



**Walter T. Roach American Legion Post 182
165 West Lincoln Street - Hubbardston, Michigan. 48845
Newsletter Number Twenty Five, March 2006**

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

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 – Staci Dailey
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

May what you see in the mirror delight you, and what others see in you delight them. May someone love you enough to forgive your faults, be blind to your blemishes, and tell the world about your virtues. (Berta Lalomia, daughter of Virginia Hogan Nieman)

Reminder: If you have not paid your dues, please do so as soon as possible so the adjutant and financial secretary can balance their books for the year. Thanks

Calendar of Coming Events

March 3,10,17,24,31-Fish Fry Dinners	5:00-7:00 p.m.
March 4 Jack Spencer Par 99 Golf Annual	9:00 a.m.
March 5 All You Can Eat Breakfast	8:30-11:30 a.m.
March 5 Men’s Euchre Tournament Post 182 Ladies Euchre Tournament-Shiels Tavern	
March 12 St. Patrick’s Day Party-Post 182	
Irish Stew and Trimmings	12:00-3:00 p.m.
Hubbardston Irish Dancers	3:00 p.m.
Dancing Music Provided	4:00-8:00 p.m.
April 2 All You Can Eat Breakfast	8:30-11:30 a.m.
April 7 & 14 Fish Fry Dinners	5:00-7:00 p.m.
May 14 Mother’s Day Breakfast	8:30-11:30 a.m.
May 27 Irish Stew Brunch-Annual Meeting-Parish Hall	
Hubbardston Area Historical Society	10:00a.m
Hubbardston Irish Dancers	12:00 Noon
May 27-28 th Softball Tournaments	all day
May 28 Salute Veteran’s Graves	10:00 a.m.
May 29 Annual Memorial Day Celebration	all day
Chicken Dinner at Tuscan Lodge	11:00-1:00
5 K Race	9:00 a.m.
Hubbardston Irish Dancers	Noon
Garden Club Plant Sale-Celtic Path -	all day
Grilled Sandwiches at Post 182	Noon till sold out
Memorial Day Grand Parade	1:30 p.m.
Tractor Pull at Post 182 following parade	

Memorial Day Queen Pageant

Heads up for all of those young ladies ages 10-13 who would like to try out for Junior Queen of the Memorial Day celebration. Young ladies ages 13-18 qualify for Senior Queen for the Memorial Day weekend activities. Competitions will be held the first week in May.

Call Auxiliary President Kelly Melton for details at 989-584-3790.

May love be ever in your heart, may joy be yours to share. And wherever your dreams lead you, may contentment meet you there. (Irish Blessing)

In This House

We believe in living deeply, laughing often and loving always.

We believe we were brought together to support and care for each other.

We believe that everyone's feelings count, And that the uniqueness of each of us strengthens all of us.

We believe in the power of forgiveness to heal And the power of love to carry us through.

We believe in one another, in this family, in this house.

Faite! (fall-sha)**Welcome!**



Sheila Thurston, Pres. Kelly Melton and Kim Brown greet 8th District guests.

Eighth District Meeting Superb Success

Seventeen American Legion Posts and their Auxiliary units were in attendance on Sunday, January 8, 2006 as Post 182 hosted Comdr. Dick Root and his cadre of officers. Brenda Saporich, Eighth District Auxiliary President chaired the auxiliary portion of the day's activities.

The club was set up in spectacular fashion by the committee in charge. Delores and Mark Schmitt, Carol and John Fitzpatrick and a lively crew of young auxiliary ladies had a lovely table of hors d'oeuvres, dinner and raffle ticket table and an absolutely fantastic roast beef and pork dinner to satisfy the harshest critic. Phil McKenna of the Hubbardston Area Historical Society provided Hubbardston "Day Trip" brochures to the well over one-hundred dinner guests while Post 182 provided each guest with a notepad of Irish proverbs. All amenities were received with amazed gratitude. Comdr. Bill Kruger, Adjutant Dan Heckman, and auxiliary president Kelly Melton introduced officers, guests and presented awards with professional ease. Many thanks to all involved in making the day a perfect success. This was the largest attendance Eighth District has had in years according to District Commander Dick Root

and his entourage. Kudos to all involved and all in attendance from 182.

A very special surprise guest was Past National Commander Tom Cadmus from Tecumseh, Michigan and an entourage with him from his home Post 155.

Agnes Bradbury, 56 year member of the auxiliary was presented with a certificate and a beautiful crystal plaque for her years of work (along with her husband Ed who held the post of Adjutant at Post 182 for well over 50 years and also held Eighth District office himself) on every project imaginable, and years as auxiliary chaplain.

Rosaline McMillan, mother of long-time Post 182 Sgt.-at-Arms Leo McMillan was honored for being the "oldest" member of Post 182. Honorees were awarded certificates for achieving the longest record of continuous membership from each post in attendance.

Past Post 182 Commander Clare Cunningham, senior Legionnaire with 62 years consecutive membership, accompanied by his nephew Bill Cunningham, Chaplain for the SALS squadron was in attendance. Seniors Jack Billings, Ray Donehue and Ken O'Grady were present and honored for their longevity at Post 182. Legionnaire honorees Jack Stoudt, Pat McKenna, John Stoddard, Raymond McGinn and Patrick McGinn could not be present due to family and health problems. Post 380 from Carson City sent eighteen representatives and special awards were presented to J.D. Helman, Bob Brooks, and Max Jones of the Legion. Donna Barrett, Velma Tabor and Mrs. Brooks were the auxiliary members honored. Special praise was addressed to Velma Tabor for her 62 year membership but also for her ties to the formation of both Post 182 and Post 380. Velma is the daughter-in-law of first Post 182 Commander Frank Tabor (1919) who was also first Post 380 (1944) Commander when it re-formed under its own charter when the WWII vets flooded into the ranks of Legionnaires throughout the country. Her husband Edgar was a charter member of that 1944 re-formation.

So much planning, so much work, so many people, but "Thank God" for the people who step forward and make these special celebrations happen successfully.

And finally, as Nat'l Comdr. Tom Cadmus stood looking over the beautifully set up club room filled with Legionnaire guests and the sunshine over Fish Creek, he said, "The existence of this fantastic facility with the absolutely spectacular view has to be the best kept secret in the state of Michigan. Here on the

top of this hill, you've got the ideal location. I never knew the place existed."

In January of Last year, the following item was published in our newsletter. Little did we realize that one year later, we would actually have Past National Commander Cadmus as a guest of Post 182 and to have him so impressed with our "perfect location on this hill." Ed.

With the University of Michigan fight song, "Hail to the Victors" echoing through the Delta Ballroom in Nashville, Tennessee, Department of Michigan delegates marched up and down campaigning for Thomas P. Cadmus of the Glen H. Daykin Post 155 in Brighton, Mi., and a resident of Ypsilanti, Mi. for the office of National Commander. In accepting the nomination he stated his number one priority. "My motto for this year is; service equals membership."



Barb Billings, Lee and Ken O'Grady and Clare Cunningham at 8th District Meeting at Post 182.

Thanks to senior member Ken O'Grady and his wife, Lee for their generous donation to help complete the parking lot next summer. All members are urged to send in their donations to Jim Barker, Financial Secretary at Box 183, Hubbardston, 48845 as soon as possible. Thanks to all of you who have already given so generously. It is a needed and expensive necessity to have the parking lot paved. Try parking on a Fish Fry night and you will be convinced. Whatever you can afford is most welcome and appreciated. We all benefit!

"Veterans"

Michael Mullins Local 652 Veteran's Rep.

They walk a little slower these days, and the spring in their step is, for the most part, gone. Sometimes you have to speak louder when talking to them. Time has taken its toll on them. Their ranks grow thinner each day.

They may appear to you like any ordinary group of old people sitting on the porch swings or in rocking chairs or wandering around malls. They're ordinary parents and grandparents in all respects, save one.

When they were young, they saved the world. No other generation in the history of the world can make that claim – not the founders of the American

Revolution, not the ancient Greeks or Romans...not even the early Christians.

Granted, other generations have had great struggles, and other times have faced very daunting challenges, but at best there were saviors only of a town or a country, vanguards of unfulfilled promises.

America's World War II generation did not, as a group, achieve the heroism of Joan of Arc, nor is there any evidence their souls were "touched by fire" as the American Civil War experience was described by Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. But who would deny that the actions of that generation had a much more profound effect on our world?

Isn't it normally fitting that victory in the most intense, deadly and important struggle in human history should seem sort of ordinary to those who won it and to those who benefited most from it? You see, America's WWII generations saved the world, not for glory or for honor, not for lasting tribute on the printed page, but simply because it had to be done. No one else was available to do it.

It isn't that the British, French, Chinese, Russians, or any other freedom loving people of the world didn't contribute mightily. They did. They suffered unutterably severe hardship, death and destruction. And that is precisely the point. With most of Europe in chains and Asia teetering on the edge of collapse...it fell to the Americans to save the world from the horror of global fascist domination...

We need to take a long, loving look at these people now, while we have the chance. If you know any, give them a hug and say "Thanks." No individuals or group have ever matched their achievements. God willing, no one will ever again have to.
(submitted by John Stoddard, Post 182 Historian)

Surplus Kid Like Fifth for Bridge – Erma Bombeck – May 17, 1974

Since 1968, there has been a dramatic decrease in big families. Today, (May, 1974) 48% of the polls say 2.1 children is the ideal family. Where does that leave me? Somewhere between Propagation of the Faith, the population explosion and 1.1 surplus kids at my dinner table. And don't think I haven't paid dearly for my 1.1 overflow. To begin with, he fouled up the family vote. We used to vote even, at two all, which left some room for persuasion. Since he arrived, my husband and I haven't won a decision in 15 years. Whether it is a vote on a vacation site, what TV show we are going to watch, or whether or not parents are to be impeached, the vote is always the same: Kids, 3 - Parents, 2.

I am not being dramatic when I say this is a two-child-gear society. If the good Lord had meant for people to have more than two children, he would have put more than two windows in the back seat of the car. We once

threatened to put one on the front fender and the other two each cried because they each wanted one.

A Popsicle can only be divided two ways. There are two pair of shoelaces in a package, so that one child always goes around with gym shoes that flop off his feet when he walks. There are only four chairs in a dinette set (so that one never matches) and four breakfast sweet rolls in a package.

We always had one too many for a rowboat, and when we rode the Ferris wheel, it was two to a seat and the odd one always rode alone like an only child.

Few people realize this, but did you know that a No. 2 can of fruit cocktail contains only two maraschino cherries? This means when you divide two maraschino cherries between three children, two are happy and the other one runs right out and retains F. Lee Bailey to file a cherry custody suit.

Chores are geared toward twos; one washes the dishes, and the other dries but what does the third child do? He becomes a useless bum and grows up to steal hubcaps.

Bunk beds come in twos. There are two sinks in a bathroom, two Hostess Twinkies to a package and free circus tickets come in pairs.

I mentioned this to the kids the other night and half-kiddingly said, "You know what this means, don't you? One of you has to go. Just for kicks, lets take a vote on it." When the votes were counted, it was 4-1. I had been phased out of the family.

Somehow, I expected more from a full-grown man who has his own car window. (May 17, 1974)

Notes from Readers:

Such a nice gathering of so many posts and people at the 8th district meeting. I'm sure few posts provide such scrumptious food and great hospitality. We can be so proud of all that the members of Post 182 continually do. The reputation of the fine cooks and great members precedes them! (Jack and Barbara Billings, Greenville, Mi.)

Chili Cook Off

On February 4th, the gourmet Chili Chefs of Post 182 met at the club and enjoyed another Chili Cook off. There were 28 entries and the judges were definitely chili'd out after taste testing so many wonderful concoctions. Judges were: Leo and Diane McMillan, Jim Ward, Barney Dailey, Suzie Chartrand, and a young man from the Middleton area. Winners were: First Place-Joe McMillan; Second Place-Cherlyn Ward; Third Place- Kay Frechen. All those in attendance were able to sample the wares following the judging. Even the dishes rated far from the top found lots of takers with people enjoying their efforts.

Father O'Malley rose from his bed to a fine spring day in his new Texas mission parish. He walked to the window to get a breath of fresh air and he noticed there was a jackass dead in the middle of

his lawn. He promptly called the police. "Good morning, this is Sgt. Flaherty, How might I help you?"

"And the best of the day te your self. This is Father O'Malley at St. Brigid's. There's a jackass lying dead in me front lawn. Would ye be so kind as to send a couple o' yer lads to take care of the matter?" Sgt Flaherty, considering himself to be quite a wit, replied with a smirk, "Well now Father, it was always my impression that you people took care of the last rites!"

There was dead silence for a long moment. Father O'Malley then replied, "Aye, that's certainly true, but we are also obliged to notify the next of kin."

.....
Ole staggered home very late after another evening with his drinking buddy, Swen. As he tiptoed quietly toward the stairs to avoid waking his wife, he stumbled on the bottom step, fell heavily on his rump and broke both whiskey bottles in his back pockets. Managing not to yell, Ole sprung up, pulled down his pants and looked in the hall mirror to see his butt cheek s were cut and bleeding. He managed quietly to find a full box of band-aids and he placed them as best he could on each place he saw blood. Then he hid the empty box and shuffled and stumbled off to bed. In the morning Ole woke with a searing pain in both his head and his butt and Lena staring at him. "You were drunk again last night weren't you?" Ole said, "Why you say such a mean ting?"

"Well," Lena said, "it could be the open front door, it could be the broken glass on the stairs, it could be the trail of blood through the house, it could be your bloodshot eyes, but mostly...it's all those band-aids stuck on the downstairs mirror."

Jack Spencer "100 Par"

Annual Golf Tournament-March 4, 2006

Polish off that Golf Club and be ready for the Annual Winter Golf Tournament at Post 182. Bring your most positive attitude and hope for no snow, no wind and above freezing temperatures. Register at Post 182 from 8-9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 4, 2006. T-off will be at Doug Cusack's and end at Tim Chartrand's farm on Maple Rapids Road north of Hubbardston. Supplies for the course route, trophies, prizes for a variety of scores, souvenirs for lots of reasons and a nice hot lunch await the participants at Post 182 at the completion of the tournament. Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SALS and friends are all welcome!

Hubbardston Area Historical Society Museum Room Open Tuesday's and Wednesday's 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in St. John the Baptist School, a National Historic Site. Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m. Everyone Welcome! Call 989-584-3803 for Special Requests

My Candidate for President in 2008

Here we are already discussing the future president of the United States in the year 2008. Me, I have my own candidate and I am sure that once you know who I'm for, you will all agree. For those of you who would like another choice for president, I have the best possible solution: It is probably time we have a woman president. My choice and I hope yours as well, is a very special lady who has all the answers to our problems. Please give it a thought when you have a moment:

Maxine For President!!!

It's "one nation UNDER GOD..." or bite my skinny old ass and leave!

If you must burn the flag, wrap yourself in it first.

"I can't use the cell phone in the car. I have to keep my hands free for making gestures."

Don't let aging get you down. It's too hard to get back up.

If you woke up breathing, congratulations! You have another chance.

The trouble with bucket seats is that not everyone has the same size bucket.

To err is human; to forgive – highly unlikely.

Money can't buy happiness but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Porsche than a Kia.

After a certain age, if you don't wake up hurting somewhere, you may be dead.

Do you realize that in about 40 years we'll have millions of old ladies running around with tattoos? So don't forget, November 2008- Vote for:

Maxine for President of the United States. (Barb Billings, Ruskin, Fla.)

THE FINAL INSPECTION –Jack Billings

The soldier stood and faced God,
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining,
Just as brightly as his brass.

"Step forward now, you soldier,
How shall I deal with you ?
Have you always turned the other cheek ?
To My Church have you been true?"

The soldier squared his shoulders and said,
"No, Lord, I guess I ain't.
Because those of us who carry guns,
Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,
And at times my talk was tough.
And sometimes I've been violent,
Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a penny,
That wasn't mine to keep...
Though I worked a lot of overtime,
When the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fear.
And sometimes, God, forgive me,
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,
Among the people here.
They never wanted me around,
Except to calm their fears.

If you've a place for me here, Lord,
It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don't, I'll understand.

There was a silence all around the throne,
Where the saints had often trod.
As the soldier waited quietly,
For the judgment of his God.

"Step forward now, you soldier,
You've borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,
You've done your time in Hell."

~Author Unknown~

Wish for 2006

May you get a clean bill of health from your dentist, your cardiologist, your gastro-entomologist, your urologist, your proctologist, your podiatrist, your psychiatrist, your plumber and the I.R.S.

It's the Military, not the reporter who has given us the freedom of the press. It's the Military, not the poet, who has given us the freedom of speech. It's the Military, not the politicians that ensures our right to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. It's the Military who salute the flag, who serve beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag.

Today's Ebonic word from the New Orleans Public School System is OMELETTE. Let's use it in a sentence. "I should pop yo ass fo what you jus did, but omelette dis one slide."

A husband is home watching a football game when his wife interrupts, "Honey could you fix the light in the hallway. It's been flickering for weeks now?"

He looks at her angrily and says, "Do I look like I have GE written on my forehead?"

"Fine," then the wife asks, "Well then, could you fix the fridge door? It won't close completely."

To which he replied, "Fix the fridge? Does it look like I have Westinghouse written on my forehead? I don't think so... I've had enough of you. I'm going to the bar."

So he goes to the bar, stays a few hours, starts to feel guilty about how he treated his wife, and decides to go home. As he walks into the house he notices that the hall light is working, the fridge door is fixed and all the repairs are done.

"Honey, how did all this get fixed?" he asked.

"Well, when you left I just sat outside and cried. Just then a nice young man came along and asked what was wrong? I told him. He offered to do all the repairs and all I had to do was either go to bed with him or bake a cake."

He said, "So, what kind of cake did you bake?"

She replied, "Hellooooo...Do you see Betty Crocker written on my forehead? I don't think so!"

Red Skelton's Recipe for the Perfect Marriage

Two times a week, we go to a nice restaurant, have a little beverage, good food and companionship. She goes on Tuesdays and I go on Fridays.

We also sleep in separate beds. Hers is in California and mine is in Texas.

I married Miss Right. I just didn't know her first name was 'Always.'

I haven't spoken to my wife in 18 months. I don't like to interrupt her.

The last fight was my fault though! My wife asked "What's on TV?" I said, "Dust!"

Virginia Russell Cunningham

On February 13th, friends, family and neighbors gathered to bid a last farewell to Virginia Cunningham, wife of William "Bill" Cunningham, mother of SALS member, Rusty Cunningham and Poppy Chairman Carolyn O'Grady Cunningham and 'Aunt' to Cindy Clark Howard- all members of Post 182. Our sincerest sympathy goes out to all of her extended family, children, and grandchildren. Bill and Virginia lived all of their married life in Hubbardston, were friends to everyone, and inseparable throughout their years together. Son, Rusty gave an eloquent tribute to his mother at the funeral and true to Virginia, he detailed her quick humor, her joy in life and in the lives of her grandchildren. Her granddaughters made us realize what a special "grandmother" she was as she made each of them feel like the 'best loved' child in the world. The nearly 'filled to capacity' church and the bountiful floral tributes attest to the fact of Virginia's great personality. Father Mason preached a beautiful homily on her life and the meaning of "home." The ladies of the parish prepared a delicious dinner which

gave all of the visitors a chance to renew memories and cherish friendships as they recalled their special relationships with Virginia. "Memories are a gift from God that even death can not take away."

Cool City Honored Our Hero David Huhn

To the editor:

The community didn't have to brave the winter elements at midnight to welcome David Huhn home, but it did.

The community didn't have to follow the horse-drawn coffin to the funeral home that night, but it did. The VFW didn't have to devote so much time and money to David's arrival, but it did.

The VFW didn't have to dedicate their flagpole in David's honor this Memorial Day, but it did.

Schrauben-Lehman Funeral Home didn't have to donate their services to David's funeral, but it did.

Portland's students didn't have to make signs and cards for David's family, but they did.

Portland's businesses didn't have to donate window space and signs for David, but they did.

Portland residents didn't have to give Diane such an outpouring of cards and gifts, but they did.

The K of C Hall didn't have to juggle around its schedule for David's funeral dinner, but it did.

All the cooks didn't have to donate their time to prepare the meal, but they did.

The police, fire and rescue didn't have to protect the services from possible protestors, but they did.

Hardy Farms didn't have to donate their caisson for David's final ride, but it did.

The veterans didn't have to walk David's horse-drawn coffin from the church to the cemetery, but they did.

Residents didn't have to line the streets holding flags, but they did.

The community didn't have to outstretch their arms to lay David to rest, but it did.

The State of Michigan didn't have to label our city of two rivers "A Cool City" but it did.

And now I know why they did.

May God Bless all of you and have a Happy New Year! Jeffrey M. Helm, Portland, Mi (sent by Jack Stoddard-Historian Post 182).

Bud Howard
Walter T. Roach Post 182
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Sheridan, Mi. 48884