



ERNEST F. OLDENBURG POST 216 MILFORD, MICHIGAN

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2006

Member of MALPA

2005 Membership - 335

Ray Chaplin, Editor

From the Commander:

MISSION: POST PRIDE and HOSPITALITY

John Nelson, John & Marilyn Moore, Dolores Salvia and Percy Duncan for assisting in the presentation of awards.

In Appreciation

Children's Easter Party.

Many children and adults attended the "2006 Easter Party". On behalf of all in attendance, a grateful thank you is extended to the Women's Auxiliary, SAL and Legion members for their continuous support and contributions. A "special thanks to the mysterious Large Bunny who did the bunny hop and provided plenty of good times for all.

Recognition and Honors Dinner

The Recognition and Honors Dinner was a great night of fun, food and fellowship for over 120 honorees, guests and post officers. It was the formal event to express our thanks to all those individuals and businesses who contributed to much time, materials and funds to complete the rear entrance (North Wall) exterior and interior areas. The entire exterior of the Post is now a beautiful, highly visible and well-complemented structure that all our members can take pride in belonging to the Legion organization.

Some were not be able to attend because of schedule conflicts. In those instances special arrangements will be made recognize them at a later time.

Special thanks to John Moore who provided visual effects by playing the CD presentation of the entire building progress from start to finish, to Gary Gibbons and staff who prepared a superb dinner and to

Elections

The elections were held at the April meeting. Thanks to those who accepted nominations and choose to run for office. The Post depends on good officers working together. The installation of Legion Officers is scheduled for Sunday, June 4. A reception at 1:00 pm, installation at 2:00 pm, and lunch to follow. This is an important event in the life of the post, and all post members are encouraged to attend.

Post Hospitality

Steak night will begin on Thursday May 18, 2006. Once again thanks to the SAL and other groups who volunteer their time in the kitchen to help make the event a success. Burger night was well attended throughout the year. Now we can enjoy the outdoor gourmet cooking of steaks grilled to perfection. Please come and bring some folks with you to support the Clubroom. We have many new members this year. Remember, keeping new members requires continued hospitality and a welcoming attitude. **Hospitality starts and continues with each and every one of you,** especially those who attend the Clubroom more frequently. Please watch for any new faces, whether they are new members or just visitors. You may be the only one to make them feel at home at our Post and the only one that will cause them to want to come back.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day, Monday May 29, 2006 is fast approaching. This is by far the biggest event on the Post calendar and now the biggest parade of the year for Milford and the Huron Valley Community. Thanks to those who have sent in a donation to help pay for parade expenses. If you

are able and have not sent in a donation as yet, it is not to late and will be most appreciated.



Please make every effort to be part of this important event and bring any veterans you know with you. My goal is to have 1,000 veterans at this event walking together down Main Street. This can happen if everyone invites one or two veterans to join in. If you have been to one you already know the power of the experience. Tell someone about it and encourage him or her to come. Weather permitting; we can expect strong air support once again. Check the website for any other details.

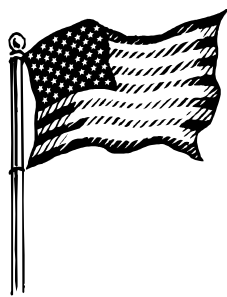
Remember, rain or shine we will stand tall and walk together. BE THERE!!!

Regards,
Joseph M. Salvia
Commander



From the Sr. Vice Commander

Flag Retirement



As Flag Day approaches (June 14), I encourage us all to examine our national flags and decide to replace them on Flag Day if they need to be retired. In the near future we will be holding another ceremony to honor these symbols of our republic. Details will be

announced in at the membership meeting and in the Milford Times.

The Unserviceable Flag Drop Box continues to be a great service to our local citizens. Norm Tibbs has taken the responsibility of checking and emptying the box weekly, as it tends to fill

rapidly. Many in the community have expressed their thanks for having such a convenient place to deposit unserviceable flags.

Spring Cleanup

Clubroom

As you enter the clubroom since May 1, you will notice a fresh clean look. Thanks to the leadership of Ron Nevorski, we have freshly cleaned and painted walls. Really brightens up the space. Our next task is to decide together where everything will go back up on the walls. So, very soon, and before Memorial Day, a committee representing the Legion Family (Legion, SAL, Auxiliary, Riders) will meet to determine how best to rehang what was taken off the walls. If you have any suggestions, contact John Nelson, Ray Clinard, Joan Kowal, or Joe Salvia. Once again, Post Pride is always are primary mission.

Post Exterior

Cleanup will occur beginning **May 13 and run thru May 27..** Your assistance is needed to police up the Post grounds and then to prepare the beds for plantings, etc. Everyone needs to be involved in this project as it directly relates to our Post Pride Mission. Please help out when asked for assistance. Special thanks to Dennis and Amy Finkbeiner. They already weeded and turned the soil in the front garden areas. The local skateboard club has volunteered to police up the Post grounds and parking area throughout the summer.

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee has met and has deliberated over the applications, and we are proud to announce that a winner has been selected for the David Boyes Memorial Scholarship, awarded to a graduating senior from Milford High School. The recipient will be announced at the May meeting of the membership.

Regards,
John Nelson
Sr. Vice Commander



Membership

Bruce Hayden, Membership Chairman

Thanks to the dedication, hospitality and welcome spirit of our members and staff, along with the new look of our Post, 52 new members joined the Legion. We are 3 adds or renewals away from being reaching 100% of our membership goal.



If you have not renewed as yet please consider renewing your membership. If there is any reason you are not able to renew as yet please contact Bruce Hayden

248-684-6838 or Commander Salvia. We might be able to help out.

The following individuals as yet have not renewed their membership for 2006.

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Richard W. Baker | Robert C. Lingham |
| H. Glen Betts Jr. | Larry K. List |
| Philip Brent Sr. | James J. Marchand |
| Thomas E. Brown | Phillip E. Neff |
| Gary H. Bryant | David M. O'Brien |
| Paul A. Cylkowski | Richard H. Parent |
| Thomas H. Eib | Terrence Peterson |
| | Donald |
| Kenneth W. Eversole | M. Reddeman |
| Mickey A. Garner | James Richards |
| Ronald B. Hanaford | James K. Rue |
| | Richard |
| Stanley J. Gruszka | M. Robinson |
| Byron O. Hestevold | Frank Saputo |
| Auberon | |
| J. Houslander | Jim Schweizer |
| Darryl Kettle | Stanley Secosky |
| Lowell W. Knight Jr. | Donald G. Smith |
| Gordon G. Knudson | Gary M. Summers |
| John M. Kopacz | Phillip J. Tanner Sr. |
| William L. Kopp | William Urbanski |

If you know any of these individuals, stop by or give them a call to encourage them to renew their membership in the American Legion.



Honorwalk

Skip Davison, Chairman

The Honorwalk is an on-going program. Brick paver forms are available in the Clubroom or you may leave a message at the Clubroom (248-684-9919) for Skip if you need additional information. This program is open to all veterans whether or not they are members of the Post.



It is open to any veteran from anywhere who has received an honorable discharge or is still in service. They are an excellent way to memorialize a veteran loved one that may have been cremated and has no headstone or grave marker. Remember that the proceeds go to support the Building Fund. Since Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day are coming soon, getting a brick for a family member or a loved one is a very nice thing to do. Allow four to six weeks from order to installation so get your order in right away.



Notable Events:

Send-off



It is my honor, as both Senior Vice Commander of Post 216, and as Assistant Director of the Post 216, to let you know that one of our own, Stu Rescoe, a member of the 1460th Transportation Company, Michigan National Guard, stationed out of Howell, Michigan, will soon be deployed with his unit to the U.S. military efforts in Iraq. He leaves from Jackson on May 30th, and will be going to training & mobilization in Indiana for several months, and ship out from there to go overseas. Stu has been a member of American Legion Riders since May 18th, 2004.

The American Legion Riders have scheduled a 100-mile ride for Saturday, May 27th at 12:00 noon followed by a send off pizza party at 6:00 p.m. in the lounge at Post No. 216.

ALR members plan to keep in touch with him via e-mail, and Stu will continue his Webmaster duties!

Poppy Days



Bob Janoska is in charge of the Poppy Day activities, which are scheduled for May 18 thru 20, 2006. Everyone needs to help out. **Please help out.** A letter is being sent to all members. Remember, all donations are used only for Post and local veteran needs.

Did You know?

It was due to the poem "In Flanders Field" that Miss Moina Michael originated the Flanders Memorial Poppy which has raised millions of dollars for veterans and their families. Miss Michael became known to millions of World War I veterans as the "Poppy Lady" and on 9 November 1918 she wrote the poem, *We Shall Keep the Faith* in answer to the *In Flanders Field* poem.

*******Remember to visit the Post 216 Website at www.milordlegion216.org**

Moving? Address Change?

Don't miss a single copy of your post newsletter. Fill out the form below and mail to:
Bruce Hayden, C/O American Legion Post 216, 510 W. Commerce, Milford, Mi 48381

Name: _____ Member of: ___ Legion ___ Auxiliary ___ SAL

Old Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

New Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____



Time to move on

Ladies, family and work demands prevent me from running again for president. As I write this, my last newsletter, I do so with mixed emotions. It has been my pleasure to be your president these last three years. I have had the privilege of leading during a time of growth in membership and involvement in many activities benefiting veterans and active military. Among them, our work with the Michigan Veterans' Foundation's - Detroit Veterans' Center and keeping the community aware of active military deployed overseas with our care package collections and our "Forget Us Not Tree". I have enjoyed working with the other Legion Family members in helping the post be restored to its place of respect in the community.

Thank you to all the members that helped me in so many ways and repeatedly answered the call for volunteers to take on the projects of the auxiliary. I look forward to continue working side by side with you on the many Auxiliaries activities, albeit in less demanding capacities.

Do to health and family demands several other members of the board will also be moving on this year. Ladies, this is an excellent time to learn more about the working of the unit, district and department by running for office or filling one of the committee chairs. We are assembling an "operations" manual to help ease the transition of new board members and committee leadership. Elections will be held at the May meeting but committee positions won't be filled until later this year.

Veterans' Affairs & Rehabilitation

The 18th District Auxiliary has several lunches planned for the Detroit Veteran's Center. On Sunday June 25th the 18th District ALA District is planning a fried chicken and salad lunch. Salads can be green or any other type. August 12th at 2:00 the units of the 18th District ALA are planning a picnic BBQ. Also treats of all kinds, paper products and pop are appreciated. If you would like to help with any donations or help serve contact Teri Chaplin at 248-887-8136. All help is treasured and the veterans are very thankful for all we do and so look forward to our visits.

Children & Youth

The Easter egg hunt was a great success. Thanks to everyone that donated candy, helped stuff or hide eggs. A special thank you to the Easter Bunny for making the event so memorable.

Membership News

Our goal for 2006 is 168 and we reached goal at the last meeting. Way to go ladies! We also initiated new members and presented the new members with their American Legion Auxiliary pin. If you could not attend contact Sally Morin on 248-887-1602 to arrange a way to receive your pin.

Even though we reached goal we continue to welcome new members throughout the year!

Juniors' Corner

Juniors are planning on at least one activity a month. Some activities will be service type activities like helping around the post, and visiting veterans in nursing homes. Some will be fun activities like bowling or a craft afternoon. If you are crafty and can help organize a craft afternoon please contact Sheila Maxwell on 248-685-1867 to volunteer.

Poppy Days

Poppy Days are May 18, 19, and 20th. If you can help distribute poppies at Kroger or other locations in the Milford area contact Karen Dean on 248-889-4015 to arrange a time. She will also be able to advise you where and when to pick up poppies and how to turn in any donations. There is

no set amount of time that you must sign-up for, whatever days and times work for you.

This is a very important fundraiser for the unit. These funds support our work with the homeless veterans, with the postage for mailing care packages and helping members in need. We were also able this year to help out several members or their families whose homes were destroyed by Katrina because we had successful poppy days last year.

Memorial Day

As we approach another Memorial please pause to remember the meaning of the day. It is the day we honor all those that have given of themselves, especially those that given their lives, to protect our freedom. Please honor their memory by walking in the parade with your fellow ALA members. Let us show the many veterans in the area and the community how much we care by having a large turnout for the parade. If you would like to carry the Auxiliary flag in the parade please give me a call. Otherwise I will need to recruit someone to do this. Usually I am able to carry our flag at most parades but for Memorial Day I have duties at the service in the park that prevents me from doing so.

No particular attire is required to march but if you have patriotic apparel it adds a nice touch.

The Legion leaves the post very early (around 7:30) to visit the Milford cemeteries to play taps and lower the flag in honor of the veterans buried there. They return around 8:00 or 8:30 have breakfast then proceed to Highland to perform the same ceremony at the Highland Veteran's memorial and cemetery before returning to lead the parade. We ladies provide the breakfast for the honor guard. If you have a favorite breakfast

casserole, sweet bread or coffee cake you would like to donate, it would be greatly appreciated. We also need several members to set up for breakfast and to help check in the veterans that are marching in the parade. Contact Teri Chaplin on 248-887-8136 or e-mail a note to teri.chaplin@hughes.net (new e-mail address) if you can help or look for me at steak night.

Teri's Tidbits:

To honor veterans the American Red cross will be giving out "hero" t-shirts to anyone donating blood between May 20th (Armed Forces Day) and Memorial Day, while supplies last. Visit www.givelife.org or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) to find out where you can donate.



*Always in
our minds
and
hearts.*

For God and Country,

Teri Chaplin
President American Legion Auxiliary
Unit 216
Milford, Mi



The Honor of Your Presence is Requested



To Fellow Veterans and All American Citizens,

I am writing to extend an invitation to you to formally participate in the 2006 Memorial Day Parade and Ceremonies that will take place on Monday May 29, 2006.

Memorial Day is a sacred day in our Country. It is a time for us to remember and honor those who lost their lives in service to our Country. As veterans, we share a special closeness to those who have gone before us and we should make every effort to be visible at this special time.

American citizens who did not serve in the armed forces should be in attendance to show their gratitude to those that committed themselves to serve our Country. It was and continues to be the service and sacrifice of the few that allows all Americans to enjoy the freedom and security that is frequently taken for granted.

Our mission is a simple one. We, as living veterans along with the citizens of our community must gather together each year and never forget the sacrifices of our fellow veterans

Our goal this year is to gather 1,000+ veterans to emphasize the importance of this memorial event. In addition, it will give our community an opportunity to express thanks to all veterans for their time in service.

I would deeply appreciate your acceptance of this invitation and your assistance in helping me find as many veterans as possible to achieve our goal. What a great statement we would make in our small community! I would also ask that you spread the word to family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. All are welcome to join in to observe the parade, give thanks to our veterans and participate in the closing ceremonies in Central Park. It is especially important that children and young adults attend and understand the purpose of this solemn event.

Memorial Day is fast approaching. Please mark your calendars. Veterans participating need to begin gathering at 9:30 am at the American Legion Post located on Commerce Road just west of downtown Milford. The Parade steps off at 11:00am sharp, moving south thru Milford to Central Park. A brief ceremony will take place immediately following the parade.

Please wear your uniform, if you have one and can still get into it, or a piece of your old uniform, cap, jacket, etc. Wear any medals, ribbons, badges, etc that you may have on a sport coat or on a white shirt with dark trousers. All veterans will ceremonially receive a special medal for attending our gathering.

I hope I can count on your attendance. Please fill out the backside of this letter and return to me as soon as possible, or call me at **1-800-547-8111** so I can get a head start on planning.

Thanks in advance for your participation. I look forward to seeing you at the Parade.

REMEMBER, RAIN OR SHINE WE MARCH!! THIS IS OUR DAY TO BE VISIBLE.

Joseph M. Salvia, Parade Chairman

MEMORIAL DAY May 29, 2006

Please fill out the sections below and return as soon as possible to:

MAIL TO: Joseph M. Salvia
American Legion Post 216
510 W. Commerce Road
Milford MI 48381

ATTENDANCE (check appropriate boxes)

Check one: **Army** **Navy** **Marines** **Air Force** **Coast Guard**

- I am still in service (active duty or reserve status) or I have received an honorable discharge and will participate in the Memorial Day Parade
- I will bring _____ other veterans with me. (Please attach list of names if possible)
- I am not a veteran but will attend to give thanks to those who served our country.

PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION CLEARLY. THANK YOU

Name: _____

Address _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

DONATION TO ASSIST WITH PARADE EXPENSES

- I will make a donation to help the American Legion with parade expenses.
() \$15.00 () \$20.00 () \$25.00 () Other amount \$ _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: *American Legion Post 216 - Memorial Day Fund*

NOTE: Donations in excess of the parade expenses will go towards the building fund.

Thanks in advance for your donation.....Joseph M. Salvia, Commander

PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF THIS FORM AND HAND OUT TO AS MANY AS POSSIBLE



CAMBRIDGE AMERICAN CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL