



## Commander's Corner



Whew!! Where did 2021 go. It seems like I blinked in January of last year and I was transported to 2022. Let's all pray that this year will finally put COVID in a class with the common cold! Myself and several of our members and their families were victims of this virus. Symptoms ranged all across the board from mild to severe. Let's pray it's on its way out.

We did a lot of great things in 2021 even with COVID. I'm praying that things will get back to normal so we can do more for our veterans and our local community.

This year is off to a great start as we've already associated ourselves with a local Cub Scout Pack, we, along with other veteran organizations, sponsored an apartment for formerly homeless veterans in Dexter, we held another food drive, we co-sponsored another Open House. All that in just the first quarter. We are in the process of planning for our post's 100th anniversary which will occur next year. Part of that planning is coming up with an anniversary challenge coin. I'm happy to say that one of our new members is helping with the design and ultimately its production.

Coming up in the next quarter we will be honoring ROTC cadets and midshipmen at the annual U of M event. We are also in the planning stage for participating in the Independence Day Parade. Our Cub Scouts have already been participating, and now I'm excited that we will be participating too. I'm not sure how long it's been since we've done that. The VRC will be hosting a Flag Day event which we plan on attending and supporting. We are also in the process of investigating starting a Sons of American Legion (SAL). If you have a son or grandson or you are the son or grandson of a veteran, you are eligible to join. The SAL would be associated with our post. Contact me if you'd like to join.

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## Welcome Cub Scout Pack 131

The Erwin Prieskorn American Legion Post 46 sponsored the Crossroads Council Cub Scout Pack 131 at the beginning of the 2022 year. The American Legion has supported Scouting since 1919 and when presented the opportunity to support our local youth, Post 46 stepped up to the plate. As the Chartering Organization for Cub Pack 131, we provide a local meeting place for over 40 young men and women from First Grade to Fifth grade as they work with their parents on Citizenship, Leadership, Physical Fitness, Environmental Awareness, and Spiritual Growth.

Since starting our relationship with Pack 131, the Post has already hosted numerous meetings including an event where our Vice Commander, Elmer White, was able to sit down with a group of Cubs and discuss his work as a Veteran. The Post also was able to host the Pack Blue and Gold Banquet where the Pack Charter was presented to the Post Commander, Dave Draper, and Executive Committee Member Karl Edelmann during a fire bowl presentation of Rank Advancement and other major awards as well as skits and family activities.

If anyone is interested in helping with Youth Development and the Pack, they are always looking for Committee Members as well as Leaders. Contact Karl Edelmann ([karljedelmannmd@msn.com](mailto:karljedelmannmd@msn.com)) to find out more.

**Contributed by Karl Edelmann**



Cub Scout Pack 131 is a diverse, inclusive, non-denominational Pack that meets at the American Legion Post 46 in Ann Arbor. Although we recruit from Lawton and Dicken elementary schools, we welcome students from all schools as well as homeschoolers. Our goal is to provide positive, character-building experiences which youths might not ordinarily have. We are guided by the principles of the Scout Oath and the Scout Law, and our motto is "Do your best."

The Pack is structured with various levels of leadership. The Cubmaster leads all Pack activities, such as Pack meetings and campouts. The Den Leaders run their own Den meetings with age-specific activities required for advancement. The Pack Committee works behind the scenes on planning, finance and other administration. The "Key Three" leaders of our Pack are the Cubmaster, the Committee Chair and the Charter Organization Representative (COR).

Pack 131 has thrived for over 50 years, contributing to the Ann Arbor community through service projects, fund raising, and helping to shape the youth participating in our program. In 2018 we welcomed our first female Cub Scout and we hope to continue to expand our female membership.

**Contributed by Chris Gilbert**



***"The object of war is not to die for your country but to make the other bastard die for his." -- Gen. George S. Patton***

### The Challenge Coin— One Version of It's Origination

A well-known story about the emergence of the challenge coin dates back to the First World War. At that time, a rich officer gave his men bronze medallions featuring the insignia of their flying squadron. Not long after that, a young flying ace was shot down and captured.

Germans are said to have removed everything from the ace's person except for a pouch he was wearing -- one that held his medallion. After he escaped to France, he was sentenced to die, as the French labeled him a spy. However, the ace presented his medallion as proof of his identity.

Because one of the French soldiers recognized the insignia, France delayed the ace's execution. After his identity was confirmed, the ace was returned to his flying unit.

Later, holes were drilled in these types of medallions so that military men could place them around the neck rather than inside leather pouches.

## Member Spotlight



### Robert Biggs Sergeant, U.S. Army

1968- 1970

Robert (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 it quickly. Upon completion of the final phases of radio operations and repair, he was assigned to 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, 10<sup>th</sup> 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 to maintain one of their many data centers. He is now enjoying the company of his wife of twenty-six years and his family.

### SALUTING OUR MEMBERS



#### *Upcoming Member Birthdays*

<u>Name</u>	<u>BDay</u>
Andrew Livingston	Apr 01
Doug Harvey	Apr 03
James Lollar	Apr 06
Bill Estep	Apr 15
Jeremy Shaffer	Apr 25
Terrance Reed	Apr 28
Jerry Cooch	Apr 29
Richard Moore Jr	Apr 29
Daniel Zaleski	Apr 30
Bob Shannon	May 04
Chris Salata	May 05
Michael Samar	May 06
Doug Sager	May 08
Larry Swisher	May 15
Richard Gabourie	May 16
Jeffrey Dillon	May 18
Mike Hill	May 20
Steve Cox	May 24
Greta Krapohl	May 24
Angus Burch	Jun 02
Eric Fretz	Jun 06
David Barera	Jun 12
Peter Roopas	Jun 18
Monte Clark	Jun 24
Robert Kehn	Jun 24
James Peters	Jun 27
Gilbert Smith	Jun 27

#### 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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## Wreaths Across America



Each year our post sponsors ten wreaths dedicated to be delivered to [Great Lakes National Cemetery](#) in Holly, Michigan. What better way to keep the memory of our fallen in the forefront than this service. We currently have seven or eight people we try to honor, barring inclement weather and illnesses, by placing a wreath at their gravesite and performing a short ceremony. We place the wreath, step back and say their name, and give them a salute. I thought it would be helpful to tell you a little bit about their beginnings. As you'll see, the American Legion was a part of the ceremonies from close to the beginning. The article below comes from their website.

Morrill Worcester, owner of [Worcester Wreath Company](#) of Harrington, Maine, was a 12 year old paper boy for the Bangor Daily News when he won a trip to Washington, DC. His first trip to our nation's capital was one he would never forget, and Arlington National Cemetery made an especially indelible impression on him. This Experience followed him throughout his life and successful career, reminding him that his good fortune was due, in large part, to the values of this nation and the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

In 1992, Worcester Wreath found themselves with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Remembering his boyhood experience at Arlington, Worcester realized he had an opportunity to honor our country's veterans. With the aid of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older sections of the cemetery that had been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year. As plans were underway, a number of other individuals and organizations stepped up to help. James Prout, owner of local trucking company Blue Bird Ranch, Inc., generously provided transportation all the way to Virginia. Volunteers from the local [American Legion](#) and VFW Posts gathered with members of the community to decorate each wreath with traditional red, hand-tied bows. Members of the Maine State Society of Washington, D.C. helped to organize the wreath-laying. Which included a special ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The annual tribute went on quietly for several years, until 2005, when a photo of the stones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated around the internet. Suddenly, the project received national attention. Thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to help with Arlington, to emulate the Arlington project at their National and State cemeteries, or to simply share their stories and thank Morrill Worcester for honoring our nation's heroes. This iconic image became viral in 2005, inspiring increased national interest in the annual tribute and prompting the formation of Wreaths Across America as a non-profit 501-(c)(3).

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

**DON'T FACE THE VA ALONE**

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**(313) 549-8557**  
[geasterling@michiganlegion.org](mailto:geasterling@michiganlegion.org)

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

# Preaching To The Choir

Words from Chaplain Bob Bull

Too many times we are caught up in our everyday lives. There is so much going on with our kids, work, relationships, and our volunteering to stop and smell the flowers. Here is a flower that you should always stop and smell.

## FORGET-ME-NOTS

Forget-me-not,  
When you're lost in thought,  
As you make it through your day.

Forget-me-not,  
I am one who fought,  
And was scarred along the way.

Forget-me-not,  
For the freedom brought,  
With the lives one can't repay.

Forget-me-not,  
When your child is taught,  
To remember yesterday.

Forget-me-not,  
When the day is hot,  
And you bend your knees to pray.

Forget-me-not,  
Yes, I heard the shot,  
But I did not run away.

Forget-me-not,  
I am a patriot,  
And I need your help today.

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET OUR  
DISABLED VETERANS**



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**My friend kept asking what my military rank was, but I kept telling him it's Private.**

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## This Quarter's Accomplishments



**January 6:** Post 46 sponsored a new apartment for homeless veterans in Dexter

**January 6:** Began the process of chartering Cub Scout Pack 131

**February 3:** Began preparing for our Post's 100th anniversary in 2023

**March 3:** Presented the final installment check for construction of the Ann Arbor Fisher House

**March 19:** Held another food drive

**March 26:** Co-sponsored another VRC Open House

## Post 46 Makes Final Commitment Payment To Fisher House

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 our March 3 meeting Past Commander Oleg Michajlenko and present Commander Dave Draper presented our final check to Fisher House Executive Director Kate Melcher and Director BG Katherine White. General White is also a member of our Post. Five years ago our Post made a commitment to donate \$100,000 over a five year period for the construction of the new Ann Arbor Fisher House.

Erwin Prieskorn

American Legion Post 46

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