

**WALTER T. ROACH AMERICAN LEGION POST 182
165 WEST LINCOLN STREET - HUBBARDSTON, MICHIGAN. 48845
NEWSLETTER NUMBER TWENTY NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2004**

Legion Officers

Commander - William Kruger
 Adjutant - Dan Heckman
 Vice Comdr. - Terry Fletcher
 2nd Vice Comdr., Newsletter - 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
 Editor Newsletter-Bud Howard

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

**VETERAN'S DAY NOV. 13TH
ALL DAY-EVENTS
AT POST 182**

Want to start your Christmas Shopping early? Craft Tables will be set up and open for business from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Tables are still available for \$15. Call Cherlyn Ward for information. A light lunch will be available and a delectable table of Baked Goods by our own Judy Osborne. Raffle tickets will be sold all day and the winners will be drawn at 8:00 PM. Prizes are: First-\$300, Second-\$150, and Third-\$50. Nice way to pad your billfold to help you with your gift giving. Tickets are one dollar each or \$10 a book (12 tickets) or 6 tickets for \$5. Take a break and enjoy the ambiance of our newly expanded and carpeted club. Enjoy the "Autumn Color" overlooking Fish Creek through our new donated windows while you enjoy refreshments with your good friends. Remember the old saying, "a stranger is merely a friend you haven't met yet." At 9:00 PM the music will begin for the 'Buck and Doe' dance. Throughout the evening, Hot Beef Sandwiches, pickles, chips and coffee will be available from the kitchen. **Come and enjoy the day with your brother and sister Veterans!**

Calendar of Coming Events

Oct. 30 Halloween Masquerade Dance 9:00 PM
Costume Judging 10:30 PM
Nov. 7 Sunday Breakfast 8:30-11:00 AM
Nov. 13 Veteran's Day Celebration All Day
Craft Show 10:00AM- 4:00 PM
Money Raffle 8:00 PM
Buck and Doe Dance 9:00 PM
Hot Dogs & Hot Beef Sandwiches
Dec. 5 Sunday Breakfast 8:30-11:00 AM
Dec. 19 Children's Christmas Party 2:00 PM
Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Party 9:00 PM
Jan. 2 Sunday Breakfast 8:30-11:00 AM
Euchre Tournaments to Be Announced

While ears need to be cleaned regularly, this is a job that should be done in private using one's OWN truck keys. (Redneck Personal Hygiene)

Halloween Masquerade Dance-October 30th Music will begin at 9:00 PM and the costume judging will be at 10:00 PM. Hot sandwiches will be available throughout the evening. Stop in for a once a year 'fool your neighbor' good time! Good time to get those raffle tickets, too. Don't forget the chance to be a Big Winner with our ever popular Lotto machine!

During a recent interview, Prime Minister Tony Blair was asked why he believes so much in America and its president and does he think they are on the right track? Blair's reply: "A simple way to take measure of a country is to look at....how many want in....and how many want out." Nuff Said!!

GUESS WHO'S SIXTY!

It was August – the 28th - I believe when friends, neighbors, relatives and acquaintances stopped by to wish our long-time Finance Officer Jim Barker Happy Birthday! Now we all know that the chronological age in no way indicates our level of activity or ability to have a good time. For what was a dreary and rainy start to the day came out smelling like roses. The rain stopped about midday and things dried down enough so that a planned party for Jim Barker, our Post 182 Treasurer was a success. About 130 people showed up to eat and hoist a drink with Jim for his 60th birthday. Friends and family gathered around with all involved swapping stories of Jim Barker in years past. The party started around 5:00PM and the last partiers (Jim and Suzie) called it a night (morning) at about 3:00AM when the last guests departed for home. Congratulations Jim! (**Dan Heckman**)

LEO AND DIANE McMILLAN CELEBRATE 35TH ANNIVERSARY

We have Wedding Anniversary Celebrations abounding at Post 182. Leo and Diane McMillan celebrated 35 years quietly with their family, but have been traveling to favorite locations throughout the summer.

**May your troubles be less and your blessings be more and nothing but happiness come through your door.”
(Irish Blessing)**

TERRY AND MARY FLETCHER CELEBRATE 35 YEARS

Terry and Mary Fletcher were surprised by their family when on a Saturday night, instead of going to church, everyone showed up at the club. It is not easy to surprise Terry. He always knows what's going on and he kept checking on the activity at the club all that day, wondering why he wasn't asked to work. When he and Mary walked in and saw their relatives from Au Train Bay area in the Upper Peninsula, they were really shocked. Mary's mother made the trip also and gave a beautiful toast to her daughter and son-in-law on their 35th anniversary. Terry and Mary's family served a delicious dinner. Red and Yellow roses graced each table, and pictures reminded all of us of what children we really were when we made those serious vows. The newly decorated club added to the comfortable and cozy atmosphere and everyone enjoyed a pleasant evening.

RAYMOND AND MARION ROBERTS MCGINN'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!

On August 21, 1954, returning veteran of the European Army of Occupation Forces, James Raymond McGinn and Marion Roberts were joined in Holy Matrimony by Rev. Eugene R. Fox. Raymond is the son of George and “Etta” O’Connell McGinn and Marion is the daughter of Carl and Edith Hankins Roberts. Ray and Marion were blessed with Michael Carl (Cindy), Karen (Mike) Crystal, James Raymond II (Tina Pavia) and Kevin Joseph. From these unions have come eight grandchildren. After serving his military duty, Ray worked in Plant Security at Oldsmobile, retiring in 1986. Following in his father's footsteps, Ray served his community as Township Clerk for 25 years retiring in 2000. Many years of public service are credited to both families. Raymond has been a wonderful addition to the choir all of his life and is a 50 plus year member of Post 182 where he retains the office of Chaplain and Marion is the family genealogist. Brothers Jack, William Patrick, and sister Helen (McKenna) remain to celebrate this “Golden Wedding Anniversary” And a bit of irony! One-hundred and fifteen years ago this day, August 21, 1889, Loretta “Etta” O’Connell McGinn was born to Florence and Ellen Halleran O’Connell. So not only do we celebrate a “50th Anniversary” but special memories of a loving mother's birthday. We share their joy and accomplishments with their family and friends today.

May God be with you and bless you. May you see your children's children. May you be poor in misfortune, but rich in blessings. May you know nothing but happiness from this day forward.” (Irish Wedding Prayer)

AND WE HAVE NEWLYWEDS TO CONGRATULATE

Our warmest wishes to SALS members, Matt McMillan and Russ Fletcher and Eric Peiffer, (son of member, Joe Peiffer) on their recent weddings. All were absolutely beautiful church weddings with beautiful music and sparkling receptions. Their brides are all lovely young ladies and we are happy for all of their families. We oftentimes have the honor of attending these lovely celebrations which

Those of us who have been married for decades know - to be 'historic' passages in the lives of these youngsters. Yes, they are mature adults, but in our eyes and experience – youngsters. Long years of contentment to all of you. If I have missed anyone, (and I'm sure I probably have), you know we wish the best to all of you.

Welcome to the PMS Diner. Our special today is Hershey Bar Lasagna. That comes with a side of M&M soup and mashed Snickers with hot fudge gravy.

Said the toothbrush to the roll of toilet paper, "Sometimes I feel I have the worst job in the world." "Ya, right!" quipped the toilet tissue roll.

WWII MEMORIAL

On May 29th, the Magnificent National World War II Memorial that all of you Legion members labored long and hard to build was finally dedicated after more than 10 years of effort. It is a truly unforgettable event. It is no exaggeration to say that the Memorial could not have been built without your support. The American Battle Monuments Commission has nearly completed the mission given to it by Congress in 1993. Very soon it will become a part of the National Park System, administered and operated by the National Park Service. The ABMC will quietly step aside. Our mission will continue as it has before the Memorial campaign, maintaining America's military cemeteries, monuments and memorials on foreign soil. But we will always look with pride on the National World War II Memorial and know that it will always be a part of us. Thank you and God Bless America. **(General PX Kelley, US Marine Corps (Ret.) Chairman ABMC, August 30, 2004)**

In a letter to our Memorial Advisory Board, Roy Spence Jr. wrote: "The WWII Memorial is a perfect tribute to the brave hearts who answered the call of freedom. These were men and women who, in their own mind, just did their job. But to us they did the impossible. They gave so much and asked so little. This memorial reflects the humbleness, yet nobleness of what they were fighting for."

"Your lives and how you lived them, the country you defended and loved and cared for, the rest of your days, that is the undeniable legacy of you, the men and women I call "The Greatest Generation."
(Tom Brokaw, News Anchor, Author)

The Pentagon announced today the formation of an elite fighting group called the US Redneck Special Forces. (USRSF) Bubba, Hoss, Cooter and Boo will be dropped behind enemy lines with the following information about the Iraqis:

- 1. The season opened last weekend.**
- 2. There is no limit.**
- 3. They taste just like chicken.**
- 4. They don't like beer, pickups, country music or Jesus.**
- 5. Some are queer.**
- 6. They are directly responsible for the death of Dale Earnhardt.**

The war should be over in a week!!!!

WHAT IS A VETERAN

A vet is a cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

A vet is the barroom loudmouth whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is out-weighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th Parallel.

A vet is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

A vet is the POW who went away one person and came back another – or didn't come back at all.

A vet is a drill instructor who has never seen combat – but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account punks and gang members into marines, airmen, sailors, soldiers and coast guardsmen, and teaching them to watch each other's back.

A vet is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

A vet is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

A vet is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb of the Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep.

A vet is the old guy bagging groceries at the super market – palsied now and aggravatingly slow – who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

A vet is an ordinary and yet extraordinary human being, a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambition so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

A vet is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

So remember each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say, "Thank you." That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded. Two little words that mean a lot, "Thank You." (Fr. Dennis Edward O'Brien, Marine Corps Chaplain)

GERRY BOOMER IS 101

On October 27th, 2004 Gerry Boomer, Box 248, Hubbardston, Mi. 48845 will celebrate her 101 birthday. Wouldn't it be wonderful if she could receive 101 cards on her special day? Let's all try to remember her and get those cards out today so she can enjoy them as her birthday approaches. I asked if she had a secret for her longevity. Reluctantly, she shared her "Jogging-in-a-Jug" ingredients: apple juice, grape juice and vinegar. She did not hand out the recipe. She plans to stop by Post 182 on Sunday October 24 where she is a 50 year (plus) life member. Come and wish her a wonderful day! She is sharp, loves visiting, being out with friends and knows everyone by name. Happy Birthday to a truly remarkable lady!

TWIN LAKERS

The Stoddard twins set to make a mark for Grand Valley during their junior season.

Greg and Chris Stoddard aren't making any predictions on whether their Grand Valley State University football team can win its third straight NCAA Division II national championship this fall. But the former Carson City-Crystal standouts are eager to help the Lakers go as far as they can this year. The Stoddard's were present at the Grand Valley media day on Thursday. They are both Criminal Justice Majors and are juniors after being red-shirted their freshman seasons. Both are listed on the roster as being 6 foot-4 and 295 pounds. (Looking at them, you would never doubt that description.) In 2002 Chris earned his first varsity letter after seeing action in a reserve role for Grand Valley's first

national championship team. Greg suffered an injury that year. Chris earned another varsity letter and both saw action as offensive lineman reserves and played on field goal and extra point units. They were both credited as being key performers on an offensive line that enabled the Lakers to average 439.6 yards per game last year. Greg earned his first varsity letter last season. As juniors, the Stoddard's could see extensive playing time this fall. "We've all been learning to play as a team," Chris said. "We're focusing on team first." "Our knowledge of the game has improved," said Greg.

"Every game is a big game for us. We can't look ahead to anyone," Chris said.

The Stoddard's and their teammates are also playing for a new coach. After last season Brian Kelly was hired as head coach at Central Michigan University, and the Lakers promoted their defensive coordinator Chuck Martin to the position. "He's been here as long as we have," Chris said. "He'll do whatever it takes to win."

The Stoddard's will also have a chance to play at University of Michigan Stadium on November 6 against Michigan Tech. Grand Valley is playing at the Big House that day as a special event to promote Division II football. (As of October 2, both Grand Valley and Michigan Tech are unbeaten.) John Raffae, Daily News. (sent by Jack Stoddard, Post 182 Historian and Grandfather of the twins) There will be a few from the area attending that game. (Yours truly has a red-shirted grandson, defensive lineman, on the Michigan Tech team.) Where do they get their size? And how can such 'monsters' be such nice guys? They are a credit to their families.

Mother to young teenager, "Dear, if you're going to pad your bra with Kleenex, take them out of the box first."

THE NATIONAL GUARD – NO MORE THE WEEKEND WARRIORS

From 1903-1916, the guard was in upheaval with most men in it as a social enterprise. Artillery Captain John Ryan, the first guardsman to attend the Army War College vaulted over the heads of everyone and revamped the force. In Mexico he led his division against "Pancho" Villa and Brig.Gen. Pershing led the 150,000 troops into Mexico. In World War I, 1917-1918, 380,000 guardsmen, that's 18 divisions, made up 40% of the American Expeditionary Force. President Wilson orders the

National Guard to be conscripted (drafted) in 1917. In 1938 the president was given power to order the National Guard to active duty. In World War II, 9 Guard Divisions served in the Pacific and 9 served in Europe. On D-Day, June 6, 1944 they go ashore with the first waves at Omaha Beach. Of the 400,000 mobilized guardsmen, 80,000 are commissioned officers by the end of World War II. President Truman orders four Guard units into the lines in Korea. President John Kennedy calls up two divisions as a preventative against war with Russia and it works; the Russians back down. 30,000 troops are sent to Vietnam. In Desert Storm, 60,000 participate in the liberation of Kuwait. 211,000 Guardsmen are serving in Iraq with an average tour of duty of 12-24 months. Today the Guard is on the front line everywhere. It goes back to George Washington's notion that those who enjoy the fruits of liberty have a responsibility to defend it. In 1938 James A Drain, National Commander of the American Legion said, They are citizens most of the time, soldiers some of the time and patriots all of the time." Worth remembering! **(Taken from the Legion Magazine, Maj. Gen Bruce Jacobs)**

Remember "I" before "E" except in Budweiser!
(Joan Schafer)

REDNECK DRIVING ETIQUETTE

1. Dim your headlights for approaching vehicles, even if the gun is loaded and the deer are in sight.
2. When approaching a four-way stop, the vehicle with the largest tires does not always have the right-of-way.
3. Never tow another car with panty hose and duct tape.
4. When sending your wife down the road with a gas can, it is impolite to ask her to bring back beer, too.
5. Never take a beer to a job interview.
6. Always identify people in your yard before shooting at them. It's considered tacky to take a cooler to church.
7. If you have to vacuum the bed, it is time to change the sheets.
8. Even if you're certain that you are included in the will, it is still rude to drive the U-Haul to the funeral home.

**OTHER SPOUSES - MILITARY SPOUSES
THE DIFFERENCE**

Other spouses say good bye to their spouse for a business trip and know they won't see them for a week. They are lonely but they can survive. Military spouses say good-bye to their deploying spouse and know they won't see them for months, or for a remote, a year. They are lonely, but they will survive.

Other spouses, when a washer hose blows off, call Maytag and then write a check out for getting the hose reconnected. Military spouses will cut the water off and fix it themselves.

Other spouses put up yellow ribbons when the troops are imperiled across the globe and take them down when they come home. Military spouses wear yellow ribbons around their heart and they never go away.

Other spouses worry about being late for mom's Thanksgiving dinner. Military spouses worry about getting back from Japan in time for dad's funeral.

And other spouses are touched by the television program showing an elderly lady putting a card down in front of a long, black wall that has names on it. The card simply says "Happy Birthday Sweetheart. You would have been sixty today."

A military spouse is that lady with the card. And the wall is the Vietnam Memorial. (Goodfellow AFB Monitor, San Angelo, Texas)

I was driving with my three children one warm summer evening when a woman in the convertible ahead of us stood up and waved. She was stark naked! As I was reeling from the shock, I heard my five-year-old shout from the back seat, "Mom! That lady isn't wearing a seat belt!"

AN OVERVIEW

In all the years that Post 182 has existed in the "Langdon Mansion"(since 1946), every generation, every set of war veterans, have done everything in their power to make Post 182 a really special place. When the house was purchased it had to be designed from a family home to a community club facility. Jim Herald was probably the master carpenter in those days, but all of the returning World War Two veterans had an active part in what they wanted this club to be. Probably that was a cause for a lot of the tensions that took years to solve. Everyone had their own interpretation of what and how and when and who.

Fund-raising has always been a big feature of being a Post 182 member. Old houses, even if they are mansions, fall apart, wear out, leak, need insulation, need heating and cooling units, and need updated

barroom and kitchen equipment. The needs are endless. But, everything in its time. Breakfasts, dinners, chicken barbecues, Memorial Day lunch (thanks SALS for the BBQ pit), snowmobile club activities, Bingo, euchre tournaments, bake sales, raffles, 50/50 sales, ghostly Halloween tours, tractor pulls, winter golf tournaments, Lotto, chili cook-offs – you can think of so many more. But always with the idea of financing some needed improvement. The club has always been a beautiful place to sit with friends and socialize, sing, etc. When the window room, the barroom overlooking Fish Creek was added, it was a spectacular improvement. Members were especially proud of their accomplishment. The wives of the Legionnaires and the auxiliary members deserve a thousand pats on the back. How many breakfasts, how many dinners, how many clean-up committees (everybody loves those)?

But as a personal observation, nothing that is happening today would have been possible if the generations preceding us hadn't kept the basic structure sound. Everyone can think of an officer who did terrific things, or had a special ability to get along with everyone, who could 'get things done.' And there were so many operating in so many ways. The Legionnaires do such a great service to their military buddies when they show up in numbers to honor their memory and make special tributes to them at graveside. They are respected in the community and in the areas nearby who lack a 'color guard' or whose active numbers don't constitute a proper firing squad. Post 182 has never been one to shirk its duty. They always perform admirably and take pride in helping wherever they can be of assistance. What is a veteran? We see and observe them here every day doing exactly what they have been trained to do. It's rewarding to see the SALS come onto the scene and take on the not always pleasant duty of standing at attention at their young buddy's casket and see the sorrow of the families who as in war have to deal with peacetime tragedy also. We have a Legion to be proud of, an auxiliary who have done spectacular things, working crews and committees who produce miracles. When I walked into the club a couple of weeks ago, I was dumbfounded. It's hard to believe that in a couple of years with almost all volunteer crews, Post 182 could be transformed into the truly elegant club that it is today. Wouldn't the guys from '46 be amazed that their dreams would finally result in this "Fish Creek Casino" as I had someone tell me it should

now be called. Everyone of you should be so proud of what you have done. From the person who scrubs the floor and cleans the toilets to the master chef who does the steaks or the chicken on the barbecue. It takes a team and lots of teams. The officers have a tough job. Yes, it seems like the same ones are always called on to do everything. No, when you get old enough, someone will replace you and do an amazingly good job. They've learned from you. Congratulations to all of you. You have a clubhouse of which to be proud. It takes the "Indian Chief" to lead the charge but those 'braves' and 'squaws' get it done with you. You're a fantastic group to work with and your accomplishments are the highest quality. You have excellent taste. Enjoy the fruits of your labor.

SOME NOSTALGIA

Some words aren't gone, but are definitely on the endangered list. The one that grieves me most - "Supper." Now everybody says "dinner." Save a great word. Invite someone to supper. While you are enjoying your supper you can discuss 'fender skirts,' 'curb feelers,' 'foot feeds' and 'steering knobs.' You might even move on to - 'the unmentionables' of being 'in a family way' or 'expecting.' And while you're at it, call those kids off that 'running board.' They'll fall and break their necks. **(Bob Carlson)**

**AN ANGEL IN THE HOUSE
I WISH FOR YOU...
RAINBOWS TO FOLLOW CLOUDS
SUNSETS TO WARM YOUR HEART
FRIENDSHIPS TO BRIGHTEN YOUR BEING
BEAUTY FOR YOUR EYES TO SEE
CONFIDENCE FOR WHEN YOU DOUBT
COMFORT ON DIFFICULT DAYS
SMILES WHEN SADNESS INTRUDES
FAITH SO YOU CAN BELIEVE
AND LOVE TO COMPLETE YOUR LIFE.
(PATRICIA HUHN)**

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