

Erwin Prieskorn
American Legion Post 46

2nd Qtr 2025



Prieskorn Press

Celebrating 5 Years In Publication

1923

Serving Veterans for Over 100 Years

2025



Veterans Memorial Park
Ann Arbor, MI

HAPPY 250th BIRTHDAY



Inside This Issue

Bits & Pieces.....	2
Prayers for Veterans.....	3
Post Everlasting.....	3
Memorial Services.....	4
Featured Post 46 Member....	5
Post 46 History.....	6
WCC SVA Event.....	7
Post 46 Poppy Drive.....	7
Bits & Pieces (cont).....	8
WCC Vet Fest Flyer.....	9
VVA 310 Pig Roast Flyer.....	10
Glacier Highlands Parade....	11
Fisher House 5th Anniv.....	11
VVA 310 Fundraiser.....	12
Passing the Hat.....	13
Veterans Radio Fundraiser..	13



Editor
Dave Draper
davedraper67@gmail.com

Bits & Pieces

Post 46 Member Turns 96

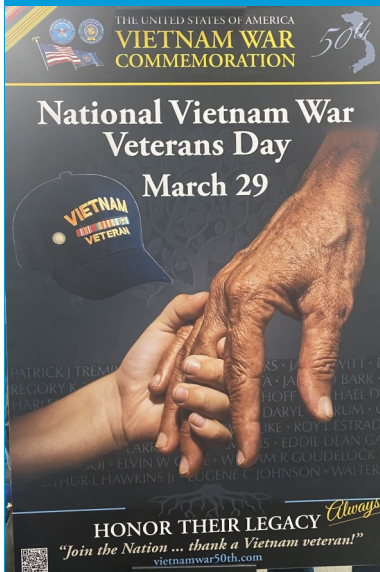


One of our newer members, Ed Savitski, celebrated his 96th birthday recently which coincided with one of our monthly Coffee Hours at StoryPoint Senior Living. Ed was featured in last quarter's Prieskorn Press' Member Spotlight. After our coffee hour, several of us Post 46 members went to Ed's room and presented him with a birthday cake and a couple of cards. One of Ed's sons, his son's wife, and Ed's daughter were there to help us celebrate.



* * * * *

National Vietnam War Veterans Day



Ralph Henry & BG Fausone



Fausone, Creasman, Dingell



Ralph Henry, Stan Harrison, Al Merritt, Congresswoman Dingell, Dave Draper

On Friday, March 28 the Ann Arbor VA hosted a National Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony. Breakfast was served with breakfast sandwiches, muffins, and great coffee. Several vendors and the VVA 310 had displays and information tables set up. Post 46 member Ralph Henry was pinned by Brigadier General Carol Fausone. Congresswoman Dingell and Ann Arbor VA Executive Director Creasman were also in attendance.

* * * * *

Post 46 Election Results



Officers

Commander: Scott Nichols (incumbent)
Vice Commander: Ozzie James (replaces Draper)
Adjutant: Glen Johnston (incumbent)
Finance Officer: David Barera (incumbent)
Chaplain: Michael Greene (replaces Bull)
Sgt At Arms: Mick Worzniak (incumbent)
Historian: Ron McCready (incumbent)

Executive Committee

Chris Campbell (incumbent)
Bruce Lowry (incumbent)
Melanie Nau (replaces Edelmann)

Reappointed Positions

Judge Advocate: Beverly List
Service Officer: Mark Lindke

Prayers for Veterans

Oh God, Our Heavenly Father,
You have blessed us with brave men and women
Who are willing to defend our freedom.
May Your protection and grace surround them each day.
Let Your healing hand be upon those who suffer wounds and injuries.
May those who have made the ultimate sacrifice rest forever in
Your Holy Presence.
Comfort the families who mourn and are left to remember
the precious lives of their loved ones.
Help us to honor and support them.
Let us ever be mindful of each sacrifice made
on behalf of the American people by our
Sons, daughters, husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, and friends.

Amen

* * * * *

Post Everlasting

Since January of 2025, we have lost members to their battles with different ailments, diseases, and disasters. Keep their respective families in your thoughts and prayers.

Paul Wright, U.S. Coast Guard, Vietnam Era, Legion member for 25 years
Wilbur Bigelow, U.S. Navy Reserves, WWII, Legion member for 3 years
Gilbert Smith, U.S. Army, Korea, Legion member for 52 years
Douglas Viland, U.S. Army, Vietnam, Legion member for 18 years



* * * * *





VVA 310 Memorial Observance

On Memorial Day the Charles S. Kettles Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 310 held their 34th annual Memorial Observance.



The weather was absolutely beautiful and the turnout was phenomenal, estimated at a couple hundred. The guest speaker was an Army Vietnam era veteran. Also speaking were Congresswoman Dingell and Ypsi Twp Supervisor Stumbo. Three bricks were placed in the walkway and dedicated for recently deceased VVA 310 members. See more photos by clicking [HERE](#).



Many of our Post 46 members are also members of VVA Chapter 310 here in Ann Arbor. Many years ago, members of the Chapter went to the Ann Arbor City Council to see if they could install a privately funded memorial monument at Veterans Memorial Park in Ann Arbor. After many months of meetings, negotiations were going nowhere. A previous Ann Arbor Council member who took a position at Ypsilanti Township heard about the interest in having a memorial and invited them to talk. When they arrived, that person, Wes Prater, had a grounds map laid out on his desk and told the VVA members in the meeting to pick where they wanted the memorial placed. After walking the grounds, they pointed to the location where the monument is currently resting. They signed papers for a 99-year lease for \$1.00. The current Ypsilanti Township Supervisor, Brenda Stumbo, has been a very close friend to those involved with the memorial and has granted them almost anything they have asked for. The Memorial was officially dedicated in 1991. The memorial grounds are taken care of by volunteers of the Chapter. The grounds are currently under a revitalization plan to meet current and future needs. The memorial has 75 names of those lives lost in Vietnam from each of the cities within Washtenaw County. There are also brick pavers with the names of those VVA 310 members who have passed on that are placed along the sidewalk. If you've never been there, it is well worth your time to visit it.



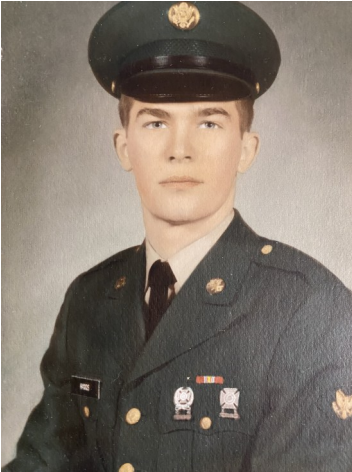
American Legion District 2 Memorial Service

American Legion District 2 held its annual Post Everlasting Memorial Service on the 26th of April. This year the service was held at American Legion Post 368 in Morenci, Michigan. Our Adjutant, Glen Johnston, was present to represent our Post. Each post comes forward to light a candle in honor of the members of their respective posts from the Legion, Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion. A representative of each of the active duty branches of service also come forward and recite their respective Service Creeds and light a candle for their lost members. Shown below is a picture of Post 46 Commander Scott Nichols from last year's Post Everlasting Memorial Service.



Continued on Page 11

Featured Post 46 Member



Bob Biggs

Sergeant

U.S. Army

1968- 1970



Bob Biggs had just graduated from high school at Lee M. Thurston High School in Redford, Michigan in 1968 when Uncle Sam sent him their greetings and told him to report to Fort Wayne, Detroit. That ended his hobby of working on his car and any plans of going to college. He reported for basic training to the U.S. Army base at Fort Dix, New Jersey. After basic training, he was assigned to Fort Gordon, Georgia for radio repair school where he learned the basic operation of military AM and FM radios and the first phase of repairing them. He learned what is happening inside the unit when you press the microphone key to activate the radio transmission. After completing this phase of training, he was assigned to Fort Knox, Kentucky for a deeper dive into the circuitry of radios and antenna operations. This training helps you to diagnose where and what type of failures take place and how to resolve them quickly. Upon completion of the final phases of radio operations and repair, he was assigned to the 3rd Infantry, 10th Engineer's Battalion, Kitzingen, Germany. He remained there until his discharge from service.

Once home, he worked odd jobs for two years before deciding to attend college, thanks to the GI Bill. He wanted to pursue an associate's degree in electronic technology. He graduated with a degree and was immediately hired during a college job fair, where he would be working for an environmental research company.

He is currently retired from the University of Michigan, where he helped maintain one of the university's many data centers. He is now enjoying the company of his wife of twenty-six years, and his family.

A Little Post 46 History



Much about our post's beginning is still being re-searched, especially before 1933. As many of you know our post was chartered in 1923 and was named after Erwin Prieskorn, who was supposedly the first WWI casualty from Ann Arbor. However, that fact has not been confirmed as of yet. More research at Bentley Library may uncover more details of our history between 1923 and 1933. Corporal Prieskorn died of wounds suffered in WWI in France. He is laid to rest at Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, France.



Prieskorn's Cemetery Cross. Picture by member Marty Lewis



The first recorded meetings took place in the basement of Ann Arbor City Hall. Then, in 1933, a post was purchased from the Allmendinger family. The building looks like it may have been a home that was repurposed. The building was located on the north side of the U of M football Stadium. As I understand it, during football season, the post made lots of money. The Post was sold to the University of Michigan and closed in January of 1988. In February of 1988, the Post was reestablished at 3460 Dexter Road. That location is now a daycare center which was sold in October of 1995 for

\$166,000. From there it looks like meetings were held in various places not owned by the post. They met in the Elks Club on Eisenhower Pkwy, the Moose Lodge on S. Maple in 1988, the Grotto Club in 2001, and Concordia College for a couple of years. Then for several years we met at Weber's Inn, where we had a buffet lunch and then a meeting afterward. Somewhere around November 2018, we received permission to hold our meetings at our current location at VFW Post 423.



Our original cannon that sat at the U of M location was a French 75MM that was later turned in as scrap metal by the U.S. Army at the start of WWII. The current M5 arrived by train in July of 1948 to the post when it was located on Main Street. It then (date unknown) was moved



to the Saline American Legion, and then moved to its current location at the VFW post in 2000.

Post 46 was the largest post in Michigan in 1959 with 1023 members!! Our all-time high was over 1400 members. We have had 69 commanders, from Pat Walsh in 1919 to our current commander, Scott Nichols. In the past our post has had both an Auxiliary and a SAL. We have placed flags at Bethlehem Cemetery for many years and used to support a Boy Scout Explorers Troop. We've also had our own marching band somewhere after the end of WWII, and, as you might guess, participated in many parades in downtown Ann Arbor after the war. Our Auxiliary turned in its charter in 1993.

In recent history, we paid for a flagpole, park benches, and branch-of-service medallions to be installed at Veterans Memorial Park. We also made a large donation for the construction of the Ann Arbor Fisher House. We also charter a Cub Scout Pack, are very involved in the annual Vet Fest that's held at Washtenaw Community College, continue our long-standing tradition of hosting bingo at the VA, host a coffee at a local senior center, and we participate in the annual July 4 parade in Ann Arbor. We've made major donations to purchase a golf cart for both the VA and Ann Arbor Fisher House. And, I'm proud to say, we assist many veterans within our community almost daily.

Article by Dave Draper
Edited by Ron McCready

SVA of WCC Host's An Event



The Student Veterans of America hosted another event at the Washtenaw Community College to honor our veterans. Attendance was a little low probably because it had rained the night before and it was pretty chilly the day of the event. The venue was moved to the Community Room in the Student Center. Several students who are veterans attended along with their families. A pot luck lunch was provided along with popcorn and drinks. Vice Commander Dave Draper and Post 46 member Bob Kurtz manned a table to recruit new members. Also, new Post 46 member and WCC student, John Vaughn, acted as greeter for the event. Draper said he batted 1.5 and 6 for the day as we picked up one new member and had one show interest but did not sign on the dotted line. The newly recruited Post 46 member, John Toth, is a member of the WCC campus security.



SVA President Barbara Hughes, Post 46 members John Vaughn & Bob Kurtz.



Veteran students and their families "chilling".

WCC Student Coordinator Carol Osborne with one of her grandsons.

Poppy Drive

Post 46 hosted its annual Poppy Drive again this year. The event spanned two days and took place at the Kroger Store at the Westgate Shopping Center. Shown here are Berryman Bourne from VVA Chapter 310 in Ann Arbor, and John Kinzinger, a member of our Post and VVA 310. Many of the volunteers this year were from VVA 310 and we want to thank them for taking time out of their day to volunteer to raise money to support our veterans.



Coffee and Stories at StoryPoint



This was our group at the coffee hour in May at StoryPoint Senior Living. We had a great turnout of both Post 46 members and StoryPoint residents who are veterans (8 each). Subjects ranged from their experiences in their military services, to their favorite hobbies. We occasionally invite guest speakers to come out to talk about their service or services their respective organizations provide to veterans. We meet at 1300 hrs. at [StoryPoint](#). Join us if you can.

Breakfast At Holiday's Restaurant



Every Tuesday, many veterans from VVA 310, Legion Post 46, and others gather for coffee, breakfast, and comradery. The get-together happens at [Holiday's Restaurant](#), located at [2080 W Stadium Blvd](#) in Ann Arbor. They meet at 0800 hrs. and place their orders at 0900 hrs. No subject is off limits. They are blessed to have an excellent waitress. If you come more than a couple of times, she will remember what you ordered to drink and what you ordered to eat. She never writes down your order. It is believed that the group started with only two or three about eight years ago and has grown to anywhere between six and fifteen. If you're looking for a great place to eat, give this restaurant a try. Their dinners are great too.

Revolutionary War Veteran Is Recognized



On Sunday, May 18, the Washtenaw County Veterans Honor Guard performed a ceremony for a veteran of the American Revolutionary War. Born in 1760, died in 1832. He was a relative of our very own Nancy Myers, who collects all the information for our ceremonies for deceased Veterans. She collects information on the veterans obituary, time and location of ceremonies, and includes a Google Map link to the cemetery.



This event was sponsored and created by the Daughters of the American Revolutionary War (DAR). A lot of hard work went into making this possible. Finding the cemetery, locating the gravesite, etc. Ground penetrating radar was used to find his grave, then DNA was collected without exhuming the body. The DNA was collected and verified the grave as that of Sylvester Richmond of the New York Militia

The great turnout was awesome. A plaque was dedicated for the gravesite.

★ **FREE** ★ **FREE** ★ **FREE** ★

WASHTENAW COUNTY VET FEST

SATURDAY
AUGUST 2, 2025
10 A.M. – 3 P.M.

**Over 30 Veteran Resource Providers
Available On Site!**

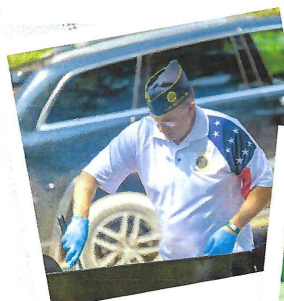
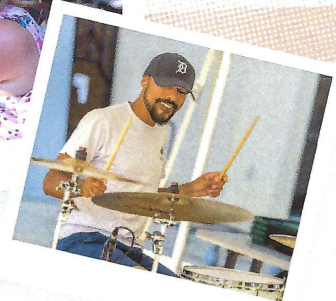
FREE admission & parking
FREE lunch
FREE prize raffles
FREE ice cream
Live music
Kids' activities

COME SEE:

- K-9 Unit, Police car, Firetruck and Ambulance
- MI Army National Guard Engineering Demonstration
- Climb on a 20 Ton Dump Truck, 966h Loader and more!

SCAN CODE OR VISIT
WASHTENAW.CC/VETFEST25

RSVP



PRESENTED BY:



**OTHER WASHTENAW
COUNTY VETERANS
ORGANIZATIONS**

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: Vice President of Student Services, SC 251, 734-973-3536; Washtenaw Community College (WCC) is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlc.commission.org). For information about WCC, call 734-973-3300. If you have a disability and require accommodation to participate in this event, contact Learning Support Services at 734-973-3342 to request accommodations at least 72 hours in advance.



22ND ANNUAL VVA 310 PIG ROAST



Charles S. Kettles



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 310

22nd Annual Pig Roast Dinner

In Memory of Ron Weisenrider

Honored Friend & Supporter of the Pig Roast

Saturday, August 23, 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Dine-in or Carryout

Saline American Legion Post 322

320 W Michigan Ave (Corner of Michigan Ave and Mills St.)

Enjoy A Wonderful Pork Dinner and Help Raise Funds for VVA 310 to:
Care for our County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, put on special
events for local hospitalized Veterans, provide Thanksgiving dinner
for Dawn Farm residents, and more.

Meal:

Great pulled pork, corn on the cob, applesauce, baked beans, coleslaw, roll, dessert,
lemonade, pop, and coffee. Beer on tap and pop available.

Activities At The Event:

Musical entertainment and children's face painting.

Military merchandise sales.

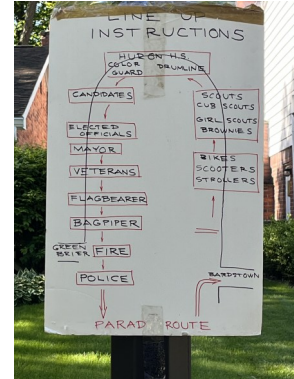
Meal Ticket Prices: Adults \$15, Ages 6-12 \$5.00, Under 6 Free

Tickets will be available at the Legion Post entrance on the day of the event.

For more information, please call John Kinzinger at (734) 645-8647.

**Saline American Legion Post 322 supports VVA Chapter 310 in putting on
this event. Thank you to all the Legion and Auxiliary members**

Glacier Highlands Memorial Day Parade



The Glacier Highlands Memorial Day Parade is the only Ann Arbor Memorial Day Parade. It has been hosted by the community for over 30 years and featured the Ann Arbor Police Department Honor Guard, The Ann Arbor Fire Department, Local elected officials, Veterans of all ages from their 30's to their 90's, local Scout Pack 3131 (sponsored by Post 46), the Huron High School Flag Corps and the Huron High School Drum Line, as well as community participation from local youth. A bugler led the parade following the Ann Arbor Fire Department and Ann Arbor Police Escort and played at the ceremony afterward. Local youth played Taps and there was a reading of "In Flanders Fields" by a local young lady in honor of the fallen. Colonel Bohnsack then remembered the fallen from the last year including the 4 soldiers lost in Lithuania in a training accident, including one soldier from Battle Creek. Awards were presented for Best Costume, Best Bike, and Best Dog.

Contributed by Dr. Karl Edelmann

Fisher House Ann Arbor 5th Anniversary

This past June, Fisher House Ann Arbor celebrated its fifth year since opening with a gathering of Fisher House Foundation, FH Michigan, FH Ann Arbor, and the regular volunteers who serve at the facility. Great food was prepared for the event by the volunteers and staff.



Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Fundraiser

Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Grounds Improvement Challenge Fundraiser

“Making our Memorial site nice for decades.”

Wednesday July 9th 6:30-9pm

At The Ypsilanti Depot Town Freighthouse (100 Market Plc.)

Cover Charge: \$20. at the door (Soft Drinks & Snacks Free)

Musical and Fun Entertainers

Stacey Mason

The Sideshow Saints



Live Auction by Auctioneer Steve Gross

NOTE: A VVA Friend has offered to match up to \$5,000 by the end of this event. Please consider that when considering your support.

If unable to attend, please make your gift to VVA310-Memorial & mail it to VVA 310, PO Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

Passing the Hat



At our June meeting two of our members received Legion hats. On the left, Michael Greene receives his Chaplain's hat as he volunteers for that position in our post. Michael is also currently the Commander of District 2, Vice Chair of Internal Affairs at Department of Michigan, and he's on the leadership team for the Department of Michigan.



Shown on the right is Dave Draper who recently stepped down as Post Vice Commander and is receiving his hat as a Past Commander

Veterans Radio Fundraiser

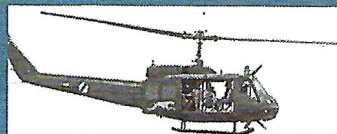
Save the date for Veterans Radio's annual fundraiser,

Radio on the River!

Sunday, September 28, 2025 1-5pm

Help raise funds to keep Veterans Radio on the air!

Veteran Storytelling & Guest Speakers
Raffle for items and amazing experiences
Great music and local food



And a chance to ride in a UH-1 Huey from the Michigan Flight Museum (tickets for helicopter rides are separate)



www.veteransradio.org

__ YOUR HOST __



www.freedomriver.org



Click this logo to go to the Veterans Radio website.



Click here to go to the Freedom River website.

**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.
We meet on the first Thursday of
each month at 1830 hrs. at our
post, located at 3230 S. Wagner
Rd.



Scan here to check us out on our
website

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.

Erwin Prieskorn
American Legion Post 46
P.O. Box 3703
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3703

Phone: (734) 719-0446
Website: www.Legion46AnnArbor.org
E-mail: Prieskorn.Post46@gmail.com



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE