



## Commander's Corner



Can you believe it, Fall is almost here. Seems like just yesterday we were starting to don our sweaters and jackets as we left for work or our day's activities. Most reports I've seen predict that this winter will be heavy with snow. Well, I guess that's just the "nature" of things.

As is usually the case, this past quarter was part of our busiest time of the year. As you will read in this edition, we've received awards, attended many events, and for the first time in many years we participated in a parade in Ann Arbor.

I have been busy trying to spread the word, around the county and especially Ann Arbor, that our post is alive and well. I started placing the magnetic signs on my truck from our July 4 parade as advertisement. I've had several vets approach me after they saw the signs. Two of the veterans took our brochure (which I always carry in my truck) and has a membership application in it. We'll see if we get any additional members.

Next year in September Post 46 will be celebrating our 100th anniversary. The planning committee has been hard at work trying to make it a memorable event. We plan to have easels with historic pictures around the post. We will be giving short glimpses into that history in the Prieskorn Press newsletter over the next few issues. We hope you will enjoy them.

Enjoy what's left of the warmer weather, thank you for your service, and WELCOME HOME!

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## New Free Legal Services



A new partnership between the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) and the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) will mean free legal representation for Michigan veterans and their families in appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

"Michigan veterans will now have access to an unprecedented level of representation by a national legal team who will defend their rights at the highest legal levels, to ensure fairness in the disability benefit arena," said Zaneta Adams, director of the [MVAA](#), which serves as the central coordinating agency for Michigan's 550,000-plus veterans.

"In addition," Adams said, "our veteran advocates will capitalize on NVLSP's extensive training and professional development portfolio as we continue to serve Michigan veterans and their families, now and in the future."

[NVLSP](#) is a national nonprofit organization that works to ensure the government delivers to America's 22 million veterans and active-duty personnel the benefits to which they are entitled because of disabilities resulting from their military service to our country.

"We are delighted to partner with the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and we look forward to leveraging our shared knowledge to help Michigan veterans and their families access the benefits to which they are entitled," said NVLSP Executive Director Paul Wright.

When disability claims are denied by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), veterans have the right to appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). The CAVC provides veterans an impartial judicial forum for review of administrative decisions by the Board of Veterans' Appeals that are adverse to the veteran's claim of entitlement to benefits for service-connected disabilities, survivor benefits and other benefits such as education payments and waiver of indebtedness.

Through the new partnership, NVLSP will provide free legal representation in support of appeals cases. This process begins when NVLSP reviews a case in which a veteran's appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA), the highest authority within the VA, is denied and determines there are grounds for an appeal to the CAVC. When this is the case, NVLSP offers to represent the veteran or the veteran's family at no cost. The partnership between the MVAA and NVLSP makes this free legal service available to veterans in Michigan for the first time.

In addition to NVLSP's assistance to veterans with claims appeals, NVLSP will also assist Michigan veterans with discharge upgrades, which will help veterans access benefits they may be wrongfully denied due to a less than honorable discharge.

## Member Spotlight



### Paulo Pereira First Lieutenant U.S. Army

1967- 1970

Before I went to the Army I was working as a Portuguese language teacher at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. After receiving my draft notice I reported for Basic Training at Fort Gordon, Georgia in February of 1967. I then went for advanced training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, then I went to Fort Sill for Communications Officer's Training. From there to Fort Benning, Georgia for Airborne training.

As an enlisted man, I specialized in chemical nuclear and biological warfare. As an officer I was specialized in communications in an artillery battalion. My duties took me to Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. While in Vietnam I was stationed in Ling Binh, Saigon, and An Khe.

After I separated from the service in April of 1970 I worked for Bank of America, as an interpreter in Central and South America, and worked as a word processing operator and translator. I currently just received my doctorate with an EdD from Northcentral University and hope to teach online.

## VetFest 2022



On July 23 VCAT9 and Washtenaw Community College co-sponsored a VetFest event at the college. Forty one veteran agencies and organizations participated to assist veterans in any way possible. Our post placed a tent as a participant at the event and spoke with many veterans and veteran family members. We were able to refer several veterans to proper agencies for the particular help they were looking for. We were also fortunate to sign up an additional four members thanks member Scott Nichols. The Commander was able to get information for a possible fifth new member.

The event had activities for the many children who came out including a bouncy house and beanbag toss. The sponsors held drawings toward the end of the event where several prizes were awarded. And, there was lots of donuts, hot dogs, chips, cookies, and popcorn for consumption.

Many thanks to Eric Fretz and Bob Bull for organizing most of the event. A big thank you to WCC for providing the grounds and many of the prizes. Most people who attended thought the event was a big success.

## SALUTING OUR MEMBERS



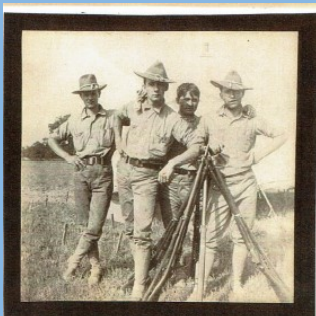
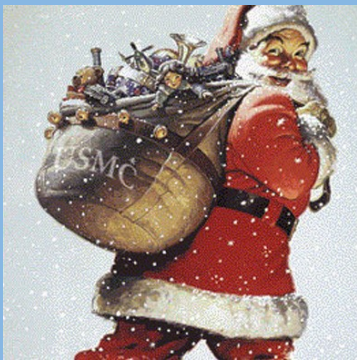
<u>Name</u>	<u>BDay</u>
Thaddeus Borys	Oct 01
Donald Proctor	Oct 03
Thomas Butler Jr.	Oct 09
Charles Gray	Oct 12
Jack Erwin	Oct 14
Gerhard Liebegott	Oct 22
William Nuber	Oct 25
Douglas Woolley	Nov 03
Tony Keezer	Nov 10
Richard Larson	Nov 11
Jennifer Lamb	Nov 20
David Blum	Nov 28
Ralph Easter	Dec 16
Ralph Henry	Dec 18
Michael Steffen	Dec 21
Robert McFarland	Dec 22
Darwin Woods	Dec 23
Karl Edelmann	Dec 23

### 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



## Toys for Tots A Short History



As we are about to celebrate Christmas and donating to Toys for Tots, I thought it might be nice to research the history of T4T. I found this online and found it to be interesting. I hope you will also.

Toys for Tots began in 1947 as the brain child of Marine Corps Reserve Major Bill Hendricks. Actually it was his wife, Diane, who was the real inspiration. She had a few handcrafted dolls and asked Bill to deliver them to an agency that supports children in need.

When Bill reported back to his wife that he could not find such an organization, she instructed him to "start one!". Maj Hendricks and the Marines in his reserve unit in LA collected and distributed 5,000 toys in 1947.

Seeing such successful community engagement in 1947, the Commandant directed all Marine Reserve Sites to implement a TFT campaign transforming it into a national community action program in 1948.

Bill Hendrick's civilian job was Director of Public Relations at Warner Brothers Studios. He was friends with many celebrities who he asked to help support the newly created Marine Toys for Tots Program. As a personal friend and as a favor to Bill, Walt Disney designed the first Toys for Tots poster which included a miniature three-car train that was subsequently adopted as the Toys for Tots logo.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, an IRS recognized 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit charity, was established in 1991 at the behest of the Marine Corps to help run and support the Marine Toys for Tots Program.

The Foundation raises funds, purchases toys, provides promotional and support materials, manages all funds raised and donated, solicits corporate support, educates the public, and handles day-to-day operations.

Presently, the Marine Toys for Tots Program distributes an average of 18 million toys to 7 million less fortunate children annually.

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## Post 46

### [A Look Back](#)

As we draw closer to our post's 100th anniversary next year we will be bringing you short glimpses into our post history. To my understanding the post was initially formed in 1919 but was officially chartered in September of 1923. This edition of the Prieskorn Press will focus on our post's namesake Erwin Prieskorn. After World War I, American Legion Post 46 added the name Erwin Prieskorn owing to his being an early Ann Arbor casualty of WWI. His nephew, Robert Prieskorn, was a member until recently.

<sup>1</sup> Corporal Erwin Ottmer Prieskorn was attached to Company E, 126th Infantry Regiment, 63 Brigade, 32nd Division. On January 24th, 1918 the advance party of the 32nd Division arrived at Brest, France. From May to November, 1918 they were six months under fire, with only ten days in a rest area. They fought on five fronts in three major offensives— the Aisne-Marne, Oise-Aisne, and Meuse-Argonne. It was on the Juvigny front (east of Soissons) during the second of these offensives that Erwin received severe shrapnel wounds while on patrol around August 28, 1918. He passed away in a military hospital some 29 days later to be buried in a National Cemetery in France.

<sup>1</sup>[Erwin Prieskorn & The Red Arrow Division](#)

## Preaching To The Choir

### Comforting Words for Veterans

Hard days at work or at home can spring upon you without much warning. These difficult times can impact your well-being in mental, emotional, and physical ways, and often-times make you feel too weak to face what life is throwing at you today. But God already knows that you are strong enough to take on any obstacle no matter the size or weight, and these prayers for strength will give you the courage you may need to remember just how resilient you are.

Sometimes it can be easier to give in to the overwhelming swirl of thoughts and emotions that tend to arise when you are struggling in any situation. But seeking guidance through faith is one avenue to explore that may also provide you with a sense of comfort and peace. Of course, there is no "right way" on the path towards healing, but tuning in with your faith through prayer can offer a quiet sanctuary where you can find strength when you may be feeling your weakest. These prayers about strength will empower you so that you can make it through the hardest days. And if you have a family member or friend who is struggling, you can share one of these prayers with them to send a little (or a lot of) strength their way.

By Elizabeth Berry and Morin Bishop

#### A closing prayer for each of you:

Dear God, please give me strength when I am weak, love when I feel forsaken, courage when I am afraid, wisdom when I feel foolish, comfort when I am alone, hope when I feel rejected, and peace when I am in turmoil. Amen



## Gift Cards for VA Ann Arbor



In our ongoing commitment to support the VA and, in turn, our veterans, Ann Arbor Post 46 donated fifty twenty dollar gift cards to Volunteer Services to be used by patients and veteran visitors in need. The cards were from Meijer, Kroger, and Walmart. Shown here are Post 46 Commander Dave Draper, Volunteer Services Chief Kelly Pearse, and Post 46 Vice Commander Scott Nichols.



### SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Buy A Flag from The American Legion

Our flags are 100% made in America

Visit [www.americanlegionflags.com](http://www.americanlegionflags.com)

Or call: (888) 453-4466



DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**



When emotional issues reach a crisis point, contact the Veterans Crisis Line.

## Post 46 Participates In The Ann Arbor July 4 Parade

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.



For the first time in roughly fifty years, our post participated in the Ann Arbor July 4 parade. We had smaller flags to pass out to the children (and some adults) who gleefully accepted them. We had ordered 250 flags and not even half way through the parade the flags completely gone. As we marched along the route we waived and wished everyone a happy fourth. Many of the spectators cheerfully waived back and some thanked us for our service. We even had one person ask for an application for membership. To see more pictures and a few movie clips please click [HERE](#) or copy and paste this link <https://www.flickr.com/photos/164614453@N02/albums/72177720300304002> into your browser.

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Erwin Prieskorn

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
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