



Commander's Corner



Hello again. I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and merry Christmas/ happy Hanukkah. I also hope the coming new year is prosperous and full of hope and love for you and yours.

It was my great honor to receive the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency's first-ever annual Veteran of the Year Award. It came as quite a surprise. The ceremony took place at a helicopter hanger at Selfridge ANG on November 6 (see article on page 2).

We end another year with many accomplishments under our belt and solid growth in our membership. We grew in the services we provide and the outreach to our veterans and the community. The VA Medical Center and Fisher House Ann Arbor depend on our volunteers and the services and donations we provide. Some of the VA Medical Center's departments make referrals to us for free transportation and follow-up support to veterans. We can take pride in our accomplishments over this past year and we look forward to increasing our veteran outreach and accomplishments. We could not have done all this without your cooperation and support. As I've stated before, the Post can not sustain itself with only one person performing most of the work. Thank you to all those who stepped up and volunteered to help, to those who raised their hand to take officer and committee positions, and to those who volunteered to help at our events. Please consider serving on a committee or helping with the many events and services we provide if you aren't already. I understand that we have a high percentage of older members, but that doesn't preclude you from volunteering as there are many positions that don't require heavy lifting or manual labor. Help us grow as a Post and in turn we can help more veterans in need.

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Commander Draper Receives Veteran of the Year Award



Maj Gen Rogers, MVAA Dir Zaneta Adams, Dave Draper, Ronnie Cyrus



Meni & Dave Draper, Zaneta Adams

It was my great honor to receive the first-ever Veteran of the Year Award from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. My wife and I were invited to a gala that MVAA sponsored. They elaborately decorated a hanger at the Selfridge Air National Guard Base, served high end horsd'oeuvres, presented a total of seven awards, and had a live band after the awards ceremony where the guests could dance on the dance floor if they so desired. All in all it was a very elegant night. I was pleased to see that a few of the people I knew were there as guests— Kate Melcher, new post member Jennifer Lamb, John and Jane Kinzinger, Roy and Bonnie Hall, Stephanie and Terry Hall, and Erika Behm. You can view a few of the pictures from the event by clicking [HERE](#) or by entering this link into your browser: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/164614453@n02/albums/72157720169646095>.

Another part of the package that came with the award was an interview by MLive.com (Ann Arbor News). I was interviewed by a young reporter named Britney Snyder at our post and later pictures were taken, again at the post by Aleksandra Katilus. For the most part their article was accurate with the information that I presented. That article appeared in the Sunday, November 14 Ann Arbor News printed edition.

The last part of the package is supposed to be a recognition picture and story to be presented at the Michigan Heroes Museum in Frankenmuth, although to date I have heard nothing about it's progress.

As I said, this was a great honor and a big surprise. I believe I was nominated by one of the members of our post. Thank you all for your support.

Submitted by CDR Draper

What do you call kids/children in the military? Infantry.



Scott Nichols emcees the Luncheon



Patrick McDevitt Receives Patriot Partner Award

Post 46 Annual Christmas Luncheon

Commander Draper fell victim to COVID so he was not able to attend nor emcee the Luncheon this year at Weber's. The Post thanks Scott Nichols for stepping up on very short notice to stand in for CDR Draper. Several attendees remarked that the food was very good again this year and the waitstaff was excellent. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves as they conversed with each other. Jennifer Lamb from Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency was the keynote speaker. She spoke about her journey through the military and transition into civilian life and her new career with MVAA. By the way, both her and her husband became members of our post just a few days before the event. As with previous years we also collected cash donations for Toys for Tots. This year we will be presenting checks for a total of \$1347 which includes a Post 46 matching check. Thanks to all who contributed. It's a very worthy cause

Two out of five awards were presented that afternoon. Adjutant Glen Johnston received the Officer of the Year award for all his efforts getting the membership records and filings up to date and flowing effortlessly. The other award went to Patrick McDevitt. Patrick is the owner of Mancino's Pizza and Grinders. They are the ones that we purchase the grinders from for our monthly meetings. Patrick is a veteran Marine who always gives us a discount on our purchases and has gone above and beyond in his quality of service to us. He received our Patriot Partner Award, new award for this year. As a nice surprise he brought his transfer form to the Luncheon to start the process to transfer his membership from Saline to our post. The other awards were for Veteran of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, and Always There Award. Two of these awards have not been presented yet, so we will not mention their names at this time. The Always There Award was presented to Bob Kurtz at a VRC open house. Bob has been present at many of our events and gatherings without having to be invited and has volunteered with selflessness and without complaints all the while not being in the best of health. He is the definition of a volunteer.

Member Spotlight

Past Commander Steve Duncan



U.S. Army

I moved from Paducah, Kentucky to Michigan in April of 1965 and started working for Ford Motor in Ypsilanti, Michigan. In June of 1965 I received my draft notice, so I moved back to Paducah to answer my draft and report to the Army. I spent my basic training in Fort Knox, Kentucky with the Armor Recon 11D from August to October of 1965. After Basic, I was originally assigned to the 2nd Div DMZ patrol in South Korea. I was then reassigned to the 7th Division HQG-G3 Maps/Driver. I was sent TDY to South Vietnam where I served from March to August of 1966 on classified missions. I returned to South Korea's 7th Division HQG-3 from August to December of 1966. After a thirty day leave I reported to my new assignment at Fort Carson, Colorado where I served from January to June of 1967 at the 5th Division HQ 53 as a clerk. I was discharged in June of 1967.

SALUTING OUR MEMBERS



Member Birthdays

<u>Name</u>	<u>BDay</u>
Derek Blumke	Jan 05
Donald Cain	Jan 07
Don Eschelbach	Jan 08
Jacob Wright	Jan 10
Jeff Harvey Sr.	Jan 14
Joe Cobos	Jan 17
Dave Draper	Jan 19
Don Miller	Jan 22
Elmer White	Jan 23
Chris Campbell	Jan 26
Christopher Roe	Feb 03
Stan Platsis	Feb 04
Mike Cook	Feb 04
Eugene Smith Jr.	Feb 04
Harry Krass	Feb 07
Steven Gulick	Feb 10
Dale Peterson	Feb 10
Alan Owens	Feb 14
Anthony Derezinski	Feb 17
Leon Winkelman	Feb 23
Doug Viland	Feb 25
Richard Tejan	Mar 01
Bruce Lowry	Mar 01
Jake Li	Mar 08
Wilbur Bigelow	Mar 18
Donald Hakbarth	Mar 18
George Hudson	Mar 19
Zander Christiansen	Mar 19
Bob Bull	Mar 20
James Crosby	Mar 22
William Bryan	Mar 22
Dale Hammar	Mar 28

Membership Milestones

<u>Member</u>	<u>Years</u>
Roger Losey	60 Yrs
Darwin Woods	60 Yrs
Bill Estep	30 Yrs
Laural Burkel	20 Yrs
John Kinzinger	10 Yrs
Robert Ongaro	10 Yrs
Robert White	10 Yrs



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Purple Run for Safe House

On October 9 the University of Michigan Police, the Ann Arbor Police, and Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office sponsored the 7th annual Purple Run which benefits Safe House Center. It was a 5K run/ walk to raise money to support Safe House. Safe House is a safe haven for battered and abused women. Our post donated \$1,000 toward the cause. Two of our members, Scott Nichols and Mark Lindke (and wife) manned a Post table for the event.



Liberty Tree Dedication

I was invited to a dedication of a Liberty Tree by the Sons of The American Revolution. The event happened at the Veterans Memorial Park in Ann Arbor on October 2. An English Elm tree was planted before the ceremony. It was unique to see the Honor Guard in their Civil War regalia. The history was explained in their event program: "The original tree was planted in 1646, just 16 years after Boston's founding. The tree was almost 120 years old in March 1765, when the British Parliament passed the Stamp Act. The tree's potency as site and symbol grew. Protesters posted calls to action on its trunk. Towns in New England and beyond named their own liberty trees: Providence and Newport, Rhode Island; Norwich, Connecticut; Annapolis Maryland; Charleston, South Carolina. Paul Revere included the Liberty Tree, effigy and all, in his engraved political cartoon about the events of 1765." Thomas Jefferson did the most to make the Liberty Tree a lasting metaphor, with his 1787 letter that declared, "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and Tyrants." **Contributed by Commander Dave Draper**



Go to <https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net> for this info



Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

How to connect with a responder

<p>Call</p> <p>1-800-273-8255 and Press 1</p>	<p>Chat</p> <p>Connect online https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/get-help/chat</p>
<p>Text</p> <p>838255</p>	<p>Support for deaf and hard of hearing</p> <p>1-800-799-4889</p>

This free support is confidential, available 24/7 and serves all Veterans, all Service Members, National Guard and Reserve, their Family Members and Friends.




U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Shannon VA Health Care System

IT TAKES THE COURAGE AND STRENGTH OF A WARRIOR TO ASK FOR HELP.....

If you're in an emotional crisis call 1-800-273-TALK Press 1 for Veterans

www.usicidpreventioncenter.org

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Preaching To The Choir

Inspiring Words from Chaplain Bob Bull



How many times have you wondered what you are meant to do with your life, why you are here? I think that we have all gone through this at some time in our lives. And, there is nothing wrong with this. We are all searching to find our place in the GRAND Plan of Our LORD. We all want to be relevant, to matter.

Think back when you were deciding: to go to college, to get a job, to run away from home, to enlist or answer your draft notice. At the time you didn't know that any of these decisions would be life-makers.

Did you hear the wee-small voice?

When we were born the Holy Spirit app was given to us, sort of embedded. On the day we were born **again** (in Christ) the app was activated. And your first message was “. . . Would you like a chance to pass along the LIGHT of day?”

Did you hear it?

If you haven't heard it, you must believe in the LIGHT. If you don't know the LIGHT, you must ask for the LIGHT. What is the LIGHT? It is JESUS, and He can help you find your direction. Through the Holy Spirit we are guided to work for the GRAND Plan or OUR LORD.

“I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13

The thing you choose is part of God's Plan, if you listen to that wee-small voice.

**What do you call a large formation of MAC aircraft with paratroopers aboard?
A Big Mac attack!**

This Quarter's Accomplishments

October 2: Sons of the American Revolution dedicated a Liberty Tree at Veterans Memorial Park. CDR Draper was invited to attend by the SAR.

October 7: CDR Draper presented Adjutant Glen Johnston with the Michigan Department Service Officer of the Year award.

October 9: Our post was present at the Purple Run for Safe House. Our post also donated funds at the Silver level.

October 10: The Legion District 2 Meeting was hosted by our post. Five different District entities held meetings at different times during the day.

November 4: Our post approved sponsoring Cub Scout Pack 131, an active Ann Arbor Pack with around 35 kids.

November 6: CDR Draper receives Veteran of the Year Award.

November 11: CDR Draper represented Post 46 at Dexter United Methodist Church on Veterans Day and presented the POW/MIA ceremony.

December 4: We held our annual Christmas Luncheon at Weber's Inn and presented awards.

Post 46 Service Officer Receives Service Officer of the Year Award

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.



At the Department of Michigan Annual Fall Conference at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, Michigan, Commander Draper accepted, on behalf of our Adjutant & Service Officer, Glen Johnston, the Service Officer of the Year Award. Commander then presented Glen with the award at the October monthly member meeting. Our post is proud of Glen's accomplishment.

Erwin Prieskorn

American Legion Post 46

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