



**WALTER T. ROACH AMERICAN LEGION POST 182
165 WEST LINCOLN STREET - HUBBARDSTON, MICHIGAN. 48845
NEWSLETTER NUMBER EIGHTEEN, MAY – JUNE 2004**

Legion Officers

Commander - William Kruger
 Adjutant - Dan Heckman
 Vice Comdr. - Terry Fletcher
 2nd Vice Comdr. - Bud Howard
 Sgt.-At-Arms - Leo McMillan
 Finance Officer - James Barker
 Service Officer - Murdo Wood
 Chaplain - James R. McGinn
 Historian - John Stoddard
 Trustees -Terry Fletcher, Bud Howard, Leo McMillan

Auxiliary Officers

President - Kelly Melton
 1st Vice - Tracey Ewalt
 2nd Vice – Membership - Lezlie Hauck
 Sec.-Treasurer -Tanya Mills
 Chaplain - Agnes Bradbury
 Historian - Joanne Howard
 Sgt.-At-Arms - Kim Brown
 Poppy Chairman - Carolyn Cunningham
 Girl's State Chairman - Sheila Thurston
 Sunshine Chairman - Carol Fitzpatrick

Sons of the American Legion Officers

Comdr. - Kurt White
 Adjutant - Bobby Ward
 1st Vice Comdr. - Neil Speckin
 2nd Vice Comdr. - Brian Stoudt
 Finance Officer - Dave Oistad
 Chaplain - Bill Cunningham
 Historian -Pat White
 Sgt. at Arms - Dale Richards

**Jack Spencer Classic Second Annual
Par 99 One Hole Cross Country Golf**

Forty Two 'would-be' golf champions arrived the morning of March 6, 2004 at Post 182 to register for the second annual Jack Spencer Winter Golf Classic. With the \$15 entry fee, each participant was given a Cooler Cup with Post 182 logo, beer to drink along the course and lunch at the legion following completion of the tourney. Tee off was at Tim Chartrand's farm and the one and a half mile trek to make one hole with the fewest bloopers began. The winner was Donna Schrauben winning the first place prize of \$25. Following lunch two door prizes were given from tickets drawn for a total of \$68. Everyone reported a great time and looking forward to next year's contest. (Tim Chartrand)



A Typical Memorial Day Scene from Post 182

If raising children was going to be easy, it never would have started with something called labor!

Calendar of Coming Events

May 22	SALS Meeting (Important!) Tractor Pull	1:00PM 11:00 AM
May 29	HAHS Annual Dinner St. John the Baptist Parish Hall	11:30-3:00PM
	Karaoke at Post 182	9:00PM
May 30	Decorate Veteran's Graves County Road Band with Lewie McKenna	10:00AM 9:00PM
May 31	East Plains Cemetery Naval Memorial at Bridge Memorial Day Parade Masonic Chicken Dinner Hot Sandwiches Post 182 (from) Tractor Pull (after the parade)	12:00 Noon 12:30PM 1:30 PM 11:00AM 12:00 Noon
June 6 and July 18	Tractor Pulls	
August 8	Annual Chicken BBQ Dinner Dr. John Lattimer "Lindbergh" Tractor Pull	12:00 Noon 3:00PM 11:00AM
Sept. 25-26	Tractor Pulls	11:00 AM
Oct. 3	Sunday Breakfast	8:30-11:00 AM
Oct. 29	Halloween Dance Costume Judging	9:00 PM 10:30 PM
Nov. 7	Sunday Breakfast	8:30-11:00 AM
Nov. 12	Veteran's Day Celebration Buck and Doe Dance	9:00 PM
Dec. 18	Children's Christmas Party	2:00 PM
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Party	9:00 PM

Post Super Bowl Sunday: President Bush called the Patriots and complimented them on a great game. Al Gore called the Panthers and said he thought they were robbed. Bill Clinton called Janet Jackson.

First Annual Post 182 Chili Cook-off

On April 10, 2004 at 2:00PM, the “Challenged Chili-Cooks” presented their “best efforts” and the audience vied for a good look at the results. The judges assembled were: Charlie Cunningham, Leo McMillan, Katie Cashen, Delores Schmitt and Barney Dailey. The winners were: First place – Suzie Root; Second Place – Butch Schrauben. Participants were given mugs and the winners received hand-painted Chili-Bowls with the Legion logo. (Tim Chartrand)

This morning on the Interstate I looked over to my left and there was a woman in a Cadillac doing 65 mph with her face up next to her rear view mirror putting on her eyeliner. A few seconds later when I looked back she was halfway over into my lane, still working on her makeup. As a man I don't scare easily. But she scared me so much I dropped my electric shaver, which knocked the donut out of my other hand. In all the confusion of trying to straighten out the car using my knees against the steering wheel, it knocked my cell phone away from my ear, which fell to the coffee between my legs, splashed and burned Big Jim and the Twins, ruined the damn phone, soaked my trousers and disconnected an important call. Women!

Legion – Auxiliary – Sal Members We Need Your Help For New Windows!!

Extensive Building and remodeling has been done and continues to be done on our post home. The addition to the kitchen, the beautiful bathrooms, enlargement of the bar room with new ceilings and soon new carpeting, will make our post look great! But we desperately need new windows in the bar room. The three large picture windows need to be replaced to keep us energy efficient. We are hoping with the generosity from our members and friends they can be replaced. We have obtained an estimate from our home town hardware of approximately \$1300 for each window. These are insulated and tinted to help preserve our heating, cooling and carpet. We are asking that each window be purchased by or donated in memory of your loved ones. A plaque or frame will be placed above each window with the names of who purchased or donated it.

A committee has been formed of Kelly Melton, Sheila Thurston, Yvonne Boomer and Katie Cashen who are ready to answer any questions that you may have. Please help us complete our project. At the same time be remembered for your generosity or honor your loved ones with a plaque in their names, which will remain in our club for years to come. **Contacts are:**

Kelly Melton 989-584-3790 or
e-mail: tandkmelton@cmsinter.net
Sheila Thurston 989-981-6794 or
email: sdthurston@cmsinter.net
Yvonne Boomer 989-981-6616 or
email: yboomer@cmsinter.net
Katie Cashen 989-981-6724

Break-down cost for groups of 1-10
One Couple or Person would cost - \$1300
Two people- \$650 each; Three people - \$434 each; Four people - \$325 each; Five people- \$260 each;
Six people- \$216 each; Seven people - \$185 each;
Eight - \$162.50 each; Nine people- \$145 each;
Ten people- \$130 each

We are very happy and proud to announce that we already have one ‘picture window’ purchased by Jim and Cherlyn Ward in memory of their loved ones who have passed. Jim and Cherlyn started the Fish Fry Dinners a few years back and it was one very wise move. The dinners continue to be one of our very best fund raisers (along with ‘Lotto’) and a time to gather each Friday evening in Lent for not only a great dinner, but an opportunity to see all of our friends. Thanks Jim and Cherlyn for your fantastic generosity.

A husband sitting quietly watching TV was whacked over the head by his wife. “What’s that for?” he asked. “It was for the piece of paper I found in your pants with Mary Lou written on it,” she replied. “Two weeks ago when I went to the races, Mary Lou was a horse I bet on,” he explained. “Oh honey, I’m so sorry. I should have known there was a good reason,” she said. Three days later while he was watching TV, she walked up and hit him with an iron skillet. When he came to, he said, “Now what was that for?” She replied, “Your horse just called.”

Thanks to Don Kaiser for his gift of \$1000 to the Post 182 Building Fund to be used for new carpeting. Let me add that Don was our life saver during the 2004 season of Fish Fry Dinners. He supplied the “Kitchen Crew” with chips, donned his ‘Maitre-de’ demeanor and seated 500-600 dinner guests from 3:30 PM-7:00 PM every Friday evening for seven weeks. People loved him as we did and we seldom had anyone waiting for a place to be seated. Don is a member of the American Legion Post in Haslett, Michigan. His service life is to be applauded. He was a mechanic on the B-17’s as they flew their missions of annihilation over Germany during World War Two. How fortunate we are to have another “Gentle Giant” among our friends. Thanks Don. You’re one in a million! (Ed)

The happiness of every country depends on the character of its people, rather than the form of government.

Area Children’s Hospitals regularly collect pop and beer can tabs to buy needed equipment. On May 2 Post 182 acquired “**hundreds of pounds**” of tabs, a collection effort for over 6 years. Murdo Wood will find a home for them and profound thanks to **Bob Rademacher for his gift to Post 182.**

Five tips for a woman...

It is important that a man help you around the house.

It is important that a man make you laugh.

It is important to have a man that you can count on and doesn't lie to you.

It is important that a man loves you and spoils you.

It is important that these 4 men do not know each other.

Just a reminder that our "Centenarian," Gerry Boomer is back in town and doing wonderfully well. She was at the Fish Fry Dinner and the May Meeting and looks terrific. Welcome home, Gerry! Enjoy the Michigan sunshine!

As soon as she finished convent school, a bright young girl named Mary shook the dust of Ireland off her shoes and made her way to New York where she became a successful performer in show business. Returning home for a visit, she went to confession in her hometown church. In the confessional, Father Sullivan recognized her and asked about her work. She said she was an acrobatic dancer and would be happy to show him her stage act. She stepped out of the confessional, and as Father Sullivan watched, she went into a series of cartwheels, leaping splits, handsprings and back flips. Kneeling near the confessional were two middle-aged ladies witnessing Mary's acrobatics with wide eyes. And one said to the other, "Jaysus, Mary and Joseph, will you be lookin' at the penance Father Sullivan is givin' out tonight, and me without me bloomers on!"

We have a "Juke Box" available for sale. Takes "45 rpm records." Contact Kelly Melton for details. tandkmelton@cmsinter.net

Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my shape to keep. Please no wrinkles, please no bags, and please lift my butt before it sags. Please no age spots, please no gray. And as for my belly, please take it away. Please keep me healthy. Please keep me young, and thank you dear Lord for all you've done.

Attention Junior Auxiliary Members You are invited to march in the Memorial Day Parade on May 31, 2004 at 1:30PM. Contact Kim Brown at kbrown@pathwaynet.com for details or call her at 584-3571. Wear white tops and blue pants, shorts or skirts.

Most of the shadows of this life are caused by standing in one's own sunshine.

Young lady needed to attend Girls State at Michigan State University the week of June 20-27.th Learn about your country and how you can make a difference. Contact Sheila Thurston at sthurston@cmsinter.net or 989-981-6794 as soon as possible. Reservations are to be made soon.

A Time to Remember

Memorial Day is always a time to remember those heroes who sacrificed for us and loved ones no longer with us to share good times. But this year, we are again at war, even if victory has been declared. Our young men are dying every day and we must never forget what the 'battlefield' requires. Remember especially those young men this year as we salute all of our veterans.

Memorial Weekend in Hubbardston

There are activities planned for the entire weekend, thanks to a hard-working and creative year-round committee with **Kelly Melton and Jane Newman, Jamie Upton, Maureen Campbell, Tammy Burns, Carolyn Cunningham and Tammy Cusack.**

The Carnival will be in town for the whole weekend. There are Softball Tournaments all day Saturday and Sunday, Hubbardston Area Historical Society Social (open to the public) on Saturday from 11:30-3:00 (Irish Stew by donation only), The Hubbardston Irish Dancers perform at 1:30PM and a repeat of the Fantastic Light Parade on Saturday evening at 9:00 PM (at dark) honoring all of the present Iraqi servicemen. Decoration of veterans graves by Post 182 Legion, Auxiliary and SALS on Sunday starting at 10:00 AM. And the softball tournaments continue all day. Monday is the big day with a 5K race Monday morning, street vendors all day, Chicken Dinner at the Masonic Hall from 11:00, SALS Hot Sandwiches at Post 182 from 12:00 noon, and Irish Dancers before the parade. Post 182 performs a Memorial Salute at East Plains Cemetery at noon and Naval Tribute at 12:30 at the Hubbardston Bridge. The "Big Parade" is at 1:30 and an opportunity for old friends to visit and enjoy the rest of the day or watch Tractor Pulls. So many people are involved throughout the year making this weekend a "special event" for everyone to enjoy! We thank every one of you who make us proud of our town and our heritage.

On May 22 at 1:00PM the SALS have an IMPORTANT Meeting at Post 182. Memorial Day final plans, volunteers and work projects will be discussed and finalized. SALS are encouraged to participate in the Veteran's salute at the area cemeteries on Sunday May 30 at 10:00AM as well as the Memorial Day Parade at 1:30 on Monday. **Plan to attend.**

The trouble with stretching the truth is that it's apt to snap back.

If silence is golden, not too many people can be arrested for hoarding.

The best antique is an old friend.

Special thanks to Doug Cusack and his friend Mr. Schrauben for bringing in the “third” fryer for our Fish Fry Dinners, and literally ‘saving the day’ for us. There is no way we could have coped with crowds of that size without your very kind offer and your faithful service each Friday night. So many thanks to you from all of us at Post 182.

Thanks to a Mighty Fine Fish Fry Crew-Again!!!

The seven Fridays of Lent this year were even more successful than the previous years. Hard to believe that could happen, but 400-600 people came out for dinners each Friday afternoon. Thanks to the beautiful renovations on the club, we had “ROOM” and we used every inch of it. The bathrooms are a splendor in themselves and our customers enjoyed all of the amenities. But the Fish Dinner at Post 182 is without comparison – anywhere! Just ask our weekly guests. Compliments abound. The reason: Great food, wonderful people handling the situation in complete precision and a beautifully clean restaurant and bar area thanks to Terry and Mary Fletcher especially, but the whole crew in general. The Fletchers, the Schmitts, Howards, Kleins, Strachans, McMillans, Cusacks, Schraubens, Heckmans, Cooks, Kaisers, Krugers, the SALS, the Judys, all of the ladies who baked from 1-7 cakes every week (for 7 weeks) and especially our special friend, Ella Robinson. For the first dinner she brought in “7” scrumptious ‘fresh fruit’ cheesecakes. They disappeared as fast as I could cut them. She had surgery the second week on her shoulder and brought in a ‘celebration’ sized cake each week anyway. We truly appreciate you Ella as we do all of our faithful and hard-working crew. There are no easy jobs with crowds like that and there are no free minutes. But it’s still fun when it turns out so well! So many thanks to our regular customers and to the contractors who finished the renovation so we could have the space to do a better job. Now we can outfit that new kitchen space with the extra funds. Whoever would have guessed that ‘Fish’ and ‘Lotto’ would turn out so well for us!

A blond suspects her boyfriend is cheating on her so she goes out and buys a gun. She goes to his apartment unexpectedly and finds him in the arms of a redhead. She is so angry, she opens her purse to get the gun, but is overcome with grief. She takes the gun and puts it to her head. The boyfriend yells, “No, honey, don’t do it.” The blonde replies, “Shut up. You’re next!”

**Captain Kangaroo and Mr. Rogers
Due A Memorial Day Veterans Tribute?**

Who would have guessed? Quite a few of our kids and some of us grew up with Captain Kangaroo. We knew nothing of his background. Capt. Kangaroo turned 76 recently and that is amazing because he’s never looked a day under 76. (DOB: 6/27/27)

Some people have been offended that actor Lee Marvin is buried in a grave along side 3 and 4 star generals at Arlington National Cemetery. His marker gives his name, rank (Pfc.), and service (USMC)-nothing else. He’s a guy who was only a famous movie star who served his time. Why the heck does he rate burial with these guys? Well, the following is the amazing answer.

In a time when many Hollywood stars served their country in the armed forces, often in rear echelon posts where they were carefully protected only to be trotted out to perform for the cameras in war bond promotions, Lee Marvin was a genuine hero. He won the Navy Cross at Iwo Jima. There is only one higher reward, the Medal of Honor.

That is a surprising comment on the true character of the man; he credits his sergeant with an even greater show of bravery. Dialog from the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson with Lee Marvin as guest: “Lee, I’ll bet a lot of people are unaware that you were a Marine in the initial landing at Iwo Jima and during the course of action, you earned the Navy Cross and were severely wounded.”

“Yeah, yeah, I got shot square in the ass and they gave me the Cross for securing a hot spot about halfway up Suribachi. Bad thing about getting shot up on a mountain is guys getting shot hauling you down. But, Johnny, at Iwo, I served under the bravest man I ever knew. We both got the Cross the same day, but what he did for his cross made mine look cheap in comparison. The dumb bastard actually stood up on Red Beach and directed his troops to move forward and get the hell off the beach. Bullets flying by, mortar rounds landing everywhere and he stood there as the main target of the gun fire so he could get his men to safety. He did that on more than one occasion because his men’s safety was more important than his own life. That sergeant and I have been life long friends. When they brought me off Suribachi, we passed the sergeant and he lit a smoke and passed it to me, lying on my

belly on the litter and said, "Where'd they get you, Lee?"

"Well, Bob, if you make it home before me, tell mom to sell the outhouse."

Johnny, I'm not lying, Sergeant Keeshan was the bravest man I ever knew. The sergeant's name is Bob Keeshan. You and the world know him as Captain Kangaroo.

On another note, there was this wimpy little man (who just passed away) on PBS, gentle and quiet. Mr. Rogers is another of those you would least suspect of being anything but what he now portrays to our youth. But, Mr. Rogers was a US Navy Seal, combat proven in Vietnam with over 25 confirmed kills to his name. He wore a long sleeved sweater on his show to cover the many tattoos on his forearm and biceps. He was a master in small arms and hand-to-hand combat, able to disarm or kill in a heartbeat.

After the war, Mr. Rogers became an ordained Presbyterian minister and therefore a pacifist; vowing to never again harm another human and also dedicating the rest of his life to trying to help lead children on the right path in life. He hid the tattoos and his past life away and won our hearts with his quiet wit and charm.

America's real heroes don't flaunt what they did. They go quietly about their day to day lives doing what they do best. Look around and see if you can find one of those heroes in your midst.(Dot Collins)

I was barely sitting down when I heard a voice from the other stall say, "Hi, how are you?"

I'm not the type to start a conversation in the men's restroom but I don't know what got into me, so I answered somewhat embarrassed, "Doin' just fine."

And the other guy said, "So what are you up to?" What kind of a question is that? At this point I'm thinking this is too bizarre so I say, "Uhhh, I'm like you, just traveling!" At this point I am just trying to get out as fast as I can when I hear another question. "Can I come over?" OK, this was just too weird for me but I figured I could just be polite and end the conversation. I tell him, "NO.....I'm a little busy right now!!!" Then I hear the guy say nervously, "Listen I'll have to call you right back. There's an idiot in the other stall who keeps answering all of my questions."

Students in an advanced Biology class were taking a mid-term test. The last question, worth 70 points or none at all was: Name seven advantages of mother's milk. The student had partied the night before and was hard put to think of 7 advantages. He wrote:

- 1. It is a perfect formula for the child.**
 - 2. It provides immunity against several diseases.**
 - 3. It is always available as needed.**
 - 4. It is always at the right temperature.**
 - 5. It is inexpensive.**
 - 6. It bonds the child to the mother and vice versa.**
- And then he was stuck. Finally, just before the bell rang, he wrote:**
- 7. It comes in such cute containers.**
- He was the only student to ace (100%) the exam.**

Taps

Betty Winkler a Senior Member at Post 182 American Legion and a 60 year faithful member died in March in Las Vegas where she had made her home for many years. She had requested a full military memorial service and burial in Hubbardston The date has not been determined as yet by the family.

Early in January **Jim Herald** completed his mission on earth and left us. Jim was a decorated veteran of World War II in the European Theatre of War and Past Comdr. of Post 182. There was a Mass and a Memorial Service at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Ionia with Rev. Mel Fox officiating. The Ionia and Hubbardston American Legion were represented as well as the Moose Lodge, Knights of Columbus and VFW from Ionia. The Sheridan VFW conducted the graveside service in the church because of the extreme cold weather. A dinner for family and friends was served at the Ionia Moose Hall. There will be a Memorial Service this spring as requested by the family at St. John the Baptist Catholic Cemetery.

"You're very generous in your church support," the minister commented to his elderly parishioner.

"Why yes," she replied, "every week my son sends me money, and what I don't need I give to the church."

"That's wonderful," the priest replied. "How much does he send you?"

The old lady said, "Oh, \$20,000 a week."

The priest was amazed and said, "Your son is very successful. What does he do for a living?"

"He's a veterinarian," she replied.

"That's an honorable profession," the priest says. "Where does he practice?"

The old lady says proudly, "Well, he has one cat house in Las Vegas and another in Reno."

Do you have youngsters who are interested in running for **Memorial Day Poppy King and Queen**? Contact Carolyn Cunningham at 989-981-6660 (days)for details

Notes from members:

I am sure that I am about the 200th one to tell you what a great Fish Fry you guys put on . It's really hard to believe how many come and that they are served with such efficiency. Barb and I have worked many years during the winter on the Fish Fry we have at the VFW in Ruskin and are lucky to serve more than 150 on any given Friday night. Our competition is quite great as the Moose, Elks, Eagles and a neighboring American Legion also hold a Friday night Fish Fry....Barb and I take care of writing the orders and handling the money. Anyway, I know I put on at least 5 pounds last night. I was doing okay until I went back for my second dessert. Barb kept count. Sorry we didn't have the opportunity to chat more but I could see it would have involved me working. Take care. (Jack and Barbara Rogers Billings)

At the beginning of my shift I placed a stethoscope on an elderly and slightly deaf female patient's anterior chest wall. "Big breaths," I instructed. "Yes, they used to be," remarked the patient.



Test your Memory? Ed Bradbury, Al Cunningham and ?

"Holiday Away from Home"

It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,
That separates you from the darkest of times.
No one had to ask or beg or implore me,
I'm proud to stand here like my father before me.
I can live through the cold and being alone,
Away from my family, my house, my home,
I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,
I can sleep in the foxhole with little to eat,
I can carry the weight of killing another
Or lay down my life with my sisters and brothers
Who stand at the front against any and all,
To insure for all times that this flag will not fall.
Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,
"Just tell us you love us, and never forget

To fight for our rights back home while we're gone,
To stand your own watch, no matter how long.
For when we come home, either standing or dead,
To know you remember we fought and we bled
Is payment enough, and with that we will trust,
That we mattered to you as you mattered to us.
(Col. Mike Billings)

Hubbardston Genealogy 1780-1930 plus "A Bit of History and "A Bit of Blarney," Too

Joanne Burns Howard and Peter J. Burns are proud announce that "Hubbardston Genealogy, plus "A Bit History" and "A Bit of Blarney," too!" is now available be ordered by e-mail from mjh655@pathwaynet.com from pejabur@aol.com. You may place phone orders **989-584-3803**. This book is a comprehensive study of the early Ionia County area residents who made their way from Ireland to Michigan and on to locations throughout the world. All of you veterans who sent your service records, tapes, letters, and did interviews have your stories in the "Gentle Giants" section. For some wonderfully humorous stories about the early days you can read accounts by Louie Herald and Ford Burns among others. Books will be available for sale at Memorial Weekend.

A couple from Minn. decided to go to Florida for a long weekend to thaw out during the long cold winter. Because they both had jobs, they decided that the husband would fly to Florida on Thursday and his wife would go on Friday. Upon arriving the husband found his room had a computer so he e-mailed his wife. He accidentally left out one letter of her address.

In Houston a widow had just returned from her husband's funeral and turned on the computer expecting messages from relatives and friends. She read the first message and fainted.

Her son rushed in to find her passed out on the floor and on the computer screen was the message: To my loving wife; I have arrived. I know you are surprised to hear from me but they have computers here now and you are allowed to send e-mails to your loved ones. I have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

PS: Sure is hot down here!

Speak when you are angry and you'll make the best speech you'll ever regret. (Anonymous)

Household Hint of the Day

With just a dab of polish remover you can erase those nasty fingerprint ink smears. (Martha Stewart)