



Prieskorn Press

1923

****POST 46****

2023

Celebrating 100 Years Of Service



Veterans Memorial Park
Ann Arbor, MI

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Commander's Corner

An Impact Player



Although Post 46 is not the biggest post in the state, I am always taken aback by the impact our members have in the community.

The post, founded more than 100 years ago, is one of the oldest in the state. We have seen our ups and downs in membership. From our heyday after WW II when we had more than 1,200 members to our low point with just over 100 members. The post has witnessed it all; wars, conflicts, civil unrest, peace, prosperity and growth. The city,

we call home has changed, but the dedication of our members has never wavered. Regardless of our membership numbers, Erwin Prieskorn Post 46 has always been an "impact player" in the community it serves.

Melanie N. will be accompanying a Vietnam era veteran on Michigan's first all-female honor flight to Washington D.C. Karl E. has dedicated more than 30 years to Scouting and still serves as charter representative to the cub scout pack Post 46 sponsors, Dave D. calls bingo at the VA for patients and organizes events at a local nursing home visiting veterans living there. Beverly L. works at Camp Liberty which hosts hunting events for disabled veterans. Bob B. recently helped a homeless veteran arrange safe storage of all his belongs until he could secure new housing. Horace F. gave a guitar solo performance at Fisher House for veterans and their families awaiting treatment and recovery. The list goes on and on.

What I have learned, is that no matter what our numbers, members of Post 46 contribute day in and day out to the community we call home. Thank you!



Red Guitar



While volunteering at the Ann Arbor Fisher House in late March, the manager there, April LaRock, told me a story about the Red Guitar that had been recently donated to her facility through Red Guitar. Each of the Fisher Houses receives one of these guitars that are sponsored through the efforts of country singer Thom Shepherd. Their website RedGuitar.org says “The idea for donating guitars happened when Thom Shepherd & Coley McCabe visited the Fisher House in Honolulu in 2017.” “On their visit, the commander of the local base showed up and asked Thom to perform his hit song “Riding with Private Malone.” Thom was without a guitar that day as he and Coley were on their way to the beach .” “Coley and Thom looked at each other and said “Every Fisher House should have a guitar.” One of our members, Horace Frazier was asked by April LaRock to come out and “break in” the new guitar. You can see a short video by going to <https://redguitars.org/testimonials>.



Horace “breaking in” the new guitar.



Thom Shepherd at one of his concerts.



Dave Draper

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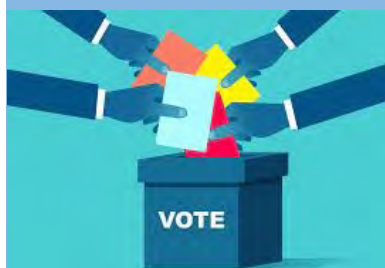
Post 46 Elections

[Post 46](#) held its final nominations and its election at the May 9 meeting. Only one position changed hands. Because of his health, Elmer White decided to give up his position as Service Officer. Below are our returning officers and one new officer.

- Commander: Scott Nichols
- Vice Commander: Dave Draper
- Adjutant: Glen Johnston
- Finance Officer: David Barera
- Sgt At Arms: Mick Worzniak
- Chaplain: Bob Bull
- Executive Committee: Chris Campbell
- Executive Committee: Karl Edelman
- Executive Committee: Bruce Lowry

Service Officer: Mark Lindke was appointed by Commander Nichols to replace Elmer White.

Judge Advocate: Beverly List was reappointed by Commander Nichols.



Prayers for Veterans

We thank you Lord for the brave who have fought, and continue to fight, so courageously for our nation. We ask for your covering and blessing over them and their families. We pray that you would be gracious and encircle them with your peace. We pray for your great favor and goodness to be evident in their lives. Please be with the men and women in uniform, who serve our communities and nation every single day. We ask that you provide your protection, that you would be their guiding force who leads the way, and their rear guard who keeps them safe from behind. We ask that you would draw them to yourself amidst the dangers they face in a dark world, for you are the Truth, you are the Way, you are the Light.

* * * * *

Post Everlasting

Since January of this year we have already lost several of our members to their battles with different ailments and diseases. Let's keep their respective families in your thoughts and prayers.

John Devine, Navy, Vietnam, Legion member for 8 years
Clifford Morris, Army, WWII, Legion member for 38 years
Elmer White, Air Force, Vietnam, Legion member for 34 years
Doug Woolley, Air Force, Korea, Legion member for 27 years



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Post 46 Poppy Drive



On May 3 and 4 our Post held our annual Poppy Drive. It was held again at the Westgate Kroger Store. On Friday the 3rd the proceeds were to benefit [Guitars for Vets](#), a program to help vets with PTS. That day also happened to be the main graduation day for the University of Michigan students, which may have contributed to the fairly good donations. Foot traffic was very steady and so was the money. We were able to collect over \$950 that day.



On Saturday the 4th the proceeds benefited WACU ([Warriors and Caregivers United](#)). This organization was founded by our member John Kinzinger and help veterans with PTS along with their caregivers. We were able to collect over \$400 for our efforts.

On both days we had a lot of fun talking with other veterans who walked up to donate, and others who talked about their parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents who had served. We also passed out poppies to many, many cute kids. All in all, we had a great time. We hope you will think about volunteering next year. The shifts are only two hours long.



Camp Liberty Conservation Day

It was a cold and dreary day with rain threatening to cancel our efforts but we prevailed. About two dozen volunteers assembled to help perform projects around Camp Liberty. We came together around 0900 hrs. with the smell of coffee in the air and donuts galore. [Camp Liberty](#) President Allan Lutes started the day with a welcome, an explanation of what Camp Liberty is all about, and the projects he envisioned getting completed that day. Dock work at the pond, cages being assembled in the barn, flower beds getting weeded, plants being planted, transplanting cedar seedlings, and making Rabbitats. We broke up into groups to accomplish each of these. Post 46 members Beverly List and John Kinzinger got their hands dirty weeding and planting, Mick Worzniak helped assemble cages for pheasants and split wood, and Dave Draper, with the help of several kids from Jackson and President Lutz, transplanted trees and made Rabbitats. Rabbitats are a conglomeration of old pallets and fallen tree limbs which gives safe haven to rabbits and smaller birds from predatory birds and animals. The kids were a delight, had positive attitudes, and helped out greatly. After a couple of hours we all met back at the cabin for pizza, salad, bread sticks, and



President Lutz Giving Directions



Mick Assembling Cages



Keeping Everything Organized



Transplanting Cedar Trees



Building A Rabbitat



Member Spotlight



Mark Lindke

PFC

U.S. Army

1968- 1969



The second oldest of four brothers, I was born September 11, 1948, in a Mt. Clemens, Michigan hospital. I lived and grew up in Inkster, Michigan, graduating from high school in 1966. Along with several other classmates, I entered Northern Michigan University the following September. After two semesters of not being a serious student, I knew Uncle Sam had his eye on me, so I joined the Army in February 1968. I went to Basic Training at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky and Advance Infantry Training at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. By October 1968 (got to see a Tiger World Series game while on leave), I left Oakland, California for Bangkok, Thailand. As a PFC with the 9th Logistical Command, I served in a support/ supply role stationed at Khorat and Sattahip, Thailand for the next fourteen months. One of the more satisfying and enlightening experiences while overseas was a two-week TDY assignment to Pattaya, Thailand attached to one of our special Forces Teams that was training the Thai Navy Seals. I returned home and was honorably discharged in December 1969. I bounced around for a bit, did factory work, another year at Northern, transferred to Eastern Michigan University and in 1974 while at EMU, accepted a counseling position at Washtenaw County Veterans Affairs office. Thirty-six years later in 2010, after assuming progressively responsible positions, I retired as the Director of the Washtenaw County Department of Veterans Affairs. Throughout my career I have had the privilege of assisting veterans and their families secure the benefits they had earned and were entitled to receive from the VA. I was honored to be elected on two separate occasions to serve two-year terms as President of the Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors. I also served for twenty years on the Selective Service System Local Board #341, and I continue to volunteer at the VA Ann Arbor Medical Center. I am proud to be an original board member of Fisher House Michigan (once known as Build It For The Brave), was awarded Director Emeritus status, and remain an advisor to FHM as we continue to raise funds to build Fisher Houses in Michigan. I live in Dixboro with my wife (we've been married since 1979) and we have two adult sons and one grandchild. I've been a Legionnaire for over forty-three years and feel fortunate to continue to be of service to the men and women who have honorably served all of us.

ROTC Tri-Service Awards

Post 46 participated again this year in the University of Michigan's ROTC Tri-Service Awards. As in the past, the event was held at the Rachkam Auditorium on the U of M campus. Our Post awards three scholarships each year to deserving midshipmen and cadets, one each from the Air Force, Army, and Navy. Cmdr Scott Nichols, Judge Advocate Beverly List, and Vice Cmdr Dave Draper were present to represent our post. Ms. List presented the awards. Many, many other organizations, companies, and individuals presented other awards during the night at this beautiful facility.



District 2 Memorial Service

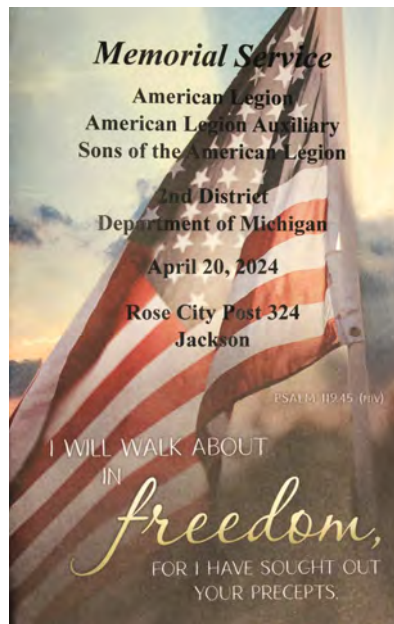
American Legion District 2 holds a memorial service each year to remember and honor all our members who have moved on to Post Everlasting since the same time last year. During that time Post 46 lost twelve members. The names of each of our deceased members were called out as Commander Nichols lit a candle in their memory and saluted in their honor. District 2 has thirty-one posts and each were invited to participate in this event. Department Commander Mohlman was in attendance to say a few words. Active duty members of each of the six branches of service came forward to light candles during the ceremony.



Cmdr Nichols Lights A Candle



Cmdr Nichols Salutes In Honor Of Our Departed Memers



Dept Cmdr Mohlman



Active Duty Military

Up Close and Personal at the Grand Prix

Thank you for the announcement and opportunity to serve during the Detroit Grand Prix. The experience was unique and wonderful. I was able to serve Friday through Sunday.



Early Friday morning we received our credentials to the historic Steve's Soul Food building.

Then all of us made our way to the well-built and setup Legion booth.



Over the course of the weekend over 300 new people made the pledge to Be the One. Even some become new Legionnaires or renewed their membership. Dozens met with the Service officers as well.

We had the pleasure of greeting the public, veterans and their spouses, Active duty, Guard and Reserve members from all branches except Space Force, Detroit Police, Detroit Fire, Detroit Bomb Squad, State Police, Border Security and ICE officers. Many stories were shared and friendly smiles, hugs and hand shakes all around. The comfort and ease of our brothers and sisters on duty who found time to stop by and say hi, and share a story or two was great to see.

Service to the community did not stop with the primary mission of our weekend. As an example, A small child was lost and one of our folks spotted something not right. She asked the child where mom and dad was. She provided safety and gathered information from the child while the police and security were contacted. By the time the child and parents were reunited the child was totally relaxed and ready to have fun with mom and dad.

I highly recommend this as an activity to volunteer for.



Here is the delivery of our car.

The driver Linus Lundqvist and part of our group.



Contributed By Tony Moisan

What's Going On At Fisher House AA?

Cleaning "House"

Fisher House Ann Arbor designated May 31st as a cleanup day at the "House." Vice Commander Draper of Post 46, under the supervision of Fisher House Manager April LaRock, led a volunteer team of eighteen to clean the outside furniture and grounds. Many, many weeds pulled, edging performed, wiping down of furniture and handrails, and sweeping of carpets were the order of the day. Sixteen summer interns and two staff from Rehmann performed most of the work diligently. The interns were all Juniors and Seniors in accounting from various Michigan colleges and the University of Toledo. They worked hard for three hours and the property was much improved by the end of their efforts.



4th Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday, June 1 Fisher House Ann Arbor celebrated its fourth anniversary of its opening. The inside was decorated with festive balloons and decor. Great food was prepared by volunteers on the inside, and brats and burgers were grilled by volunteers and staff outside. Yard games were set up on the back deck for entertainment. Many of Fisher House Michigan Directors and members were in attendance as well as Fisher House Ann Arbor staff and volunteers. The food was great as well as the camaraderie.



Memorial Brick



On June 14th the Department hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the long-awaited brick memorial patio at their headquarters in Lansing. For the past three years members and the general public could purchase an engraved brick honoring a veteran. Many people bought bricks for their loved ones as well post namesakes as permanent reminders of their service to this Country. The ceremony coincided with the annual Legion Riders “Legacy Ride” fundraiser, so the event was well attended by members and the general public. State Cmdr. Mohlman and PDC. Wallace from the Michigan Legion Foundation gave remarks and helped “cut the ribbon” to officially open the space. Members of Post 46 voted to honor our namesake, Cpl. Erwin Prieskorn, with a brick in his honor memorializing his service and sacrifice to our Nation. You can still purchase a brick by going to michiganlegion.org/memorial-brick-orders/ or calling state headquarters at 517- 371-4720.

Contributed by Cmdr. Nichols

Pinning Ceremony



Opening with Pledge of Allegiance.

In May VC Draper was asked to perform a Vietnam 50th Anniversary pinning ceremony by Gentiva Hospice for an Air Force vet who is a resident at Regency of Whitmore Lake. Draper was assisted by Post 46 member Ralph Henry.



Cmdr Draper reads the award Certificate.



Ralph Henry reads the Air Force Creed.



Cmdr Draper presents a Post 46 Challenge Coin.



Ralph pins the Vietnam veteran's hat.



Group Photo w/family & participants.

First All-Female Honor Flight

Member Melanie Nau had the honor, along with others, to escort the first all-female Honor Flight to Washington DC. Her story is below.

Mid-Michigan Honor Flight is one of 3 volunteer, non-profit organizations in Michigan to fly Veterans to DC to visit the memorials built to honor service men and women. The Mid-Michigan, Upper Peninsula and Talons Out Honor Flights collaborated to organize mission #19, the first all women veteran's honor flight from Michigan.

The 2-day trip began on June 11th departing from Bishop International Airport in Flint and arriving at Baltimore-Washington International Airport where the veterans boarded buses which were escorted by motorcycle riders into DC. The first stop was the breathtaking WWII memorial with a beautiful view of the Washington Mall. They proceeded on to the Vietnam, Korean, and Air Force memorials before heading to the hotel for a reception/dinner.

Day two began with a trip to the Woman's Military Memorial (WIMSA), where each veteran received a certificate containing information about their military service. Next, they visited the Marine Corps Memorial where they paused for a group photo before heading to the Arlington National Cemetery. Witnessing the sentinels guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the changing of the guard was truly something to behold. The final stop before heading back to the airport was the Navy Memorial.

When we arrived at the airport in Flint the corridors were lined with hundreds of people holding flags and signs, music, cheering, and thanking us. The 10-minute walk through the people welcoming us home was a very emotional experience. They had a seating area set up for the veterans and once we were all assembled and a few speeches were made and anthems sung, they did one last mail call where volunteers and scouts presented each of us with a bear and quilt from Project Hero Hugs, and an envelope filled with messages from students, veterans service organizations, Daughters of the American Revolution, and more.

More info on the MI Honor Flights and Project Hero Hugs is below.

[HOME | midmichiganhonorflight \(midmichiganhonorflight.org\)](http://midmichiganhonorflight.org)

[Talons Out Honor Flight, Inc. - Home](#)

[Upper Peninsula Honor Flight :: Home](#)

[Facebook https://www.facebook.com/people/Project-Hero-Hugs/100063776148949/](https://www.facebook.com/people/Project-Hero-Hugs/100063776148949/)



Mail Call At The Flint Bishop Airport



Watching Changing Of The Guard



Guard At The Tomb Of The Unknown Soldier



Group At Marine Corps Memorial



Project Hero Hug Bear



The reception at Bishop Airport on the return flight.

WASHTENAW COUNTY

VET FEST

Saturday, Aug. 3

10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Washtenaw
Community College

- ★ Free Admission & Parking
- ★ Free Lunch
- ★ Prize Raffles
- ★ Ice Cream
- ★ 50+ Veteran Service Providers & Agencies
- ★ Live Music
- ★ Kids' Activities
- ★ Military Displays



PRESENTED BY:



WADHAMS VETERANS CENTER

& OTHER WASHTENAW
COUNTY VETERANS
ORGANIZATIONS



**RSVP
REQUESTED**

Scan code or visit
washtenaw.cc/VetFest24
to let us know
you're coming!

Washtenaw Community College does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other protected status in its programs and activities. The following office has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies, Title IX or ADA/504 inquiries: Executive Vice President of Student & Academic Services, SC 247, 734-973-3536.

VetFest is back again this year at Washtenaw Community College. They are looking for participants, volunteers, and of course, donations. If you plan on attending please register by scanning the QR code above or go to Washtenaw.cc/VetFest24. If you would like to donate and want to do it by check please contact Dave Draper at (734) 417-8021. To donate online go to <https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/33710/donations/new>. Last year was a big hit and this year promises to be also. Stop by our Post tent and say hi.

**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.

BE THE ONE

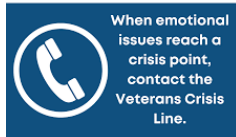
TO **ASK** VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.

TO **LISTEN** WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.

TO **REACH** OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

