



Walter T. Roach American Legion Post 182
165 West Lincoln Street - Hubbardston, Michigan. 48845
Newsletter Number Twenty-Seven, August 2006
Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 Noon

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
Public Relations-Carolyn Cunningham

Sons of the American Legion Officers

Comdr. – Bill Cunningham
Adjutant – Bob (Red) Ward
1st Vice Comdr. – Rick Cunningham
Finance Officer - Dave Oistad
Chaplain – Bart Cunningham
Historian -Pat White
Sgt. at Arms – Tim Ward

Mark Wood-Veteran, Gentleman, Friend

(adapted from The Daily News, July 1, 2006)
Mark Wood, son of Murdo and Patricia Wood is a veteran with years of active duty adventures. In 1982 when Mark graduated from Pewamo-Westphalia High School, his plans didn't include years of battlefront warfare. In 1985, when the Persian Gulf War –the Iran Crisis escalated, he enlisted in the Navy and served three tours of duty. After an assignment in Alaska, he returned to civilian life and employment at Hitachi Magnetics in Edmore and Electrolux in Greenville. As the job situation declined he re-enlisted in the Navy Reserve, never expecting to be recalled and definitely not planning to be sent overseas again. "It was a shocker, especially going to a shore base." His main duties were customs inspections, processing military personnel out of Kuwait and back to the United States. The very sand they despised was a choice souvenir item by a lot of people.

When Mark returned to his hometown of Matherton in April, 2006, the Memorial Day Parade committee informed him that he had been chosen for the main event. "I was shocked, I really was," Wood said. "It made it worth coming home, just the support of the people in the community. It was a big turnout, the biggest turnout people can remember. It's good to see people display their patriotism."

However, true to the fantastic person that Mark Wood is, he would accept the honor only on the condition that his parents, 75-year-old Murdo and 71-year-old Patricia Wood, be able to ride with him. Murdo served in the Navy in World War II and has been placing flags on veteran's graves for the past 30 years.

Scott Schmitt, a friend of Mark's and also the MC for the Memorial Day Parade festivities said, "It was righteous. If it was going to be anybody, it should have been him. Don't get me wrong. There are a lot of local heroes around the area who have served, but he had just gotten back from his tour and it worked out perfectly. If

Calendar of Coming Events

August 13-Annual Chicken BBQ-Best in the Country!
Serving at Post 1182 from 12:00 noon-3:00 p.m.
Tractor Pulls 11:00 a.m.
August 24-Fall Social, Potluck Dinner HAHS
Tuscan Masonic Lodge-Clintonaire Barbershop Group
Bring dish to pass! Public is welcome 6:00 p.m.
August 31-September 4-Labor Day Weekend
Meet your friends at the club for relaxation!
September-Tractor Pulls TBA
October 28 Masquerade Party 9:00 p.m.
Costume judging-Prizes awarded-Open to Public
November 11-Veteran's Day-Hunter's Ball
Post 182-Open to the Public! 9:00 p.m.
November 16-HAHS Holiday Celebration-
Craft Show! Come and get into the holiday spirit!
Everyone welcome! Meeting held at Parish Hall.
December 31-New Years Party-Post 182 9:00 p.m.

there's anybody you would want on your side it'd be that guy right there," Schmitt said. "The guy doesn't have an enemy in the world. If there's anybody you'd want over there fighting for your country, that'd be the guy you want."

Mark Wood asked only one thing for this Fourth of July, "Just say thank you" to local veterans.

"If you see somebody in uniform, if you know somebody who is a veteran, why wouldn't you stop and thank them," said Scott Schmitt. "A thank you goes a long way!"

When I was married 25 years, I took a look at my wife one day and said, "Honey, 25 years ago we had a cheap apartment, a cheap car, slept on a sofa bed and watched a 10 inch black and white TV, but I got to sleep every night with a hot 25 year-old blonde. Now, we have a nice house, nice car, big bed, and plasma TV, but I'm sleeping with a 50 year-old woman. It seems to me that you are not holding up your side of things."

Well, my wife is a very reasonable woman. She told me to go out and find a hot 25 year-old blonde and she would make sure I would once again be living in a cheap apartment, driving a cheap car and sleeping on a sofa bed.

One morning the husband returns after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap. Although not familiar with the lake, the wife decides to take the boat out. She motors out a short distance, anchors and reads her book. Along comes a game warden in his boat. He pulls up alongside and says, "Good morning, Ma'am. What are you doing?"

"Reading a book," she replies, (thinking, "Isn't that obvious?")

"You're in a Restricted Fishing area," he informs her.

"I'm sorry, but I'm not fishing. I'm reading."

"Yes, but you have all the equipment. For all I know, you could start at any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up."

"If you do that I'll have to charge you with sexual assault," says the woman.

"But I haven't even touched you," says the game warden.

"That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know, you could start any minute."

"Have a nice day, Ma'am," and he left.

Parking Lot Donations

Jim Barker is accepting your donations for the parking lot. Money has been collecting and hopefully, with everyone's help, the job can be done soon. Send to: Jim Barker, Box 182, Hubbardston, Mi. 48845 as soon as possible. The Lotto, the Fish Fry Dinners and numerous fund raisers have helped terrifically. Let's get this thing done and save our new carpet and flooring from the wear and tear of mud and snow and rain.

Adjutant's Report- It's "Dues" Time!

Both the Legion and the Auxiliary fiscal year begin July 1 and end on June 30th of the following year. **The Chicken Barbecue in August is the perfect time to conveniently pay your dues, if possible.** If dues are not received by January 1, your membership is overdue, but continues until June 30. 'Six' notices are sent to each member throughout the year from Nat'l. Hq. if your dues are not yet paid for the current year. The Post Adj. sends one final notice. If membership dues are not paid for two years, his/her continuous years are forfeited. When he/she signs up again, the years of membership start once more at year one. **When your first notice arrives in the mail, take a minute to fill it out, add your dues and mail it as soon as possible.** That avoids all of these membership 'problems' and Post 182 can again have 100% paid up membership by January 1 which adds rebates to our treasury.

In recent Legion publications is the news that our dues may go up in 2008. Currently our dues at Post 182 are \$25. Of that, \$21 goes to the state and National and our Post keeps only \$4 of your dues which is used for postage, flowers for funerals, etc. We need every current member and all the new veterans eligible to join. **In the May, 2006 issue of the Legionnaire newspaper (p.5), you will find answers to all of your membership questions.**

Two areas of vital concern to veterans presently are Veteran's Health Care (see related article on page 3) and the Flag Amendment (SJR 12). June 26th was supposed to be the date of the final resolution on the Flag Amendment, but that appears to be a lingering unsolved issue at this time. (Dan Heckman, Adj.)

A man appears at the pearly gates. "Have you ever done anything of particular merit?" asks St. Peter.

"Well, I can think of one thing," the man offers. "Once I came upon a gang of bikers who were threatening a young woman. I told them to leave her alone, but they wouldn't listen. So I approached the largest and most heavily tattooed biker. I smacked him in the head, kicked his bike, ripped out his nose ring and told him, "Leave her alone or you will answer to me." St. Peter was impressed. "When did this happen?" "A couple of minutes ago!"

To Kill An American written by an Australian Dentist

You probably missed it, but in May, 2006, there was actually a report that someone in Pakistan had published in a newspaper an offer of a reward for anyone who killed an American, any American. So an Australian dentist wrote an editorial the following day to let everyone know what an American is, so they would know when they found one. (Good one, mate!!!)

An American is English, French, Italian, Irish, Greek, German, Spanish, Russian or Polish. An American may also be Canadian, Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Australian, Iranian, Asian, Arak, Pakistani, or Afgan. An American may also be Comanche, Cherokee, Osage, Blackfoot, Navajo, Apache, Seminole or one of many other tribes known as native Americans.

An American is Christian, or could be Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim. In fact there are more Muslims in America than in Afghanistan. The difference is that in America they are free to worship as each of them chooses. An American is free to answer only to God, not to the government or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and for God. An American is generous. Americans have helped out just about every nation in the world in their time of need, never asking a thing in return.

As of the morning of September 11, Americans had given more to the poor in Afghanistan than any other nation. Some of them were working in the twin towers the morning of September 11, 2001 earning a better life for their families. The world trade center victims were from at least 30 different countries, cultures, first languages, including those that aided and abetted the

terrorists. So you can try to kill an American if you must. Hitler did. So did General Tojo, Stalin and Mao Tse Tung and other blood-thirsty tyrants in the world. But, in doing so, you would be killing yourself. Because Americans are not a particular people from a particular place! They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds that spirit everywhere is an American. (sent by Frontier Realty)

VA Veterans Helpline 1-800-839-1899

The latest survey shows that most veterans receiving health care at VA facilities are pleased with the service. For the sixth consecutive year, patients in VA medical centers and out-patient clinics are more satisfied with their care than the general population is at private hospitals, according to the VA. The survey called the American Customer Satisfaction Index has been conducted since 1994 by the National Quality Research Center at the University of Michigan School of Business, the CFI Group and the Federal Consulting Group.

Because they are unaware they qualify, nearly 2 million veterans or their widows are leaving an estimated 22 billion dollars a year in VA pensions unclaimed. VA says many veterans are completely unaware that the program exists. Part of the problem is that the VA calls it a "disability pension" but you don't have to be disabled to qualify. To be eligible, veterans must be 65 or older, have served in uniform during a war and earn less than \$10, 579 or have non-service connected conditions. Veteran's widows must make less than \$7,094 to qualify. Income can be reduced by un-reimbursed medical expenses. In 2004 a VA report estimated that 853,000 veterans and 1.1 million widows are eligible but aren't receiving pensions. That means only 27% of eligible vets and 14% of eligible widows get the money that is due them. If all eligible people were receiving pensions the VA would be paying out an estimated \$22 billion a year. For more pension information call VA toll-free at 1-800-827-1000. (WashingtonWire by Tim Dyhouse, March, 2006)

For information on the VA's online prescription drug refill service, veterans can sign up with MyHealthVet at www.myhealth.va.gov.

TAPS:

Russell 'Weed' Dailey went to join his Lord in heaven after a successful day of Fishing in Ruskin, Florida with his good friend and neighbor Orrin Boomer. They fished, fraternized, cleaned their catch, stashed them in the freezer and made plans for a repeat performance the following day. But, in the morning, "Weed" had already joined his parents, Martha and Vic Dailey in the hereafter. The funeral was at St. John the Baptist Church in Hubbardston where a huge crowd gathered to reminisce about their friendship with "Weed" over the years. How did he get that name? When he was a youngster out on the farm, the boys would play in the fields near Grandma Sarah Navin's home on O'Brien Road. When his mother, Martha would call the boys, "Russell" was so little, they couldn't tell him from a weed! The name "Weed" stayed with him throughout his life. He had many, many friends. He leaves three brothers, Bernard (Vicki), Jack (Janet) and Bill (Janie) to mourn his passing.

Betty Gillespie Winkler Memorial

Betty Winkler, a member of Post 182 for 58 years was laid to rest in East Plains Cemetery by the Color Guard of Post 182 on June 27, 2006. Betty was a Registered Nurse in the U.S. Army Nursing Corps in World War II and resided in Las Vegas at the time of her death on December 1, 2003. She is survived by her daughters Lynette and Patricia of Las Vegas and one son Mike, of Michigan.

Betty lived in Pewamo in her youth with her parents and two sisters, next door to Lucille Geller Burns. They were great friends and spent so much time together, with Betty staying so often at the Gellers, they were almost like sisters. Mary Schuler Ramaker from Pewamo, now of Lincoln Lake, Mi. was a long-standing friend and co-hort of Betty's throughout the years for a Michigan connection. After returning from her wartime duties, Betty married and eventually moved to Las Vegas permanently. Betty's mother Velma was a twin sister to Thelma Greenwalt, wife of the barber and baseball aficionado, Clare (Spike) Greenwalt of Hubbardston.

Betty loved the Legion newsletters and from time to time sent a little note. She was a senior member of Post 182 and among the honorees (in absentia) when we honored all of our longstanding 50 plus years members in 2003. Today we take for granted our young ladies in uniform but in Betty's service years (the 1940's), it was the exception rather than the norm. And so,

another star in the universe glows brightly as we remember Betty and the destiny of our heroes!

Kathleen Van Heck, age 65 of Fenwick died Saturday May 13, 2006 at Metron in Greenville, Mi. She is survived by her children: Joe and Sue Van Heck of Stanton, Raedine and Andrew Van Belen of Manistee and Wanda Van Heck and Jim Myers of Fenwick; one brother Jim and Shirley Reeder of Ionia; four sisters; Joyce and Don Paulson of Canton, Richard and Jackie Christiansen of Ionia, Jean and Gaylord Ederly of Charlotte and Gigi Reeder of Carp Lake, Mi. Funeral services were Tuesday May 16th, 2006 at Simpson Funeral Home in Sheridan. Internment was at Maryknoll Cemetery in Carson City by her husband Ellis "Bear" Van Heck who was our long-time bar-tender at Post 182 until his untimely death in January, 2002. Both were members of St. Mary's Parish in Carson City, Mi. Together again, as they would wish to be!

Joe Riley, 82, passed away Saturday, July 15, 2006 at his home in Hubbardston. Joe was born March 11, 1924 to John and Louise Rockey Riley in rural Hubbardston. He served his country during World War II. He married Ruth Parks on November 20, 1948 at St. John the Baptist Church with Fr. Fox officiating. He was a member of Post 182 and enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening and spending time with his family. He is survived by his wife Ruth, a daughter Carol (Dan) Schrauben, two sons Mike Riley of Orleans, Mi. and Sam Riley of Hubbardston. They have three grandchildren and one great grandson. Also surviving are brothers and sisters; Betty (Carl) Geller, Lorene (Elmer) Barker, Helen Tait, Leonard Riley, Eugene (Audrey) Riley, Rita (Neil) Synder, Janet (Pat) Burns and brother-in-law Stanley Schafer. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Jack, and a sister Patricia. The funeral was held on Tuesday, July 18 at 4:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church with internment in the parish cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made in Joe's name to Mi-Michigan Hospice, or American Cancer Society. The floral arrangements with 'bells of Ireland, roses and Gerber daisies' in beautiful array were testimony to the many good neighbors and hunting and fishing friends Joe enjoyed. Joe, you've earned your own special retreat and freedom from pain. Peace!

Helen McGinn McKenna, 80, died peacefully at home on July 19, 2006 with her family at her side. She was the daughter of George and Loretta O'Connell McGinn of Hubbardston. She graduated from St. John the Baptist High and Ionia County Normal and attended Central Michigan University. She taught in Belding and Palo schools before settling in Lansing in 1948. She was a member of Holy Cross Parish and provided a home full of love, laughter and unity. She was very gentle and caring wife, mother and grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. She was greatly admired and loved by everyone she touched. Helen was the beloved wife of Patrick McKenna for 58 years. She is survived by 5 daughters, 11 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and brothers, Gerald "Jack (Jenny) and Raymond "Bish" (Marion) and Patrick "Dugan" (Betty); and close friend Anita Daly. Funeral service by Fr. Maurice Hayes was held on Saturday July 22, 2006 at Holy Cross Church in Lansing. Committal was in Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Respite House, 1404 Hatch Rd., Okemos, Mi. 48864 or the American Cancer Society. Pat and Helen were faithful members of Post 182 and the Hubbardston Area Historical Society and enjoyed their association with family and friends as they visited the 'old home town.' They were a terrific couple and great friends to all of us. Peace!

Dignified Disposal of Unserviceable Flags

"A Flag may be a flimsy bit of printed gauze, or a beautiful banner of finest silk. It's intrinsic value may be trifling or great; but its real value is beyond price, for it is a precious symbol of all that our service men and women have worked for and lived for, and died for – a free nation of men and women true to the faith of the past, devoted to the ideals and practices of Justice, Freedom and Democracy."

"Let these faded flags be retired and destroyed with respectful and honorable rites and replaced by the new...and let no soldier, sailor or airman dead be unhonored and unmarked....To a clean and purging flame we commit these Flags worn out by worthy service. As they yield their substance to the fire, may Your Holy Light spread over us and bring our hearts renewed devotion to God and Country. Amen."(American Legion Auxiliary National News

Great Gift Idea.

Hubbardston Heritage Recipe Collection and Lore by Auxiliary Historian Joanne Burns Howard and Mary Caris, \$14.95. We have limited copies left. All proceeds go to the Hubbardston Area Historical Association.

Antique Car Cruise Delights Area Enthusiasts

On Thursday evening, July 13, 2006, Hubbardston's Washington Avenue glistened with the glow of over one-hundred "tenderly and lovingly cared-for" pristine autos of yester-year. Leo McMillan and Tim Chartrand invited all of the area 'antique auto clubs' to join them in a drive to Hubbardston for an old-fashioned "Cruise" night. The sidewalks were filled with an eager audience and when the cars paraded in, it was a sight to behold. "Like another Memorial Day," said one excited onlooker. With temperatures soaring in the 90's, the trusty heirlooms of another era breezed along perfectly showing no signs of distress. There is indeed great pride evident when you observe the meticulous condition of these 'dream cars' of our youth. Drivers relive the Saturday nights of their teens and enjoy every minute in the limelight. Thanks to Leo and Tim and all involved with a really "neat night." Happy Hour at Shiels was the perfect place to discuss the merits of each of each members pride and joy and relive the 'purchase' of that "sweet" car that I will never part with and that I spend hours washing, waxing, polishing and loving!"

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure."

"Look in your underwear, Grandma," he advised. "Mine says four-six."

Prayer for the Perfect Man:

Before I lay me down to sleep, I pray for a man who's not a creep. One who's handsome, smart and strong. One who loves to listen long. One who thinks before he speaks. One who'll call and not wait for weeks. I pray he's gainfully employed. When I spend his cash he won't be annoyed. Pulls out my chair and opens my door, massages my back and begs to do more. Oh, send me a man who'll make love to my mind, who knows what to answer to "how big is my behind?" I pray that this man will love me to no end, and always be my very best friend. Amen!

Who was the first person to say, "See that chicken there? I'm gonna eat the next thing that comes outta its butt."

Mick staggered home in the wee small hours after a heavy night out with his mates. When he woke up the next morning, he found he was in bed with the dog beside him in his wife's place. "Glory be!" said Mick. "I must have really been drunk when I got home. I thought there was a lot of noise when I threw the dog out!"

Enough!

Recently I overheard a mother and daughter in their last moments together at the airport. They had announced the departure. Standing near the security gate, they hugged and the mother said, "I love you and I wish you enough."

The daughter replied, "Mom. Our life together has been more than enough. Your love is all I ever needed. I wish you enough, too, Mom." They kissed and the daughter left. The mother walked over to the window where I was seated. I could see that she wanted and needed to cry. She said, "Did you ever say good-bye to someone knowing it would be forever?"

"Yes, I have," I replied. "Forgive me for asking, but why is this a forever good-bye?"

"I'm old, she lives so far away and I have some challenges ahead of me and the reality is that her next trip back will be for my funeral," she said.

"When you were saying good-bye, I heard you say, 'I wish you enough.' May I ask what that means?"

"That's a wish handed down from other generations. My parents said it to everyone. When we said I wish you enough, we were wanting the other person to have a life filled with just enough good things to sustain them." She paused a moment, trying to remember the details, turned toward me and recited from memory:

"I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright no matter how gray the day may appear. I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun even more. I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive and everlasting. I wish you enough pain so that even the smallest of joys in life may appear bigger. I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess. I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final good-bye." Then she began to cry and walked away. It takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them but an entire life to forget them.

Whether a man winds up with a nest egg or a goose egg depends a lot on the kind of chick he marries.

St. John's Memorial Wall Dedicated

On July 4, 2006, at 10:00 a.m., a series of beautiful polished black granite monuments were dedicated by the American Legion Post and representatives of organizations, veteran's families and citizens throughout the St. Johns Area. Located on a boulevard on Main Street on the site of the old railroad crossing, the memorial is impressive. Nine massive stones with white engraving dominate the site. The American Flag (and POW flag) grace the center of the landscaped and engraved brick circular walkway. Flags of each of the services flutter on tall poles just north of the monuments. A central stone engraved with a majestic eagle balances the scene. Veteran Gordon Shipley and Eighth District Comdr. Richard Root form part of the five-man committee who researched the individuals and brought the project to culmination. Listed veterans are from: the Civil War, World War I and II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War and Iraq War. Stop by and view the impressively designed tribute to so many brave veterans. The ceremony was televised and shown at noon on local TV on Independence Day, 2006. Thanks guys for a great job!

Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful. (Ann Landers)
Women and cats will do as they please. Men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea. (Robt. Heinlein)

If your dog is fat, you aren't getting enough exercise. (Anonymous)

If there are no dogs in heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went. (Will Rogers)

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