



# ERNEST F. OLDENBURG POST 216 MILFORD, MICHIGAN

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2007

Member of MALPA

2006 Membership – 342

Ray Chaplin, Editor

## From the Commander: Our Mission: POST PRIDE & HOSPITALITY

### From the Sr. Vice Commander, John Nelson

A reminder to all members, last year the membership voted to move the annual election of officers to the month of April. So, nominations for elections will begin at the March membership meeting, March 20, 2007.

Executive Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Tuesday  
March 20, 2007.

### Membership Report

By John Nelson, Sr. Vice Commander

I am pleased to report that the efforts of our Post Membership Committee have paid off, and the Post 216 has reached its membership goal for 2006-2007 before January 1, 2007. As of the February 27, we have 366 paid members, compared to our goal of 345, and total membership is 382. Thank you all for helping our post achieve this significant accomplishment.

Even more astounding is that of all the posts in the 18th District (Oakland County), Milford's Post 216 has the largest number of new members at 42 new members in 2006.

The focus for the Membership Committee during the first part of 2007 is to reach the Legionnaires who live in the Huron Valley area and who are not part of a local post. These Legion members do pay their annual dues, but their membership is affiliated with the State Headquarters, Post 225. These are men and women who may be your neighbors and friends, but they have not yet chosen to join our Milford Post 216. We will be reaching out to these

veterans to encourage them to come and be part of this growing, vibrant Post.

### Membership analysis

By John Nelson, Sr. Vice Commander

#### 1. A salute to the Long-term members (more than 40 years a Legionnaire)

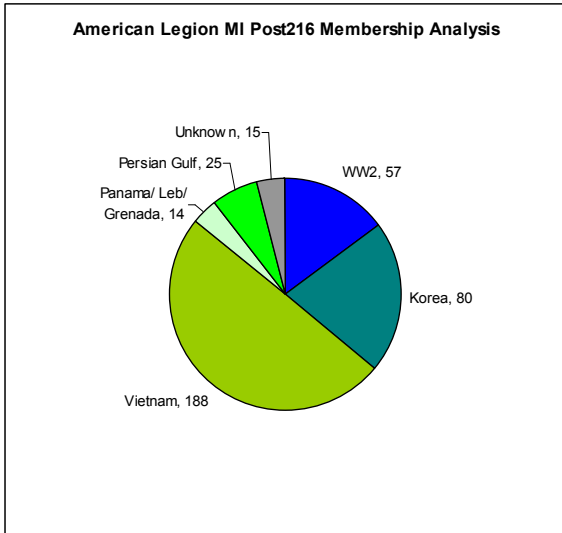
Joseph J.	Vernier	62
Norman	Ellison Jr.	61
Cloyd O.	Feigley	61
Merlin	Feigley	61
Richard B.	Johnson	52
Donald W.	Good	50
Clare N.	Caswell	49
Lawrence D.	Shelton	49
Neil	Braun	48
David H.	Burns	48
Donald G.	Farley	48
Robert T.	Gharrity	48
Earl A.	Vradenburg	47
George C.	Devine	46
Burton A.	Gavitt	44
Jack H.	Gillow	43
Melburn G.	Tonnemacher	43
Lewis J.	Underhill III	43
Edward C.	Scholz	41
Henry D.	Stricker Jr	41
Donald E.	Buss	40
Acie E.	Ray	40

2. Active Duty Members: Did you know that Post 216 has ten members who are serving the US Military on active duty? Here are their names. When you see them or one of their family, thank them. Ask how you can help them, and then do help.

Phillip J.	Bessen
Dean	Caldwell
CW4 Wade R.	Chapple
Dave	Fredericksen
Steven	Hernandez
Joseph D.	Cpl Labadie
Sgt. Chad	Parks
Sean F.	Ralston
Stu	Rescoe
Dan R.	Smith

**Membership analysis – Cont'd**

3. Half of the post membership served during the Vietnam War era. This is an interesting observation, since not long ago, half the membership was World War 2 era veterans. The membership demographics are changing. Some because we are gaining new members; some because we have lost some very dear friends.



**Why become an American Legion Member?**

Top 5 Reasons Veterans and their families join The American Legion.

1. *Satisfy a Mutual Interest* -Topics, Concerns and Ideas are shared with other Veterans.
2. *Achieve Security* – Discovers benefits are of value, Service Officer, Discounts on a number of services, strength in numbers for lobbying, etc.
3. *Fill A Social Need* – Association with others who enjoy similar events, experiences and activities.
4. *Fill a need For Self-esteem* – Organization has a positive image, provides an opportunity for volunteers to serve and be recognized for the service they provide and work they do.
5. *Source of Information.*

**Why renew my American Legion Membership?**

Top 5 Reasons Veterans and their families Renew Membership

1. Recognized for holding an office or being part of a team that accomplishes worthy projects. Recognized for being a member of a respected, reputable organization.
2. Post functions, activities, and programs meet expectations. Post Activities are educational, enjoyable, and beneficial to the member.
3. Security of knowing member benefits meet expectations, service officers are helpful and legislative actives are meaningful and important.
4. Sharing of personal ideas, goals, and feelings. Interaction with members that have similar views or interests.
5. The American Legion media system benefits membership, The American Legion magazine, Legion Dispatch, Department and Post Newsletters combined with the Web Site articles are interesting, informative, beneficial and accessible.



**American Legion Auxiliary**

The "Forget Us Not" Tree Project was initiated, and designed, by members of the Women's Auxiliary Post 216. The yellow ribbons on the tree are to honor and remember our active duty Men and Women currently serving our country. Additional yellow ribbons are available in the clubroom for those who wish to place one on the tree. Please use a permanent marker to print the name on the ribbon. Either place it on the tree yourself, or leave it in the basket and someone will place it on the tree for you.





## Sons of the American Legion

The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 216 are sponsoring a bus trip to Comerica Park and Greektown Casino. The cost for this event is \$82.00 per person, which includes a suite at the park, breakfast in the clubroom and beverages on the bus. The date for this event is April 28, 2007. The bus will leave the Legion parking lot at 11:00 am and leave the Casino at midnight. If anyone is interested please contact the clubroom at 248-684-9919.

The following is an announcement from Clayton Maxwell the Jr. SAL Commander. It was submitted by Cody Kowal, the Jr. SAL Sr. Vice Commander.

### **Attention all SAL Juniors age 20 and under:**

We are organizing a Junior SAL Squadron, with monthly meetings just like the rest of the American Legion family. I have been appointed Jr. Squadron Commander by Michael McDonnell the SAL Squadron 216 Commander. If you would like to be on the Jr. Executive Board you can e-mail me at [ernest216@aol.com](mailto:ernest216@aol.com) or call me at 248 684-9919 (Legion) or 248 684-1867 (home). Please come to the next SAL meeting on March 6, 2007 at the American Legion Hall if you would like to be involved with the Jr. SAL.

Sincerely,  
Clayton Maxwell  
Jr. SAL Commander



The Golf Outing Committee would like to thank the following people for their continues support to the American Legion Fred Kowal Memorial Golf Outing:

American Legion Auxiliary 216	Huron Valley Furniture
American Legion Post 216	Ironwood Golf Club
American Legion Riders 216	Iverson's Lumber
Sons of the American Legion Squadron 216	J. W. Field
5th 3rd Bank	Joan Kowal
Americus Coney Island	Kensington Dairy Queen
Appeteaser	Klancy's of Milford
Arms Brothers	LaFontaine
Bakers of Milford	Leo's Coney Island
Bangkok City	Links of Novi Golf Club
Bell-n-Sons	Milford Art
Book Clinic	Milford Auto
Burchfield Park & Pollesch	Milford Barbers
Cartridge World	Milford Big Boy
Charlies Jewelry	Milford Pharmacy
Chiquita's	Milford Trophy & Milford's Mane Care
Cigar Box	O'Callaghans Public House
Clothing Cove	Papa Romano's
Clubhouse Golf	Pete Spier
Colasanti's	Red Dog Saloon
Coldwell Banner Callan	Rio Grande
Colonial Motors	Rio Wraps
Come Back Inn	River Bank Golf Club
CTP Solutions	Robert Houghton
Curves of Milford	Ron Nevorski
D's Café	Saint Georges Cafe
Denny Balogh	South Lyon Hotel
Dicks Barber Shop	State Farm Insurance
Dimitri's	Steamers
Dukes of Highland	Sweet Retreats
Dunham Hills Golf Club	The Pond Place
Edward Jones Investment	The Village Toy Shop
El Patio	Tim Horton's
Engraving	Total Dimension
Five Lakes Grill	Tuffys Auto
Fox Hills Golf Club	USA Vending
Heavenly Hair	Village Butcher
Hector & Jimmy's	Village Peddler
Highland Eagles	Wade Trim
Highland Hills Golf Club	Wind River Gallery
Holden's Party Store	Zaydees Coffee
Hungry Howies	



support several of the American Legion programs. Mark your calendars now for next year’s party in January.

**Legion Riders**

By John Nelson

Do you like motorcycle riding? Do you own your own motorcycle? Want to be part of a riding-focused group that is focused on important issues for veterans? If you can answer YES to these questions, then come join the Post 216 American Legion Riders. We meet each month on the 2nd Monday of the month, at 7:30 in the Clubroom. We will be having a monthly ride or activity (when weather or circumstance prevents us) beginning in April.

Did you know that the American Legion Riders started in Michigan? Now just over 13 years old, this organization has grown to have a presence in 48 states and 2 foreign nations. There are more than 500 American Legion Riders programs now active in the world, with close to 15,000 members.

Post 216 American Legion Riders Director Andy Russell and Assistant Director John Nelson were recently seen on public access television on the program “The American Legion Story”, a production of the Department of Michigan Public Relations Committee. Committee Chairman Robert Janoska, of Post 216, invited Andy and John to share with viewers “What is the American Legion Riders?” If you missed seeing this program on cable TV, and you would like to see the program, contact Andy or John and arrangements can be made to share this TV program with you.

Post 216 American Legion Riders 2nd Annual Beach Party a rousing success. Nearly a full house, good music, food, drinks and dancing. And the Legion Riders raise money that will be used to

One of the most visible Legion Rider activity in the past year was the escort for the American Legion National Commander from the National Headquarters in Indianapolis to the National Convention site (last year in Salt Lake City, UT). During that ride, the Legion Riders brought our attention to the American Legacy Scholarship Fund by raising over \$400,000. That Scholarship Fund will help the children of fallen heroes to have a college education. This year, the Legion Riders will again escort the National Commander to the National Convention in Reno, NV. And the Legion Riders’ goal for the American Legacy Scholarship Fund is \$500,000. If you want to contribute to our Post 216 effort in support of this scholarship fund, contact Andy Russell or any of the Legion Riders officers.



**BINGO**

Did you know that the Bingo Committee will pay your Post membership dues if you volunteer your time to help make Bingo successful? After working BINGO for 15 weeks during the year (and there are 50 weeks of Bingo in each year), your volunteering will have earned you your membership dues.



**Clubroom**

**Club 216 - Hours of Operation**

	FROM	TO
Sunday	Noon	8 PM
Monday	11 AM	10 PM
Tuesday	11 AM	10 PM
Wednesday	11 AM	10 PM
Thursday	11 AM	10 PM
Friday	11 AM	Midnight
Saturday	11 AM	11 PM

**Clubroom – Cont’d**

The Clubroom renovation for 2007 is nearly complete.

Take a look around and you will see the walls that were painted last summer. The restrooms have improved lighting and fixtures. Rearrangement of the big screen TV and some of the tables gives the club a much more open feel. Now, you can see the new floor. This floor should last 30-40 years and still look this good. Thank you to all the members and contractors who helped brighten up the club. The only finishing touch that remains is to adorn the clubroom walls with the pictures and memorabilia that makes this our club. If you have suggestions for what should be on the walls, share those with Mike McDonnell.

It is important periodically to restate the rules that we as members of Post 216 are obliged to observe as we share each others’ company in our Post Clubroom.

**CLUB 216 Rules of Conduct**

- |  |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No vulgar language.</li> <li>2. Guests must be signed in by and remain with member.</li> <li>3. Only members may make purchases.</li> <li>4. Children must be under direct adult supervision.</li> <li>5. All patrons must leave at posted closing times.</li> <li>6. No alcohol may leave the clubroom.</li> <li>7. No alcohol may be brought into the clubroom.</li> <li>8. No fighting or malicious destruction or removal of Legion property.</li> <li>9. No unauthorized personnel behind the bar.</li> <li>10. Bartender is responsible for enforcing the above and</li> </ol> |
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**Honor Guard News**

by John Moore

The Post Honors Guard recently welcomed three new members to the team. The newest members are Chuck Bowman, Dave Horst, and Dennis Finkbeiner. For calendar year 2006 the team supported 74 military honors for area veterans, either at the Post, local cemeteries, or the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. So far this year we have conducted 15 ceremonies.

A complete breakdown and statistics of these ceremonies can be found on our website by selecting TAPS in the left hand column.



**Web Site News**

by John Moore

[www.milfordlegion216.org](http://www.milfordlegion216.org)

We added a link to an AMVETS page which contains information about Huron Valley AMVETS Post #2006, which meets at the Legion Hall the last Tuesday of each month.

We are continually working with our web site host to incorporate new and fresh ideas to keep the site maintained and easy to maneuver. Articles can be sent to me at [k1de@aol.com](mailto:k1de@aol.com)



**Baseball**

Submitted by Tony Puente



EF Oldenburg baseball is underway and we are looking forward to a great summer of baseball. Both coaches from Milford and Lakeland is excited and happy that the Legion is sponsoring a team from our community. Another 8-10 weeks of baseball will help

make our teams more competitive and give our young men some more time to hone their skills for the next level. Tryouts for the 16-19 year olds will be some time in May. The season lasts from June 15 through July 22nd.

[www.milfordlegionbaseball.org](http://www.milfordlegionbaseball.org)



**Scouts**

By Tony Puente

The Scouts of Pack 52 have been very busy this winter learning, and having fun. We are preparing for an overnight trip to the USS Silversides in April, and a big campout in June. We had our crossover event at the Blue & gold banquet and 5 scouts went on the Boy Scouts from our Pack. One of those scouts was Clayton Maxwell.

In December we sponsored a soldier family at Christmas; actually a sailor. The Pack donated some gift cards to the David Fredrickson family and also gave them some Christmas baked goods to make there holidays a little brighter.

We are very proud to be chartered by the American Legion and are representing the Post well in our community.

[www.geocities.com/milfordpack52](http://www.geocities.com/milfordpack52)



## Upcoming Events

- **Executive Board Meeting**, 6:00 pm, Tuesday March 20, 2007
- **Hamburger Night at Club 216** - Now through mid-May. This is one of the best examples of the Post 216 American Legion family coming together for quality time. This is a weekly get-together that should not be missed.
- **Lenten Fish Fry** - Each Friday of March 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Clubroom.
- **Steak Night** - Begins in May, look for announcements in the Clubroom.

## **Veteran Links**

The American Legion Post 216	<a href="http://www.milfordlegion216.org">www.milfordlegion216.org</a>
The American Legion National Website	<a href="http://www.legion.org">http://www.legion.org</a>
The American Legion State of Michigan Website	<a href="http://www.michiganlegion.org/">http://www.michiganlegion.org/</a>
The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Website	<a href="http://www.vfw.org">http://www.vfw.org</a>
The AMVETS National Website	<a href="http://www.amvets.org">http://www.amvets.org</a>
The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Website	<a href="http://www.michiganpva.org/">http://www.michiganpva.org/</a>
The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Website	<a href="http://www.dav.org/">http://www.dav.org/</a>
The Viet Nam Veterans of America (VVA) Website	<a href="http://www.vva.org/">http://www.vva.org/</a>
The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)	<a href="http://www.va.gov/">http://www.va.gov/</a>
The Great Lakes National Cemetery Website	<a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/greatlakes.asp">http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/greatlakes.asp</a>
The National Archives (Veterans Records)	<a href="http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html">http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html</a>
American Battle Monuments Commission (Overseas cemeteries and monuments. Very interesting stuff)	<a href="http://www.abmc.gov/home.php">http://www.abmc.gov/home.php</a>
Department of Defense	<a href="http://www.defenselink.mil">www.defenselink.mil</a>

## Honor A Veteran with a Brick Paver

In the air, on land and sea numerous American Citizens are serving or have served in the armed forces of the United States during times of war and peace. These veterans have given us a level of freedom not known to any other country in the world.



Now you have an opportunity to honor a veteran by purchasing an engraved brick paver. This person may be a family member, friend, neighbor, someone in the workplace, or in memory of someone who has passed away.

The ‘Veterans Memorial Walkway’ will be made up of individual brick pavers each, engraved with the name and other information about a veteran. The Walkway begins at the East parking area, then moving around the perimeter of the M-60 Battle Tank, continues along the front of the building ending at the cannon. The Walkway itself becomes a focal point as it winds between areas landscaped with seasonal plantings. The American, POW, and Branch Flags fly proudly in the background.

All proceeds raised in this endeavor will be used to cover the cost of renovations and improvements to our American Legion Post.

Thank you for honoring a veteran and sharing our vision for the future.....

Members of American Legion Post 216 Milford, Michigan

To Order your brick paver, to honor a veteran that you know, visit the Post 216 website, or contact Skip Davison







**The American Legion**

Commander	Joseph M. Salvia	(313)	701-8000
Sr. Vice Commander	John Nelson	(248)	684-9287
Jr. Vice Commander	Anthony Puente	(248)	685-3767
Adjutant	Chuck Hoobler	(248)	889-2301
Finance Officer	Ron Nevorski	(248)	684-8950
Chaplain	Archie Noon	(248)	685-2501
Historian	Todd Herron	(248)	363-4333
Sgt-at-Arms	Eric Baker	(248)	634-9054
Executive Board	Bob Godwin	(248)	685-3255
Executive Board	Jim Hunter	(248)	685-0232
Executive Board	Jack Winder	(248)	887-4222
Executive Board SAL	Mike McDonnell	(248)	685-1330
Executive Board Auxiliary			
Service Officer	Bruce Hayden	(248)	684-6828
Honor Guard Coordinator	John Moore	(248)	770-4120
Web Site Administrator	John Moore	(248)	770-4120
Brick Paver Administrator	Skip Davison	(248)	676-2954



**The American Legion Auxiliary**

President			
1st Vice President	Sally Morin	(248)	887-1602
2nd Vice President	Delores Salvia	(248)	887-1421
Secretary	Brenda Dees	(248)	887-1723
Treasurer	Jan LaClair	(248)	684-0930
Chaplain	Angi Scheideman		
Historian	Halee Herron	(248)	363-4333
Sergeant-At-Arms	Cindy Laclair		
Executive Board	Jennifer McClure		
Executive Board	Diane Cort	(248)	685-3171

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Executive Board

Shirley McFarlane (248) 887-2272



**Sons of The American Legion - Squadron 216**

Commander	Mike McDonnell	(248)	685-1330
Senior Vice	Butch Maxwell	(248)	684-1867
Junior Vice	Gary Gibbons	(248)	684-8565
SAL Chairman	Bob Janoska	(248)	887-2645
Adjutant	Fred Morin	(248)	887-1602
Finance	John Lombardo	(248)	889-8298
Historian	Daniel Scheideman	(248)	446-1997
Chaplain	Rick Byrne	(248)	437-9415
Sgt. At Arms	Ray Clinard	(810)	750-3070
Executive Board	Jim Bingham	(248)	672-7393
Executive Board	Andy Russell	(248)	684-0085
Executive Board	Clayton Maxwell	(248)	684-1867



**The American Legion Riders**

Director	Andy Russell
Assistant Director	John Nelson
Secretary	Debra Kielian
Treasurer	Greg Canfield
Chaplain	Ray Clinard
Historian	Todd Herron
Road Captain	Butch Maxwell
Assistant Road Captain	John Kielian
Webmaster (from Iraq)	Stu Rescoe

A Message on the Occasion of **The American Legion 88th Birthday March 15, 2007**

The Doughboys of World War I saw it coming. They just weren't sure what to do about it. Victors of hundreds of skirmishes and battles across the Western Front, they withstood anything the German Army could throw at them --- bombs, machine gun fire, mustard gas and hand-to-hand fighting. Brutally cold rains, pneumonia and influenza pandemic filled their trenches in the infamous "No Mans Land." Yet they endured. But this new threat, coming across the horizon and growing more ominous as the Armistice was nearing, worried them.

The enemy was bureaucracy. Every veteran of the Great War – in particular the disabled and wounded warrior -- was going to have to face it sooner or later. When World War I ended, our society had very little in place to handle the needs of veterans returning from the trenches in France. Horror stories were already circulating among the troops about the hardships their comrades faced when they returned home. Newspapers reported incidents of disabled veterans - starving and ignored by the government - collapsing on the street. Some communities, not wanting to deal with their disabled warriors, hid them. In Chicago, the "Being Ugly on the Public Way" ordinance was passed where men, horribly disfigured from the injuries they sustained in the war, were forced to wear masks or hoods in public to conceal their faces or face arrest and imprisonment. Over 300,000 soldiers returned home with debilitating physical and mental disorders. Having put an enormous amount of its financial resources into mobilizing the army and navy, the government paid little attention to the problems of rehabilitation or long term medical care for wounded veterans.

Some lawmakers displayed their insensitivity to those wounded warriors by questioning the moral fiber of disabled veterans who were seeking compensation and financial assistance.

It was during this period of despair and disillusionment for our veterans that The American Legion began its work. In the early days of The American Legion, National Commander Hanford MacNider wrote: "The first duty of The American Legion is to see that those men who came back from the service, blind, maimed, broken in health and spirit, who must live through the war forever in their homes throughout the country, get a square deal from the government they fought for." MacNider's words certainly were in concert with those of President Lincoln's, set forth in his Second Inaugural Address in 1864, when he called upon Americans "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan - to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations."

The American Legion, which had not yet passed its first birthday, set out to prove to Congress that the country owed something to the former service man and woman whose lives were forever changed as a result of their wartime service. Through the Legion's hard work, the U.S. Veterans Bureau was created - forerunner of the Veterans Administration and later, the Department of Veterans Affairs. For 88 years, The American Legion has been America's leading advocate for veterans health care and rehabilitation, children and youth programs, a strong national security policy and one-hundred percent Americanism.

In 1943, Harry W. Colmery, past national commander of The American Legion, wrote the first draft of what later became the, "GI Bill of Rights," the Legion's greatest single legislative achievement. Today, we take pride in knowing that The American Legion is still at the forefront of efforts to improve benefits for this nation's newest veterans, those who've served during Desert Shield/Desert Storm and are serving today in the war on terror. In 1990, The "Family Support Network" was formed by The American Legion to assist the families of military personnel deployed during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in the Middle East. In 2001, we initiated the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, which enables children of military personnel killed on active duty to receive money toward a college education.

Last year, thanks in a large part to the Departments of The American Legion and The American Legion Riders historic motorcycle run from the National Headquarters in Indianapolis to Salt Lake City, the site of The American Legion's 88th Annual convention, over 453 thousand dollars was raised for the fund. In 2007, The American Legion's goal is to raise half a million dollars in scholarship funds for the children of our fallen heroes. With your help, we will reach that goal.

Through our latest program, "Heroes to Hometowns," The American Legion provides direct assistance to severely injured service members when they return to their hometowns.

Legion posts do this by working with the community to set up a support network and coordinating resources – such as child care, temporary housing, adapting homes or vehicles and financial aid --before a service member returns home. Perhaps, one of our biggest challenges is the same one we faced 88 years ago --- too much red tape when it come to the veteran's health care budget. This past January, Marine Lance Corporal Schulze (SHULTZ), suffering from a severe case of post-traumatic stress disorder, went to the VA Hospital in St. Cloud, Minnesota. The combat-wounded warrior, who received two Purple Hearts, while stationed in Fallujah and Ramadi, had seen 35 Marines in his unit killed, including 17 of them in just 48 hours of intense combat.

He eventually returned home to Minnesota, but he was deeply troubled by the horrific images and sounds of war that had followed him. Unable to deal with his stress, Schulze went to the VA Hospital where he told a staff member he was thinking of killing himself and asked to be admitted to the mental health unit. He was told that he was number 26 on the waiting list and would have to wait. Four days later, Schulze, 25, the father of a six month old daughter, committed suicide. Since our beginning in 1919, The American Legion has stood firm in our conviction that VA health care must be properly funded so that warriors like Lance Corporal Schulze can receive care and treatment when they need it...not 26 days or 26 weeks or 26 months later.

The inability of Congress to pass legislation in favor of mandatory or assured funding is the leading cause of understaffed VA hospitals that have to operate on a shoestring budget. VA health care should not be a guessing game. Under current law, funding for VHA is provided in an annual appropriation. That appropriation typically includes funds for medical care for veterans, which are the bulk of the appropriation; funds for construction or renovation of hospitals, nursing homes, and clinics; and funds to pay operating expenses. Military veterans deserve better from their country. I think that each of you here today will agree with me when I say the cost of war is ongoing; it doesn't end on the battlefield.

That's why - with your help - The American Legion will make sure the members of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress are fully aware that VA health care must be funded on a dollars-per-veteran basis and indexed annually for inflation, with the ability to bill Medicare for reimbursement. Through the four pillars of veterans affairs and rehabilitation, national security, children's welfare and Americanism, The American Legion continues to fulfill Lincoln's promise "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan." To each of you, I say thank you comrades, for what you do for our veterans, and for America. It's an honor to say: Happy Birthday American Legion.

## USS Midway



### Answering the Call for 47 Years

“Midway Magic” is a historical fact. It was a term known throughout the Navy as the USS Midway steamed through a 47-year career of service to country. Imagine a carrier that was commissioned in 1945 and served as a flagship in Desert Storm in 1991. No other carrier served as long as the USS Midway.

Time and again Midway remained on station when other carriers broke down and headed for port. It was almost magical how the crew and carrier responded to every call—both military and humanitarian.

The USS Midway set new standards of naval aviation in the latter half of the 20th century. A captured German V-2 rocket was launched off the USS Midway in 1947—the dawn of naval missile warfare. The USS Midway blazed new trails of sub-Arctic air operations off the coast of Greenland. It was the first carrier home ported in a foreign country, calling Yokosuka, Japan home for 18 years. When others came home, the USS Midway remained at the “tip of the sword” on an odyssey shared by 225,000 Americans that spanned the surrender of Japan in WWII, the Cold War, Vietnam, the era of détente and Desert Storm.



No other carrier carries such a proud—many say “magical”—tradition of diligence, vigilance and mission completion. Midway Magic was real. And it continues today on her final mission as an interactive museum, tribute and education center.

### The Museum's Odyssey

After serving 8 U.S. Presidents over 47 years, the USS Midway was decommissioned in 1992 in San Diego. She was then towed to the Navy's mothball fleet in Bremerton, Washington. Within months, a community groundswell of support for Midway as a San Diego museum began to develop.

It ultimately took 12 years of volunteer effort to sail the gauntlet of regulatory reviews and permits by a non-profit organization completely funded by private donations. But in December, 2003 Midway returned to San Diego and two days short of six months later in June, 2004 she embarked on her final deployment as an aircraft carrier museum.

In its first year of operation, the museum doubled attendance projections by welcoming 879,281 guests aboard. More than 10,000 individuals and families enrolled as annual members and more than 500 signed up as volunteers. Midway shattered every grand opening record for a historic ship museum.

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The museum also has gained national recognition. Only a year after opening, it was named Special Event Site of the Year in a national poll of meeting planners. 5-6 evening events are held aboard Midway every week. Midway now books events three years in advance.

In addition, the museum's education and youth sleepover programs have proven to be enormously successful and are expanding rapidly.

At the same time, the museum is in the midst of a master 10-year build out program, adding restored spaces and aircraft to the public tour every few months.

### **USS Midway Facts & Figures**

#### **Dimensions:**

- 1001 feet long, 258 feet wide
- 45,000 tons displacement at commissioning in 1945
- 74,000 tons at decommissioning in 1992

#### **Power Plant:**

- Conventionally powered, producing 212,000 horsepower by 12 boilers
- Enough electrical power was generated to support a city of 1 million residents
- Each of four, 18-foot propellers weighed 22 tons. Maximum speed was 33 knots
- Fuel capacity: 3.4 million gallons (ship and aviation)
- Fuel economy: 100,000 gallons per day/260 gallons to the mile

#### **A City at Sea:**

- Crew: 4,500
- Monthly payroll: \$1.2 million
- Telephones: 1,500
- Compartments: 2,000
- Electric motors: more than 2,000
- Miles of piping: 200
- Miles of copper conductor: 3,000
- Miles of fire hose: 4.5
- Fresh water produced: 240,000 gallons daily

#### **Daily food requirements:**

- Meals served: 13,000
- Bread: 1,000 loaves
- Pies for one serving each: 650
- Beef for one large serving each: 4,250 lbs.
- Vegetables: 5,000 lbs.
- Meat: 4,500 lbs.
- Dry provisions: 20,000 lbs.
- Potatoes: 3,000 lbs.

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