

Commander's Corner



In May we held our elections and only one officer position changed. Elmer White will be replaced by Scott Nichols as Vice Commander. We thank Mr. White for his years of service both as Vice Commander, and before that as our post Adjutant. Scott is a relatively new member, a transferee from Bath, Michigan. He is also on the Membership Committee with Department. We welcome him as Vice Commander and look forward to working with him to keep our membership growing and developing new tools for recruitment. He will also fill in for me when I have other commitments which conflict with our monthly meetings, which is usually only once or twice a year.

We continue to gain strength as a post. Our membership numbers continue to rise and we have met our Department 100% membership goal. Our attendance at, and co-sponsorship of the VRC open houses, has contributed to at least four new members. We finished up our Poppy Drive with raising over \$2,000 which will be donated to Warriors and Caregivers United (WACU). WACU helps both the veteran working through PTSD and for the caregiver who provides support. We also recently donated money to Camp Liberty. The camp is reorganized and operating as a 501c(3).

I had the great honor to represent our post at the District 2 Memorial Service. At this event we remember all our members that have passed in the last year. We lost six members just in 2021 alone.

At press time we are preparing to participate in the Ann Arbor parade. As I understand it, this is the first time since the sixties.

So, we keep growing both in helping vets and growing our presence in the local community.

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Dexter Veteran Apartments

Two or three years ago the City of Dexter was petitioned to build some Section 8 housing. As is the case more times than not, it was met with much opposition. Fearing negative consequences the project was dropped. Last year it was resurrected in a partnership with Avalon Housing and Faith In Action, and the contractors broke ground. Located on Dan Hoey Road in Dexter, the property contains five buildings with a total of 24 apartments. One of the buildings contains offices for both Avalon and FIA, a laundry area, and Faith In Action's food pantry. There will be a social worker assigned there every day. One of the buildings (six apartments) is dedicated to veterans. Homeless veterans will be selected and assisted through the HUD-VASH program personnel at the LTC Charles S Kettles VA Medical Center.

Organizations and private donors are sponsoring one each of the apartments, our Post being one of those. They are committed to furnish the one bedroom apartments with furniture and kitchenware. Faith In Action is providing couches, mattresses, curtains, and bedding. Through grants, TVs and outdoor chairs are also being provided. Don Miller, Brian Bahay, Meni Draper, and I spent a day placing the furniture and kitchenware, assembling the outdoor deck chairs, kitchen table, and dresser. Our furniture was stored at Pirates Cove Storage while we waited to hear when we would be able to move it in. Fortunately for us, and a couple of other organizations, a moving company was hired by one of the donors. With our sponsored apartment being on the second floor, us "old fogies" didn't have to worry about carrying anything up the stairs. On May 19 I presented Pirates Cove with a Certificate of Appreciation for their great service and discounted rental.

Other organizations that sponsored an apartment were Ann Arbor Charles S Kettles VVA Chapter 310, Ann Arbor VFW Post 423, Dexter Ladies Auxiliary of American Legion Post 557, Jim & Jane Dempsey, and Roger & Chris Gatward.

How do you play Air Force Bingo? "A-10... B-52... F-16!"



District 2 Memorial Service

Each year (with the exception of the past three years) District 2 of Department of Michigan presents a memorial service for all the Legion members who have passed over the last year. Each post within the district sends in their list of deceased members and the names are called out during the service as each Commander lights a single candle in their remembrance. Also, if the post has them, the associated Auxiliary President presents a carnation and the SAL Commander presents a poppy. This year it was my honor to memorialize three years' worth of deceased veterans— a total of 31 veterans from our post.

Active-duty military personnel were also there from each of the five branches of service (the Air Force represented the new Space Force as well as the Air Force). Each representative came forward to give their respective branch of service's creed and then they lit a candle for their respective branch of service.

It was a great service recognizing our fallen heroes.

Member Spotlight



Elmer White Captain, U.S. Air Force

1964- 1972

Elmer with his daughter.
Years later she married a U.S. Army career officer.

Elmer White, at this writing, is Vice Commander and was Adjutant of Post 46 before that. He was also past Department Judge Advocate.

He was commissioned Air Force ROTC and granted a delay of active duty to attend the University of Michigan Law School. From 1964 to 1967 he was active duty Judge Advocate, 4245th Strategic Wing (SAC) in Texas during the Vietnam era, followed by service in the U.S. Air Force Reserves from 1968 to 1972. Elmer served 20 years as a Michigan Assistant Attorney General and has practiced law for more than 50 years.

Staples Center Reopens

On June 7 the former Staples Family Center, after renovations, was opened and dedicated as The Ken & Marianna Staples Veterans' Hope House. The building, located on Packard Rd near US-23, has four pods which can house four homeless veterans each for a current total of sixteen beds. The ceremony began with a flag raising and taps provided by the Veterans Honor Guard of Washtenaw County. Several Salvation Army officers gave speeches followed by Mr. and Mrs Staples closing out the ceremony with words of encouragement. These were followed by tours of the facilities. Future plans are to expand as donations allow.



SALUTING OUR MEMBERS



<u>Name</u>	<u>BDay</u>
Bob Brown	Jul 03
William Yek	Jul 04
Oleg Michajlenko	Jul 06
Thomas Preston	Jul 07
Joel Murray	Jul 10
Robert Ongaro	Jul 12
Brian Williams	Jul 14
Monte Seeger	Jul 18
Robert Biggs	Jul 20
John Devine	Jul 21
John Kinzinger	Jul 21
Chris Malley	Jul 21
Clifford Morris	Jul 28
Scott Nichols	Jul 28
Joe Palazzolo	Jul 30
Warren Fisher	Aug 08
Paulo Pereira	Aug 09
Steve Duncan	Aug 10
Horace Frazier	Aug 12
Kenneth Motley	Aug 13
Dean Greb	Aug 13
Tom Warner	Aug 15
William Lipton	Aug 16
Terry Tison	Aug 19
Robert Harvey	Aug 23
Laurel Burkel	Aug 23
Joseph Elekonich	Aug 28
Robert Kurtz	Sep 01
James Mattke	Sep 02
Budd Frye	Sep 03
Margaret Gersh	Sep 03
Glen Johnston	Sep 10
Marke Lindke	Sep 11
David Dobritt	Sep 11
Dale Throneberry	Sep 15
James Harper	Sep 16
Roger Losey	Sep 19
Mark Kolander	Sep 19
Ulysses Grisham	Sep 23
Jeffery Lamb	Sep 24
Michael Ruedisale	Sep 27
Robert Warner	Sept 29

Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial

Royal Oak



A new WWII memorial, named Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial is being constructed at 31100 Woodward Ave. in Royal Oak. The Memorial gives individuals and organizations a way to personally honor the memory of loved ones who made great sacrifices in the war effort whether through service in the military or in sacrifice and dedication to the war effort at home. Not only does this bring honor to those who served but also stands as a legacy to inspire future generations. The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial will provide a place for future generations to gather, remember, and be inspired to live as responsible citizens.

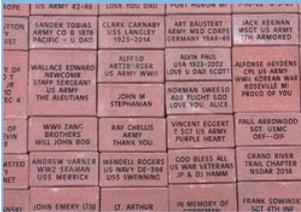


On April 7, hundreds of community members — including 20 regional World War II veterans and original Rosie the Riveters — gathered for the groundbreaking ceremony at Memorial Park, located near 13 Mile Road and Woodward Avenue, in Royal Oak.

Volunteers working with Honor Flight Michigan, which flew World War II veterans to visit the national World War II Memorial at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., from 2007 to 2010, conceived the idea for the memorial in 2011

The proposed budget of the memorial is \$3 million, and it will honor the 620,000 Michigan residents who served in the armed forces and on the homefront during World War II, as well as the 15,458 service members who lost their lives, officials said.

The Walk of Honor creates a lasting tribute to those who served, whether at home or on the war front. Consisting of engraved bricks donated by families and organizations, the walkway tells the story of those whose lives made a difference. Pavers honor veterans from any war as well as civilians and organizations. The honoree does not have to be a Michigan resident.



The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial Wall of Stars will honor the 15,458 Michigan lives lost during WWII. With a total of 1,300 stars, each star will represent approximately 11 of these heroes. The Wall of Stars is at the memorial's entrance, providing a dramatic backdrop to the statue scenes. The gold star has deep meaning, as families would hang service banners in their windows with a blue star, signifying a family member serving in the Armed Forces. Gold star banners represented family members who died in Military Operations. The display is 10' high by 50' wide and will be a poignant place to honor the sacrifice of so many.



Get more information by clicking [HERE](https://michiganww2memorial.org/) or copy and paste <https://michiganww2memorial.org/>

MICHIGAN WAR DOG MUSEUM

Milford, Michigan



A few years ago Commander Draper visited the Michigan War Dog Memorial located in Milford, just outside South Lyon. While there the president of the Memorial, Phil Weitlauf, approached him and gave him and his wife a tour. Below is his story of its beginning which he wrote in 2018. If you have a dog or know of veterans who worked with dogs its worth the trip out there if you get the chance. Their website is www.mwdm.org.



“On a sunny and cool day in early spring 2010 my trusted companion, Cody, a German Shepherd, and I went to investigate an abandoned pet cemetery that had a large monument honoring War Dogs that we were told about. As we approached the area all we saw was a heavily wooded site at the corner of 11 Mile and Milford Rd. We parked the car and set out on foot and sure enough there was the big monument in the middle of the cemetery. As we looked around we could see many flat headstones through the brush and knee high grass. As we stood there for a while we thought what a disgrace to allow this pet cemetery, with somebody’s loving companion, become in such a shape. Over the next few weeks we did some research and found the pet cemetery was established in 1936 and was abandoned in 1985.

Preaching To The Choir

Words from Chaplain Bob Bull

"He Comes Bearing Gifts"

The warm weather is finally here. Most everyone is going out to see friends and family, finally.

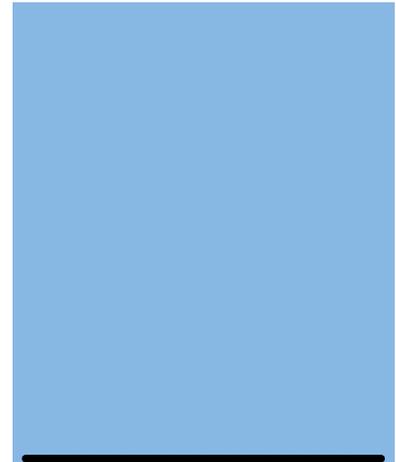
Graduations and weddings abound, with thoughts of celebrations and giving/receiving gifts. There may also be a smattering of birthday parties throughout, bringing more gifts.

But God gives us gifts that don't need a date or time of year to receive.

God's most indescribable is Jesus, and when we meet Him, we find Him holding open the door to the treasure house of Grace. Upon entering the rotunda, we're encircled by golden tables filled with a treasure trove of gifts. Romans 6:23 says "The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Jesus spoke about how our Father in heaven will give good gifts to those who ask Him (Matthew 7:11). He told us that when we come to Him, we receive the gift of The Holy Spirit, who dwells within us (Acts 2:38). Romans 5:17 says we're given the gift of righteousness to reign in life. Furthermore, the Lord gives us spiritual gifts and abilities to use to serve Him (Romans 12:6).

The Bible says, 'Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning: (James 1:17).

Our salvation is an indescribable gift from God, but it's only the doorway to the countless gifts God wants to bestow on us throughout time and eternity. **How rich we are!**



MICHIGAN WAR DOG MUSEUM

(Continued from Page 4)

During that time over 2,150 pets and two military dogs were interred. That is when we decided to form a detail in the attempt to clean up this hallowed ground and bring it back to its former grandeur. As a member of the American Legion and AMVETS (American Veterans) I put out a call to my fellow veterans and K9 supporters and set a date to start the cleanup mission. On that day over 55 volunteers showed up and the cleaning process started."

"In 2012 we changed the name of the site to the Michigan War Dog Memorial and formed a non-profit organization called Michigan War Dog Memorial, Inc. Also we found that there were about 36 War Dog Memorials throughout the United State but only two memorials that offered burials, one in Hartsdale, New York and ours. We knew we had something special. The next step we contacted the Department of Defense and asked the proper procedure to bury a military dog, they didn't have one as it was left up to each unit. So we developed our own as follows: Bag piper, full Color Guard, eight German Shepherds escorting the remains to the table of honor, invocation, reading of the bio, presenting a folded American flag to the handler, Taps, Amazing Grace on the pipes and those eight German Shepherds have been trained to howl on command called a ""K9 Salute to their Fallen Comrade"" and howl for 30 seconds. In 2013 we held our first internment for MWD Buddy with full Military Honors. Most of the attendees were in tears and appreciated the honor we gave this K9 hero."

"In 2016 we decided to honor all the Vietnam war dogs that were left behind at the end of that war. Through many phone calls we were able to secure all their names and tattoo numbers (tattoo numbers placed in their left ear). With this information we did a fundraiser to secure funds to build a black granite Wall to honor all 4,234 K9's for their sacrifice and service to our country. The Wall was erected in 2017 . As of today we have held internments for 18 K9 Heroes with full honors and we continue improving the site with support from many individuals and corporations. Our mission statement from the beginning was to develop a park setting and maintain that setting, and we will stay on course."



Post 46 Presents Awards At U of M Tri-Service Awards Ceremony

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.



On April 7 our post presented twenty-seven individual Legion ROTC awards at the University of Michigan Tri-Service Awards Ceremony. The event took place at the University of Michigan's Rackham Auditorium. Along with ours, many other awards were also presented that night to the Cadets and Midshipmen in attendance. The awards presented by our post were for their scholastic and military excellence.

Erwin Prieskorn

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