annual Army-Navy game was a really huge deal for nearly everybody?"

"Yeah," I agreed, "since most vets didn't go to college, football rivalries didn't mean diddly squat to them. But come Army-Navy week in Philly, every vet had a stake in the game, believing his personal military connection was being represented on the field, and on national TV. Today the game's still a big deal, but not even close to when more than 100,000 fans filled JFK Stadium in South Philly, and every corner bar and vets' post was packed."

Seeing a bench, we grabbed a seat and remained silent for a short time, respectful of our surroundings. In the distance we heard the muted sound of a bugle playing 'Taps,' concluding a funeral service being held in the nearby chapel.

That's when Cuffs said, "My brother, Joey, used to do that, play 'Taps,' when he was a kid. He was a bugler at ceremonies and military funerals. I'd go with him sometimes, just to offer support. It was pretty scary, playing those 24 notes all alone, with everyone listening and staring in his direction. So I did what little I could to help him out. Carry his instrument case, drive with him to the cemetery Help him relax."

I was surprised at this revelation, and felt gratified my friend had decided to share such a personal detail. The information didn't match with the angry, impatient character that entertained and terrorized the North Street Hotel.

"Our father was in a VFW drill team. Since Joey was taking trumpet lessons, they drafted him into their ranks," Cuffs explained, recalling his brother's musical duties from age 10 until he was out of high school. "I thought it was great. We'd go to the VFW post after dinner and play shuffleboard in the back of the bar, while the vets practiced rifle twirling and marching. Then they'd all hang out and drink, and share war stories until closing. Me and Joey, we'd sit there quietly and listen to all their adventures."

Dredging up an old memory, Cuffs said that while heading home from the post one night, he asked his father what was going to happen to their VFW post when there were no more wars. Laughing, Cuffs admitted, "I think I was worried I wouldn't have a place to play shuffleboard or darts. And my father said, 'There will always be more wars.' Of course, he was right."

We walked a bit more, stopped at a few other graves. Said a few prayers. Thought of when we would become part of the cemetery landscape and rest among our comrades. That's when Cuffs said, "I remember when Joey thought he was all grown up, during high school, and he wanted out of the bugler job. He'd decided it wasn't that important. Said he didn't like getting up early every Veterans Day and Memorial Day, to ride around in cemeteries with a bunch of aging ex-soldiers.

"When he told my father — in a much nicer way, of course — Dad reacted calmer than we'd expected. He thought for a few seconds, looked at both of us, and said, 'Think of this, boys. After the priest says his final prayers, and the family cries its tears, and the rifles give their salute, the sounds of Joey's 'Taps' is the last thing that dead

veteran is going to hear as they lower him into the ground.'

"I'll never forget that conversation," Cuffs said, "and neither did Joey. He continued playing at military funerals whenever anybody called, for a lot more years."

Copied from the Cecil Whig, Cecil County, Maryland November 15, 2015

Veterans Day is November 11th. The only holiday that is celebrated on a specific date instead of a Monday. Remember each of our Veterans. Pick up the phone and call them. Thank them for their service. It will make them feel special. Happy Veterans Day to each of our Post members. Go ahead....Call A Vet.

Post 253 Honor Gaurd



Taps

Legion:

Anthony Zomerfeld

Let us know if you'd like to receive a copy of the Newsletter via. Email. Send email address to:

post253@gmail.com



www.frankwendland253.com

