



ERNEST F. OLDENBURG POST 216 MILFORD, MICHIGAN

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2007

Member of MALPA

2006 Membership – 342

Ray Chaplin, Editor

**Our Mission:
VETERANS OF TODAY
PREPARING THE WAY
FOR VETERANS OF TOMMORROW**

POST PRIDE and HOSPITALITY

From the Commander:

Greetings to all,

This year I have chosen not to seek election to any office in order to refocus attention to my career, my home and my family. Since joining the Post around 11 years ago, I have devoted a great deal of time, energy and personal resources, especially since 2002 when major exterior renovations to the building and to the surrounding area began. With the help of several key post members, lots of volunteers, and donations of money and materials from near and far the old image was transformed into what many thought was a brand new building. Commitment, determination, and teamwork kept everything moving forward, especially when progress was interrupted, and doubt and negativity sometimes filled the air.

When I first joined, it was with the intention to help restore Memorial Day, the Parade and the Spirit of Patriotism in our community. The Legion needed to be the driving force to make this happen. Along the way, with growth in attendance at the event and people coming from all over, it became important to make our Post Home a place of honor and a place where strangers and new members would feel welcome.

Our Post can now be proud not only of a positive image resulting from the renovation, but a great surge of new members, and powerful new spirit that prevails from our senior veterans, our members on active duty and our newest members

who have just joined the service. We have a first class Honor Guard, Rifle Teams and Branch Color Guard. We have a first class website, www.milfordlegion216.org, and thanks to our current webmaster John Moore, it is a dynamic site showing all our activities, past and present, along with a calendar of events. We have received numerous awards and recognitions from Veteran Groups, families of veterans, community and scouting groups. A few weeks ago, our State organization had a request from Legion National for Memorial Day Parade localities. Our Post was asked to submit information and other materials for review. As yet, I have not heard anything further, but the fact that our State Legion Officers thought highly enough of what we do is a wonderful testimony to Post accomplishments.

Everything that we have done builds upon the dreams and visions of the Officers from the past. Today, not only do we enjoy the fruits of our labor, but can proudly say that we have provided a home for those veterans yet to come. I trust that someday they will remember what was done, and they to will build for the future.

In Appreciation

Thanks to all of you whose names are far to numerous to mention and some that I don't even know. Thank you for sharing the countless hours of work and of fun, of strenuous moments and of great triumphs, the mix of new faces just stopping by to help out, young and old individuals, both skilled and unskilled. The camaraderie, the new and permanent friendships and being surrounded by great individuals helped to make me a much better person This has been a great chapter in my life and I shall not forget you.

Thanks to the members of my family, who did the tasks I couldn't get done because I was determined to complete the Legion mission that I committed to.

Thanks of my wife Dolores, who understood what I had to do. Who waited up late at night with a meal or was just there sharing words of understanding when I would tell her about what went wrong or what worked out. Who didn't complain when she had to go to family or other events alone because I committed to be with someone who volunteered to help at that particular time.

Lastly, I thank GOD for giving me the physical, mental and emotional endurance to stay the course. I believe in prayer and saw prayers answered through the entire time. Every day small miracles happened as a result of faith.

I am confident that the new Commander John Nelson and the new Post Officers will do a fine job, and will work to uphold the new traditions that have been put in place.

I hope to see all of you on Memorial Day. Read the enclosed flyer for detailed information. Bring a veteran with you. Please be there to remember those who have gone before us, and to receive the recognition you deserve.

Thanks for allowing me the honor to serve you.

Regards,



Joseph M. Salvia
Commander

From the Sr. Vice Commander
John Nelson

Executive Committee

Next Meeting Tuesday June 19, 2007 at 6:00 PM

Membership Report

Thank you to all members who have invited a friend of acquaintance to visit Post 216. From your efforts we had a fantastic year in 2006 reaching out to veterans in our community and inviting them to join Post 216.

- In 2006, our post added 62 new members. That is the most new members in one year that anyone I have talked with can remember. That is the most new members in one post in one year of any post in District 18. And, in all of the 453 American Legion posts in Michigan, only five others recruited more new members than Milford Post 216. Congratulations to all of us.
- Current membership in Post 216 is 402 (as of May 4). This is the first time in my years with the post that membership has been more than 400. In that past 2 months:
 - 15 new members who served during the Persian Gulf era
 - 7 new members who served during the Korean War era
 - 17 new members who served during the Viet Nam War era
 - Sadly, we have had a reduction in number of World War II members.
- Your Membership Committee continues to make contact with Legionnaires who live in our community but who have not joined any local post. We are inviting them to join with Post 216 and be part of the good things that are happening in the Milford / Highland area.

From the Adjutant

Chuck Hoobler

Post Elections

The Ernest F. Oldenburg American Legion Post 216 Elections were conducted on April 17th 2007 during the monthly membership meeting which is held the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

The results of the election are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Commander | John Nelson |
| Senior Vice Commander | Tony Puente |
| Junior Vice Commander | Todd Herron |
| Financial Officer | Ron Nevorski |
| Chaplain | Bob Janoska |
| Historian | Murray Burley |
| Sergeant at Arms | Skip Davison |
| Executive Committee | Bob Godwin |
| | Jim Hunter |
| | Jack Winder |
| Adjutant Appointment | Chuck Hoobler |
- (Note: Chuck Hoobler will continue to fill the position until a suitable replacement is appointed)

- A combined installation ceremony for the new officers of Legion Post 216, Auxiliary Unit 216, and SAL Squadron 216 will be conducted on Sunday afternoon June 10, 2007.
- Bob Janoska has once again been instrumental in coordinating with the 40 et 8 Ritual Team for the installation of the new Officers. Thank you Bob.
- The installation activities will begin with a gathering / social time at 2:00, followed by the installation ceremony at 3:00pm. A light meal will follow the ceremony.
- Everyone associated with Post 216 is invited to be part of this important event in the life of our American Legion Post. We'll see you there.
- Committee chairmen will be announced in May.

Ceremonial Team News

John Moore

The Legion Ceremonial Team recently participated in the following ceremonies and events since the last newsletter:

A POW flag raising ceremony was conducted at Milford Park Place for former POW, Martin Taber. Former M/Sgt Taber was a US Army POW who was captured in North Africa during the early stages of WWII. The ceremony was part of "Former POW Remembrance Day"

The Legion Color Guard presented the Colors for the "Milford Youth Baseball" Opening Ceremony held at the ball diamonds on Peters Rd.

The Legion Color Guard presented the Colors for the Milford/Highland "Relay for Life" Opening Ceremony held at the ball diamonds on Peters Rd.

The Honor Guard Participated in 9 interment ceremonies at Great Lakes National Cemetery and one private ceremony in Brighton for former US Air Force Sgt. Ron Panches. Ron was also a charter member of AMVETS Post 2006, which meets at the Post. Ron was a long time Milford resident.

Members of the Post hosted a social hour for Major Eric Harris who has returned from Iraq and was on leave before his next assignment in Washington D.C. Eric was a graduate of Milford High School and had a great reunion with several of his classmates.

Several members of the Post traveled to Petoskey to attend the funeral services for SFC Douglas Stone. SFC Stone died while serving in Iraq and was a local resident while growing up in Milford. Doug was the son of Dolores Fiegley and the Step-son of Merlin Fiegley who is a member of Post 216.



From the Commander-Elect

John Nelson

As your newly elected Commander, I pledge to you individually and to the post as a whole that during my time in office Post 216 I will continue to be an inviting gathering place for veterans, that we will continue to support veterans in need, that we will continue to teach and share Americanism with children and youth in the Milford / Highland / White Lake area, and that we will give special honors to those of our number who are serving on active duty and those who at last are given their final rest. I pledge to carry out my responsibilities in a way that will bring honor and credit to Post 216, to the American Legion, and to all veterans of our military forces.

In the coming months I will be sharing with you my vision for what Post 216 can become by 2010. And, as your Executive Committee deliberates my proposals and endorses the direction for Post 216 in the coming year, you can be assured that everything we do in Post 216 will be for veterans, for their families, and for the greater cause of insuring that the American spirit is strong in our community.

The E.F. Oldenburg Post 216 family (Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and SAL Squadron) all together is more than 600 people working for veterans in our community. That is a lot of people, but in reality, only about 10 percent are truly active in the cause of veterans' issues. So, as I begin my service to Post 216 as your commander, I have this message for each of us:

- ❖ I need, and veterans in our community need you to be involved.

- ❖ When asked to help another veteran, don't pause to think about it, just ask "How can I help?"
- ❖ When asked to serve on a committee, do so willingly and cheerfully, or suggest a different activity that better suits your interests.
- ❖ Many of our members have been active in the past, and have taken time in the past few years to relax from their hard work. What I am asking now is that we set aside our time of rest and come back together to work for veterans. Every member can do something, however small, to help veterans and Post 216. Even calling a fellow post member to check on them when they cannot leave their home is service to veterans.

Taking up this responsibility as Post Commander is a little scary when I think about it; and it makes me feel humble. But at the same time, I believe it will be one of the most exciting and rewarding things I have done in my 50+ years.

John R. Nelson
Commander - Elect
Ernest F. Oldenburg Post 216
The American Legion

LEGIONNAIRE MEMBERSHIP

It's that time again – American Legion Department of Michigan will start sending out renewal membership notices for the year 2008. Dues are as follows for the membership year 2008:

Legionnaire Membership.....\$40.00

65 years of age with at least 5 years in Post 216.....\$35.00

Honorary Life Membership is granted to Members who have completed 30 years in Post 216, and dues will then be paid by the post.

Active duty Military Personnel dues are paid by the post. Please send your renewal notice with current mailing address. If no longer on active duty, dues will be as stated above.

Members who transferred in during or after March 1, 2007, will receive notices from their previous post, however, dues should be paid directly to Post 216.

New members who joined after March 1, 2007, may not receive a notice, but should send their dues for 2008 to Post 216.

Paid Up For Live Membership (PUFL) – contact Membership Chairman for cost:

Bruce M. Hayden – 248-684-6838
Membership Chairman

ALL CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO:

American Legion Post 216



Sons of the American Legion

The annual golf outing is set for July 28, 2007 at the Hartland Glen Golf Course. 8 AM shotgun start. \$65.00 per golfer. Steak dinner and prizes at the American Legion Post 216 after the golf outing. A sign up sheet will be posted in the clubroom.



Legion Riders

Andy Russell

The American Legion Riders #216 are now riding into our 5th riding season and as of today we have 41 members of which, half came to 216 specifically because of the riders program. Some of these members have become dual members (Legion & SAL), and several members of the ALR members are officers in the Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL. We currently have one member deployed in Iraq.

Locally our group is recognized for two very visible events which are the participation in the Memorial Day parade and our annual Beach Party fund raiser which is held in late January. Although our demographic does not allow us to be as active of some of the area’s other ALR groups, we do raise money for veterans, family’s, and troops needs as well as doing our best to support our post in state and national legion activities.



American Legion Auxiliary

I am writing to you today to that I, Brenda Dees, have been diagnosed with breast cancer and which has also migrated to the bones. The doctors feel they can control it with medications. Thanks for all your heart full cards, Emails and your prayers. I will do my best to assist the Auxiliary during these difficult times.

Sincerely
Brenda Dees

John Nelson and I were featured on the 30 minute public access television program “The Legion Story”, where we were interviewed and presented an overview of the American Legion Riders program. The ALR #216 has sent money to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund and purchased a brick paver that was installed in the wall of the service member’s hospital in Texas. We also donate to all post activities, volunteer to cook on hamburger nights, and have done detailed clean-up’s of the post kitchen.



As you may have noticed we also like to have fun.

If you have a motorcycle and would like join our group, applications are available in the club room. We would love to see you.

Motor EZ,

Andy Russell
Director, American Legion Rider, #216
Executive Board, Sons of the American Legion



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



Upcoming Events

- **Executive Board Meeting**, Tuesday June 19, 2007 at 6:00 PM
- **Memorial Day Parade** – Monday May 28, 2007. See Invitation insert.
- **Hamburger Night at Club 216** - 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. The last Hamburger Night for the summer is May 17th. Hamburger Night starts again on September 27th.
- **Steak Night** - Monthly Steak Fry Dinner starts May 24th and runs to September 20th. After May 24th, the Steak Fry Dinner is the third Thursday each month.



Memorial Day

Our soldiers' graves lay far and wide,
In city, town and countryside,
In Flanders Field where poppies blow,
Across the world where jungles grow.

At Gettysburg, are thousands of graves,
Where ill-fated soldiers came on in waves,
Of World War II, the same can be said,
Of the wars arenas with countless dead.

The Civil War and World War II,
Are memories now which we renew,
In later wars --- new weapons hurled,
And US troops around the world.

At Arlington the bugles toot,
And soldiers stand in smart salute,
Honoring the men who bravely fell,
Performing the duties they did so well.

We watch parades and listen to bands,
And wave the flags held in our hands,
We listen to speakers (if they can be heard),
Tell of events that have occurred.

In cemeteries are bright, fresh flowers,
We decorate graves in sun or showers,
In memory of loved ones, we do our best,
How we miss them --- but they're at rest.

From the early wars, now in Iraq,
We think of the people who never came back,
We hope that some day wars will cease,
Let's never forget pray for peace.

By Eva Cole

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The Desks

Hooray for this Teacher! Too bad there aren't more like her.

Back in September of 2005, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a social studies school teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, did something not to be forgotten.

On the first day of school, with permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she took all of the desks out of the classroom.

The kids came into first period and there were no desks. They obviously looked around and said, "Ms. Cothren, where's our desk?" And she said, "You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn them."

They thought, "Well, maybe it's our grades."

"No," she said.

"Maybe it's our behavior."

And she told them, "No, it's not even your behavior."

And so they came and went in the first period, still no desks in the classroom. Second period, same thing, third period too. By early afternoon television news crews had gathered in Ms. Cothren's class to find out about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of the classroom.

The last period of the day, Martha Cothren gathered her class. They were at this time sitting on the floor around the sides of the room. And she says, "Throughout the day no one has really understood how you earn the desks that sit in this classroom ordinarily." She said, "Now I'm going to tell you."

Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it, and as she did 27 U.S. veterans, wearing their uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. And they placed those school desks in rows, and then they stood along the wall. And by the time they had finished placing those desks, those kids, for the first time I think perhaps in their lives, understood how they earned those desks. Martha said, "You don't have to earn those desks. These guys did it for you. They put them out there for you, but it's up to you to sit here responsibly to learn, to be good students and good citizens, because they paid a price for you to have that desk, and don't ever forget it."

Friends, I think sometimes we forget that the freedoms that we have are freedoms not because of celebrities. The freedoms are because of ordinary people who did extraordinary things, who loved this country more than life itself, and who not only earned a school desk for a kid at the Robinson High School in Little Rock, but who earned a seat for you and me to enjoy this great land we call home, this wonderful nation that we better love enough to protect and preserve with the kind of conservative, solid values and principles that made us a great nation.

"We live in the Land of the Free because of the brave."

Please remember our Troops!

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



Veteran Links

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

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: _____



Ernest F. Oldenburg Post #216
The American Legion
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