



# Post 28 Newsletter

Published monthly by Post 28 of the American Legion

Charles Conklin Post #28

P.O. Box 439 ~ 700 Harbor Avenue • Grand Haven, Michigan 49417-1743

www.grandhavenlegion.org

Issue #1063

POST HOURS  
Mon. - Fri.  
2pm - 10pm+  
Sat. Noon - 10pm+



## POST #28 COMMANDERS COMMENTS



When I think of December I think of the Goodfellows. I think of the fun we have leading the Jingle Bell Parade and ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. We have the Kid's Christmas Party and cap it off with Christmas and our New Year's Eve Party. This December I am distracted knowing that two of my officers are having health issues that they are meeting head on. The whole Legion Family is pulling for them and their families. Take care of business and we'll see you soon.

Our Legion family did Veteran's Day proud. Both the Eternal Flame Ceremony in the morning and the Veteran's Day dinner had great attendance. Thanks to all of you, and especially to Jean Wolniakowski and the kitchen gang for the turkey dinner. A special thanks to the WWII Veterans

Harold Humble, Ken Kelly, Larry Kuipers, and Jake Westra.

It seems like as we close 2009 and look forward to a new decade, the Legion Family should give thanks for all that we have. This past decade has had its ups and downs. As good Americans we must build on the "ups" and not dwell on the "downs." One of our strengths here at Post 28 is our volunteer force. I can't say and thank you enough for what you do. From the person that scooped mashed potatoes one time to the guy that did 1100 chicken dinners...a heart felt thank you.

New members and transfers include: Jonathon Sheaffer, Robert Kane, Alexandra Thomson, Randel Ball, Howard J. Cross, David DeKraker, Harold Prochnow, Edward McDonald III, Antonio Zizumbo, William D. Goggin, Adam S. Shumaker, and Kenneth G. Roberts.

Taps were played for: Michael J. Kuzma and Army Specialist Brandon K. Steffey who was killed in action in Afghanistan.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and our families, I want to wish everyone a very merry christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Commander Rick Chittenden

## Post #28 American Legion Officers

Dale "Rick" Chittenden, Commander  
David MacKellar, 1st Vice Commander  
Phil Smith, 2nd Vice Commander  
Butch Balk, Adjutant  
Jim Thayer, Fiance Officer  
Chris Tanke, Chaplain  
Hugh Hyde, Judge Advocate  
Ed DeKoekKoek, Sergeant-At-Arms  
Jim Walton, Ken Kelly, Service Officers  
George Bryant, Historian  
Ray Ribbink & Jack VanWeelden  
Executive Board at Large  
Dick VanderStel, Past Commander

# Merry Christmas



## NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

**\$15.00**  
PER PERSON

AMALGAMATED  
SOUND

HORS D'OEUVRES  
PARTY FAVORS  
CLOVER BAR PIZZA  
CHAMPAGNE



## Spring Lake Alternative Education School

Veterans Day Program

George Bennett, Dave MacKellar, Nathan VanKampen and Gary Byl  
Talked to students about their military services

## CHAPLAINS CORNER

Well, it's that time of year again. Got your Charismas shopping done yet? Holiday preparations are at full swing at my house! There are meals to plan, multiple desserts to bake, gatherings to coordinate, kids to pick up at the airport, shopping lists to fulfill, church services and programs to attend, charitable causes to volunteer for, not to mention year-end accounting tasks to complete at work as a business owner. Geeez! So much for "Peace on Earth"! The truth is, most of us end up on the other end of the holidays feeling rather exhausted.

So for those that who would rather avoid the feelings of stress that often accompanies this time of year, here's a Rx that I promise will make a real difference in your heart if you simply follow my directions and take a few times a week throughout December(smile). It's simple, but effective. Ready? Here it is . . .

Read the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42 and ask yourself this question; "Is what I'm worried, bothered, and preoccupied with robbing me from the joy and meaning of the wonderful time of year?"

I'm not kidding, try it and see! To all at the Post I wish a very "Mary" Christmas and Happy Holidays! Chaplain

## AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS COMMENTS



The Veteran's dinner was a great success. Thanks to all the Auxiliary members who worked so hard and to those who showed up but were sent home early. We had such a great number helping we had to let some go. What a treat.... Too many workers! Big thanks to the SAL members who cook the night of the dinner. They do a fantastic job. Thanks Jack and crew for carving the turkeys. I hear you've done that job for over 30 years!! October meeting – We had our potluck initiation. We welcomed 15 new members. Guests were our District President, Vicki VanWyk and 1st Vice President Nancy Sagorski. Great potluck followed by a few games of Bunco and a White Elephant gift exchange. November meeting we will be talking about the "Pocket Flag Program".

We'll work with Spring Lake students to accomplish this project for our Service Men and Women. Come see what it's about. We have a few activities coming up. At the Grand Rapids Veterans Home, December 3 we will help Veterans do their Christmas Shopping from 8am until 3pm. Call Pat at 842-0749. On Monday, December 14 at 2pm at the Legion, we will be putting together fruit plates for nursing home veterans. Call Linda at 846-3991. Help out with the "Good fellows" program and "Ringing the Bells" for the Salvation Army if you can. Call Ina at 842-4477. Happy Thanksgiving to all. Jean Wolniakowski, President.



### VETERANS DAY DINNER

Members of the Auxiliary and the Sons of the Legion prepared and served the Veterans Day Dinner.

### Post #28 Auxiliary Officers

Jean Wolniakowski, President  
Cleo Phipps, 1st Vice President  
Linda Gieske, 2nd Vice President  
Ann Kammeraad & Cleo Phipps, Historian  
Char Mac Keller, Sergeant-At-Arms  
Jean Koehs, Past President  
Ina Kaufman, Parliamentarian  
Mollie Pipp, Pat Best & Ruth Rescorla, Executive Board

### HONOR GUARD

This past month we had 4 funerals. S/Sgt. Jason Abbott from the Army National Guard - Honor Guard Team attended the funeral for LaVerne Krupp.

Nov. 7, David MacKellar, Dan MacKellar, Nathan VanKampen and VFW Commander Al Schmidt were the Color Guard for the 234 USMC Birthday Party at the Eagles.

Nov. 9, George Bennett, Gary Byl, Dave MacKellar and Nathan VanKampen went to Spring Lake Alternative Education School for Veterans Day Program.

Nov. 10, Jake Westra, Ken Kelly, George Bennett, David MacKellar, Nathan VanKampen, Larry Kuiper, Berny Kraai and Ed DeKoekkoek went to Grand Haven White Pines Middle School for Veterans Day program.

Nov. 11 George Bennett, Tom Streng, Dan MacKellar and Dave MacKellar went to Ferry School for Flag raising program for Veterans Day.

Nov. 11, at 11am members for the Honor Guard and guests attended the Veterans Day program at the Grand Haven Eternal Flame.

Honor Guard Leader George Bennett

"Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts."

- Janice Maeditere

Christmas

### CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Legion would like to send out Christmas cards to our service men and women that are on active duty. I know Christmas is one month away, time seems to go by fast. I have also been in contact with two schools in the area to get names so the kids can send Christmas cards. If you can send me your family members name and address we can start getting a list together that would be great. You can send it to the Post or you can email me. mackeda1@aol.com. American Legion 700 Harbor Ave. Grand Haven, MI 49417.

1st Vice Commander  
David L. MacKellar



We had so many people at the Veterans dinner ask for the

"Sweet Potato Casserole"

recipe, we decided to put it in the newsletter. Enjoy!

3 cups sweet potatoes (about 4 good size), 1/3 c milk, 1/2 c butter,

1/2 c sugar, 1 t vanilla, 2 eggs, beaten

**Topping:** 1/3 c melted butter,

1 c light brown sugar, 1/2 c flour, 1 c chopped pecans

Boil and mash potatoes. Mix in sugar, butter, eggs, vanilla and milk. Put in 13 x 9 inch baking dish.

Topping: Melt butter and pour over potatoes. Mix remaining ingredients. Sprinkle on top of melted

butter and potato mixture. Bake 25 minutes at 350 degrees. Serves 10 to 12.

## SAL COMMANDERS COMMENTS



Fall is rushing by, Thanksgiving is almost upon us with Christmas not far behind. This is a great time of the year to spend with family and friends as we make new memories to share. The SAL has several major events that we would like you to plan on attending:

**TRIVIA** - will be on December 16th, 2009

**NEW YEARS EVE PARTY - DOORS OPEN AT 7PM**

**BAND PLAYS FROM 8:30 - 12:30 - AMALGAMATED SOUND**

**HOT AND COLD HORS D'OEUVRES THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT PARTY FAVORS**

**CLOVER BAR PIZZA AT 10:30PM**

**CHAMPAGNE**

**\$15.00 PER PERSON**

**VEGAS NIGHT** - January 30th (We are looking for dealers so if you are interested in helping let Jeff (Dutch) Vander Veen know.)

**HAWAIIAN LUAU** - February 27th (Limited to 200 people)

This past month we had no new or transfer members to the SAL. A big thank you goes out to Paul Kubicek who has helped bring back the distribution of gifts to needy family to the American Legion. A group of 36 volunteers from the Legion Family complete background checks working with the Good Fellows Agency to allow us this opportunity to give back to the community at large in Grand Haven. There is great joy in seeing the smiles of the children as we take presents to their homes. Let us be thankful for all that we have been provided and grateful for our friends at the Grand Haven American Legion Post.

TL Lowe – SAL Commander



### VETERANS DAY DINNER

Pictured left to right. Jake Westra, Ray Ribbink and Larry Kuiper. Ray Ribbink presented Life Membership to Jake Westra and Larry Kuiper. Jake and Larry are members of the Honor Guard attending funerals and going to schools to talk about their experiences in the military.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January ~ Happy New Year!, Las Vegas Night

February ~ Chili Cook-Off, Hawaiian Luau

March ~ American Legion Birthday Party, Annual Food Drive, St. Patrick's Day Party, Texas Hold' Em

April ~ IRS Party, Armed Forces Day

May ~ Memorial Day, Kentucky Derby Party, Legion Memorial Golf Outing

June ~ Flag Day

July ~ Independence Day

August ~ Coast Guard Festival, Enlisted Men's Party,

BBQ Chicken

September ~ American Legion Picnic

October ~ Oktoberfest Party

November ~ Veteran's Day Dinner, Saturday Football Parties,

Trivia Begins, Happy Thanksgiving!

December ~ Goodfellows Toy Drive, Children's Christmas Party, Christmas Buffet, New Year's Eve Party, Merry Christmas!

Every Month

1st Tuesday ~ House 6pm, Post 7pm

Every Monday ~ Building & Grounds 9am

2nd Monday ~ SAL Meeting 7:30pm

2nd Tuesday ~ 8 & 40 Meeting 7pm

2nd Thursday ~ Legion Riders 7pm

4th Tuesday ~ Auxiliary Meeting 7pm

1st Saturday ~ Karaoke

Every Wednesday ~ Dinner 5-7pm

Every Friday ~ Burgers 6-8pm

### Post #28 SAL Officers

TL Lowe, Commander

Rob Wolniakowski, 1st Vice Commander

Charlie Yonker, 2nd Vice Commander

Rich Kelly, Finance Officers

Tom Glockzin, Chaplain

Tom Greensberg, Sergeant-At-Arms

Jeff VanderVeen, Historian

Brad Chittenden, Past Commander

Howard Hattson, Post SAL Chairman

Mike Mattson, Membership Chair

Jeff VanderWeen, Adjutant

## Andy's Draught

Freedom is Not Free

By Kelly Strong

I watched the flag pass by one day,

It fluttered in the breeze;

A young Marine saluted it,

And then he stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform,

So young, so tall, so proud;

With hair cut square and eyes alert,

He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought... how many men like him

Had fallen through the years?

How many died on foreign soil?

How many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down

How many died at sea

How many foxholes were soldiers' graves

No, Freedom is not free.

I heard the sound of Taps one night,

When everything was still;

I listened to the bugler play,

And felt a sudden chill;

I wondered just how many times

That Taps had meant "Amen"

When a flag had draped a coffin

Of a brother or a friend;

I thought of all the children,

Of the mothers and the wives,

Of the fathers, sons and husbands.

With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard

At the bottom of the sea

Of unmarked graves in Arlington.

No. Freedom is not Free!

This poem was written by Kelly Strong in

1981 when he was a senior in high school.

He wrote it as a tribute to his father, a

career Marine who served two tours in

Vietnam.

Commander Kelly Strong is now an active

duty Coast Guard pilot and is serving at the

US Coast Guard Aviation Training Center.

Please remember all of our Service Men

and Women this Holiday season in your

thoughts and prayers. If you would like

to contact Commander Strong his email

address is [kellystrong@aol.com](mailto:kellystrong@aol.com).

Keep your eye on the calendar for our

dinners, dances and events.

December drink specials: \$3 Christmas

Martini & \$1 12oz can beer every Tuesday.

Merry Christmas! Andy



The American Legion  
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 (616) 842-5310

NON-PROFIT  
 ORG.  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 PERMIT NO. 129  
 GRAND HAVEN  
 MI 49417



*Happy Holidays*

DECEMBER DRINK SPECIALS: \$3.00 Christmas Martini							<b>DECEMBER 2009</b>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6pm House Comm. 7pm Post Meeting \$2 U-Call Tall \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	2 5PM LAKE PERCH DINNER	3	4 6PM BURGERS 8pm Steve Edge	5 12pm Kids Christmas Party 6pm Karaoke	6	7 7:30pm SAL Meeting \$2 U-Call Tall	8 7pm 8 & 40 Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	9 5PM CHICKEN DINNER	10 7pm Legion Riders	11 6PM BURGERS 8pm Silvertones	12 2:30pm Army vs Navy
13	14 \$2 U-Call Tall	15 7pm Exec. Comm \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	16 NO DINNER 7pm Trivia Kick-Off	17 7pm Goodfellows Wrapping Party	18 5PM CHRISTMAS BUFFET 8pm Silverado	19 9am Goodfellows Toy Delivery	20	21 \$2 U-Call Tall	22 7pm Aux Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	23 NO DINNER	24 Christmas Eve 12:00pm - 6pm Post Open	25 Christmas Post Closed	26
27	28 \$2 U-Call Tall	29 \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	30 NO DINNER	31 New Years Eve Party 8pm	JAN. 1 Post Closed	2 6pm Karaoke							