



Commander's Corner



Another year bites the dust. Where does the time go. My best advice for you younger vets– don't get old. My golden years seems to have turned to lead! Actually I've been very blessed in that I don't have any major problems (yet) and I have so many great friends around me. We just finished up Christmas with yet another successful Christmas Luncheon. We had many special guests. And, as a bonus, we were able to collect a little over \$2100 for Toys for Tots.

Our Vice Commander Scott Nichols has been very busy recruiting both new and transferred members into our post. As I've said before, we were sitting at between 85 and 90 members when I became Vice Commander, and now we can brag that we are close to 180 members. That has also brought our average attendance up a good bit. Hopefully we will add more events to support and benefit veterans.

In the coming year we will hopefully be adding a Sons of the American Legion Squadron and possibly a Legion Riders group to expand our services.

We've continued to assist veterans in need. During this past quarter several of our members have been able to provide direct assistance to several veterans with food, clothing, financial, and rides to appointments. Our post should be proud of our history of direct assistance to veterans in need.

Please enjoy our last edition of the newsletter for 2022.

MERRY CHRISTMAS • HAPPY HANUKKAH • HAPPY NEW YEAR

Inside This Issue

- [The Year In Review.....2](#)
- [Preaching To The Choir.....3](#)
- [Veterans Day.....4](#)
- [Member Spotlight.....5](#)
- [Member Birthdays.....5](#)
- [A Prayer For Vets.....5](#)
- [Purple Run for SafeHouse....6](#)
- [Post 46 History \(cont\).....6](#)
- [Veterans Helping Veterans...7](#)
- [Christmas Luncheon.....8](#)
- [Wreaths Across America.....9](#)
- [A New Graduate.....9](#)
- [Member Milestones.....9](#)
- [Annual Awards.....10](#)

When emotional issues reach a crisis point, contact the Veterans Crisis Line.



The Year In Review

We've had a pretty good year this year with activities that directly and indirectly helped veterans, and helped our local community. Below are some of our accomplishments.

- ◇ Started participation in Panera's Dough-Nation program that donates leftover breads and pastries to Fisher House Ann Arbor. We pick up and deliver the goods.
- ◇ We purchased, assembled, and installed furniture and housewares at the Dexter housing for previously homeless veterans.
- ◇ Contributed gift cards and knitted items (from a member's wife) to Fisher House Ann Arbor.
- ◇ Held two food drives where we donated both food items and financial donations which benefited Food Gatherers.
- ◇ Held our annual Poppy Drive where the proceeds go to worthy veteran organizations. This year it went to Warriors and Caregivers United.
- ◇ We presented twenty-four American Legion Scholastic and Excellence awards and three scholarships to ROTC graduates.
- ◇ We provided lunch for the VA police officers on Police Appreciation Day.
- ◇ We placed around four hundred American flags at the gravesites of veterans buried at Bethlehem Cemetery in Ann Arbor.
- ◇ Donated food, clothing, and financial donations to the Staples Center on Packard Road.
- ◇ We participated in the Ann Arbor July 4 parade for the first time since the 1960s.
- ◇ We've booked over three hundred and fifty rides through our Legion Ride program to veterans needing rides within Washtenaw County.
- ◇ We began plans for our 100th anniversary which takes place next year.
- ◇ Helped several veterans with personal rides to the VA emergency room.
- ◇ Helped a veteran move furniture and provided scooters, wheelchairs, and walkers to needy veterans.
- ◇ We provided needy veterans with emergency food and cash.
- ◇ Raised and lowered the flag at the Veterans Memorial Park at appropriate days.
- ◇ Hosted our Cub Scout Pack 131's Pinewood Derby.
- ◇ We co-sponsored several open houses at our post.
- ◇ We processed over 4,400 pop cans this year for Cans for Veterans. The proceeds are used to purchase gift cards for Fisher House Ann Arbor.
- ◇ We co-sponsored the Veterans Resource Center event days.
- ◇ Participated in Washtenaw Community College's Veterans Day ceremony.
- ◇ Participated in the Purple Run for SafeHouse where proceeds benefited SafeHouse programs to reduce domestic violence and sexual assault.
- ◇ Held our annual Christmas Luncheon where we presented awards to deserving post members and community leaders.
- ◇ We financially supported Wreaths Across America by sponsoring fifteen wreaths. We also placed ten wreaths at gravesites at Great Lakes National Cemetery.
- ◇ And, of course, we've made several financial donations to other veteran organizations and causes.

And, along the way we've increased our membership by close to fifty percent.

Preaching To The Choir

Words From Chaplain Bull



Have you sat down yet and made out your list of New Year's Resolutions? You've probably thought about what you've accomplished, or not accomplished, in 2022 and said, "I'm going to do better. I'm going to make changes in my life in the coming year. Maybe in the lives of others." You might have even talked with friends and family to get their perspective. But I wonder if you've talked with God.

Like so many of us, I've been wondering about this year too. Who did I help, how did I help, was it enough? I've given my reports on the extent of my accomplishments to the people I work with, and for. I might even be proud of what has happened this year. But is it really ME?

Over the last couple of years I've started working with a number of very dedicated, very unselfish people, most are veterans, but not all. And WE have accomplished some really good things in the lives of OUR veterans. But there is still a lot for US to do.

If you come to the VRC on a Wednesday or a Saturday you may get involved in a conversation about food, or hospital visits, family, bodily functions, or other very relevant things. And, you never know, a Bible study might break out. We rattle around in our own shell of a body every day wondering where we are going, what do we do next, how can we get by? We might talk to each other about these things, in private, or in a safe forum like the VRC.

But, there is a reason for our reflections on days past, or days to come. There is a reason why we gather in groups to accomplish our tasks (a burden borne heavy by one is made light by many). And, there is a reason why sometimes we break out in a discussion of the Bible. God wants to be part of the team.

As you reflect on the year, reflect on the things that seemed impossible, that were completed, or the decisions you made to not do that later turned out to be the right ones. Reflect on the things you encounter daily. Is the darkness a little more, or a little less? Are you a little less sure of yourself or a little more? Can you say that you've tried everything? Talk to God about these things. Ask Him for His input. Join with Him in your quest to do better in 2023 and see how your other reflections change for the better.

A Golden Heart

So many of us have lost loved ones these last couple of years. I hope this poem will offer some comfort and add to your reflections.

God saw you getting tired,
And a cure was not to be.
So He put His arm around you
And He whispered. "Come to Me".
With tearful eyes we watched you,
And saw you pass away.
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands did rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best.



VETERANS DAY

On Veterans Day our post partnered with Washtenaw Community College's veteran students and staff in an event to celebrate and honor our veterans on Veterans Day. The day started with several members of our post, WCC student veterans and staff gathering at the flagpole in front of the Student Center at 0700 hrs. At sunrise, or about 0720 hrs, three students came forward to hoist the American flag.

Afterwards WCC hosted a breakfast that we were invited to attend. The breakfast included baked goods, muffins, scrambled eggs, bacon, potatoes, fruits, and drinks. The WCC's President Dr. Bellanca made a short speech and a surprise appearance by Congresswoman Debbie Dingell came afterward.

Later that morning the school hosted a ceremony where speakers told their stories and presented uplifting stories about veterans. Post 46 Commander Dave Draper was honored to be asked to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of the ceremony. The speakers included Air Force veteran Brandon Tucker, WCC President Bellanca, and Army veteran, WCC student, WCC Student Veterans of America President, and a new Post 46 member Rebekah Spencer.

Afterwards punch and a delicious cake was served. WCC seemed to be very happy that we were able to participate in the event. We hope this will lead to stronger ties to the WCC's veteran population. Dr. Bellanca noted that currently (November) the college has around 500 veteran students.



Students prepare the flag for raising.



Reveille was played by Ryo Morita by from Pioneer High School as the flag was being raised.



A salute to our flag after raising.



Vice CDR Nichols greets dignitaries during breakfast.



CDR Draper leads the Pledge of Allegiance.



SVA President Rebekah Spencer addresses the audience.



Congresswoman Dingell addresses the breakfast participants.

Member Spotlight



John (Micky) Worzniak Major Michigan Army National Guard

1971– 1977

In June of 1970, I graduated from the University of Virginia Medical School. On July 1 my Family Medicine Residency started at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, Michigan. In February of 1971, I received a notification to report for a physical exam at Fort Wayne and would be eligible for induction into the armed forces after I completed my year of Internship. At that time I was married and had an infant son and also wanted to complete two more years of residency in order to be board certified in Family Medicine. An orthopedic Resident encouraged me to consider enlisting in the Michigan Army National Guard. He felt this was a good opportunity to serve and yet continue his Residency. In July of 1971, I joined the 207 Mobile Army Surgical Hospital located in Detroit, Michigan. That summer I trained at Camp Grayling, Michigan. Our unit supported a field hospital and provided field support for injuries that occurred during training. We also performed field exercises at Fort Custer in Battle Creek, Michigan. In 1973 our unit was sent to Brooke Army Hospital in San Antonio, Texas. We trained in large inflatable hospitals that could be positioned on the front to provide acute critical care. My role was to provide triage, pre and post-operative care, and to assist at surgery. We were preparing to be deployed to Vietnam but the war effort was reduced and our role changed. For the next three years we trained at Camp Grayling supporting our Guard troops and also injured army veterans who were being interrogated into the Army Reserves before discharge. I was a member of the 207 MASH for six years and was able to practice Family Medicine in Adrian, Michigan. In 1994 my family and I moved to Ann Arbor. I joined the faculty at the University of Michigan as an Assistant Professor in the Family Medicine training program. In 1997 I had an opportunity to be the Program Director for the Family Medicine training program at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn. In 2013 I retired and was able to spend more time with my wife, children, and grandchildren. In 2017, tragically, I lost my wife to brain cancer. Since then I have become more active in Church. I am a member of a senior retired group and serve in the youth ministry. Also, I hope to be active in the American Legion as we support veterans and youth groups.

[A Prayer For Returning Vets](#)

“Father God, You know that it can be difficult for a person who has returned from battle or stressful military service to reintegrate into ‘normal’ everyday life. You know that veterans can feel isolated and alone even in the midst of their friends and families because there are few around who understand their experience. So I ask You to place in the path of our veterans those who do understand (or strive to), that they may feel less alone. Remind them often that while their fellow human beings may never fully comprehend, You see, You know and You identify with them in everything.”

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



<u>Name</u>	<u>BDay</u>
Sara Call	Jan 02
Mike Green	Jan 02
Derek Blumke	Jan 05
Don Cain	Jan 07
Don Eschelbach	Jan 08
Jacob Wright	Jan 10
Mary Pokryfki	Jan 11
Jeff Harvey Sr.	Jan 14
Vandoren Fullard	Jan 16
Lawrence Read	Jan 17
Joe Cobos	Jan 19
Dave Draper	Jan 19
David Tindle	Jan 21
Don Miller	Jan 22
Elmer White	Jan 23
Chris Campbell	Jan 26
Carter Hower	Jan 30
Chris Roe	Feb 03
Stan Platsis	Feb 04
Mike Cook	Feb 04
Eugene Smith Jr	Feb 04
Harry Krass	Feb 07
Joe Boisseau	Feb 10
Steven Gulick	Feb 10
Dale Peterson	Feb 10
Alan Owens	Feb 14
Doug Harvey	Feb 15
Steven Sykes	Feb 15
Anthony Derezinski	Feb 17
Richard Stull Jr	Feb 17
Nate Berry	Feb 20
Leonard Winkelman	Feb 23
Douglas Viland	Feb 25
Ryan Donahue	Feb 28
Richard Tejan	Mar 01
Bruce Lowry	Mar 01
Jake Li	Mar 08
Richard Sienicki	Mar 10
Wilbur Bigelow	Mar 18
Donald Hackbarth	Mar 18
George Hudson	Mar 19
Zander Christiansen	Mar 19
Bob Bull	Mar 20
James Crosby	Mar 22
William Bryan	Mar 22
Dale Hammer	Mar 28
John Briggs	Mar 31
James Conway	Mar 31

Purple Run for SafeHouse



Our tent at the race. Mark Lindke is showing off the participants shirt.

For the second time in as many years our post was a Silver Sponsor for the Purple Run for SafeHouse. The Annual Purple Run is an exciting collaboration between the University of Michigan Police Department, the Ann Arbor Police Department, the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office, and SafeHouse Center to bring our community together while highlighting the prevalence of Domestic Violence. In Washtenaw County, law enforcement and advocates work very closely with one another and, whether it is on active cases or community events, they are actively engaged in protecting and safe-guarding the public.

The proceeds raised during this 5k fun run benefit SafeHouse Center, which works to build a community free of domestic violence and sexual assault. SafeHouse Center does this by providing free and confidential services for any person victimized that lives or works in Washtenaw County. Their services include emergency shelter for those in danger of being hurt or killed, counseling, legal advocacy, support groups and especially hope.



Congresswoman Debbie Dingell visits our tent



The race begins



Mark Lindke finishes the race



Additions being made to the Main Street Post 46

Post 46 A Look Back

Did you know Post 46 was the largest post in Michigan in 1959 with 1023 members? Here's where we called home over the years:

Pre-1933?

1035 S. Main: Free Standing building behind the UofM football stadium

Purchased by the post in 1933 from the Allmendinger family

Closed January 30, 1988

Sold to the University of Michigan

3460 Dexter Rd: A converted home. Currently a Pre School

Opened February 7, 1988

Sold October 30, 1995 for \$166,000

Elks Club on Eisenhower Pkwy

Moose Lodge on S. Maple Rd

November 1998

Grotto Club on W. Stadium Blvd

April 2001- ?

Concordia?

Weber's Inn?

VFW Post 423- Began meeting here in November 2018



3460 Dexter Rd



Veterans Helping Veterans

In December, the month of giving, caring, and helping others, many members of our post had the opportunity to help other vets. Shown below is a lift chair that Bob Bull was able to acquire and have shipped to Post 46 member Bill Estep's home. Our post and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 310 kicked in the funds to purchase the chair. Bill was diagnosed with cancer that has now metastasized into his bones. Both Mr. and Mrs. Estep were very happy with the chair.



Assembling the chair.



Bill Estep w/John Kinzinger, Guy Cole, Bob Brown, and Dave Draper

We had a few other members that needed a little assistance this past quarter. Elmer White helped with transportation to take Bob Shannon to the hospital a couple of times due to his heart problems, and Don Miller helped with nutrition needs. At this writing Bob is at home recuperating.

Another member has been having episodes of passing out and falling. Upon recommendation of his physical therapist Steve Duncan was taken to the VA Hospital by Commander Draper where they sat for several hours waiting to be seen and then getting tests performed. After several tests it was found that he had bleeding on his brain. At this writing Steve is a patient at the U of M Hospital where they were trying to determine their next course of action.

Member Vandoren heard that Steve Duncan was requesting some pop and she asked CDR Dave Draper if he could take her to the store to get him some. After going to Kroger to get it we delivered it to Greta Krapohl's house. Greta will be delivering it to Steve.



We also had a request from Vandoren for a scooter as she is having trouble getting around due to arthritis in her lower back. Member Ken Zuehlke came to the rescue with one that used to be his father's and had been stored in his basement. Ken donated the scooter and our post purchased new batteries. The scooter was good as new. CDR Draper and Zuehlke delivered the scooter to a very happy young lady.



Christmas Luncheon '22



Commander Draper giving opening remarks.

On December 3rd our post held it's annual Christmas Luncheon at Weber's Restaurant. It was held again this year in the Atrium Ballroom. We had several cancellations but still served forty-nine members, guests, and special guests. Commander Draper started the event with the opening prayer by Paulo Pereira, then the Pledge of Allegiance by CDR Draper, and finished with Vice CDR Nichols reciting the Missing Man Table Ceremony. We then had roll call where each veteran at each table introduced themselves with their name, branch of service, and service era. CDR Draper then gave a short introduction speech bragging about our post's progress and accomplishments over the past year.

Then lunch was served. On the menu this year was steak, chicken, salmon, and a vegetarian dish— all served with sides of broccoli, scalloped potatoes, rolls, and drinks. It was all topped off with a buffet of mini desserts.



Vice Commander Scott Nichols with the 50/50 tickets.

The event continued with a speech by our guest speaker, Kate Melcher. Many thanks was given to Kate for stepping in for the originally scheduled speaker who became ill and couldn't make it to the event. Kate sang praises for our post's contributions to Fisher House both financially and through volunteers. She also mentioned that there was a high probability that within two to three years the Ann Arbor Fisher House would probably get an additional House on the same property as the existing one. Kate mentioned that the Detroit Fisher House now has enough funds to purchase the land for their Fisher House.

The afternoon was capped off with the presentation of a few awards. Bob Bull received the Post Veteran of the Year Award again this year, David Barera received the Post Officer of the Year Award, and Erika Behm was presented with the Patriot Partner Award. And finally, an Achievement Award was given to our Vice Commander Scott Nichols for all his hard work recruiting new members to our post.

It was a great afternoon and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

See more pictures by clicking [HERE](https://www.flickr.com/photos/164614453@N02/albums/72177720304189924) if you're reading this online, or copy and paste the following into your browser: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/164614453@N02/albums/72177720304189924>.



Scott Nichols reading the Missing Man Table Ceremony.



Guest speaker Kate Melcher.



Great Lakes National Cemetery Honoring Our Fallen



Again this year our post participated in the annual Wreaths Across America event at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan. Each year we try to honor those who have been interred that were members of our post or friends and family of post members. This year we honored eleven that were post related and four randomly selected veterans. As is the usual case, it was very cold but this year there was nowhere near as much snow on the ground. As I understand it, more than 19,000 wreaths were laid at Great Lakes.

The laying of wreaths has become so popular at Great Lakes that for the last couple of years we could not park at the cemetery but instead we parked at Ascension Hospital and were bused to the cemetery. The bus driver told me that they had ten buses running all day. It was about a ten minute ride and we arrived near the admin building . It was so cold I did not attend the opening ceremonies this year. Instead I met up with fellow Post 46 member Chris Campbell and his wife Cindy. From there we laid wreaths at ten gravesites. As we have done in the past, we honored each gravesite by placing a wreath, stepped back and came to attention, saluted the gravestone, and read their name, rank, and service era. It was a very humbling experience. I hope next year more of our members will participate. You will definitely enjoy it! To see more pictures click

[HERE](https://www.flickr.com/photos/164614453@N02/albums/72177720304671690) or copy and paste this address in your browser: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/164614453@N02/albums/72177720304671690>

CDR Dave Draper



A New Graduate



One of our newer members, Ken Zuehlke, recently completed his Guitars For Vets guitar class. It's a ten week class that teaches the basics of guitar playing. At the end of the course Ken received a graduation certificate, a new acoustic guitar, and a bunch of accessories. CONGRATULATIONS KEN!

2023

Membership Milestones

Member	Years
David Barera	10 Yrs
John Falsetta	10 Yrs
Robert Harvey	10 Yrs
Glen Johnston	10 Yrs
Gilbert Smith	50 Yrs

Awards Presentation At The '22 Christmas Luncheon

Erwin Prieskorn

American Legion Post 46

A staple in Ann Arbor since 1919, Post 46 is rich in history of serving veterans and the local community. If you know of a veteran that does not have an American Legion home give them a copy of this newsletter. Invite them to come out to one of our meetings and see what we are about. Let them know that we meet on the first Thursday of each month at 1830 hrs. at our post, located at 3230 S. Wagner Rd.



David Barera— Officer of the Year



Bob Biggs— Volunteer of the Year



Erika Behm— Patriot Partner Award



Scott Nichols— Membership Achievement Award

[Story on page 8](#)

Erwin Prieskorn

American Legion Post 46

P.O. Box 3703
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3703

Phone: (734) 719-0046
Website: www.Legion46AnnArbor.org
E-mail: Prieskorn.Post46@gmail.com



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE