

# The American Legion Post #28 Newsletter

Post Hours:  
Mon. - Fri. 2pm - 10pm+  
Sat. 12pm - 10pm+

Published monthly by Charles Conklin Post #28 of the American Legion  
P.O. Box 439 ~ 700 Harbor Avenue ~ Grand Haven, MI 49417-1743 ~ [www.grandhavenlegion.org](http://www.grandhavenlegion.org) Issue #1085



## COMMANDERS COMMENTS

My fellow Legionaries, it was a great Coast Guard week. The Legion served over 250 dinners on Friday night to the enlisted men, women and their families. Thank you so much to Rick, #92, and all the volunteers for their hard work. We would not be able to do these dinners without you. My hat's off to Andy and his crew for all their hard work and long hours throughout the long week. We have so many volunteers it is difficult to name them all. The comments received all week from Coasties and tourists that were here for the first time ran from beautiful, to

great, to fantastic. We can all be very proud of our beautiful Post. Except for a little well needed rain on Saturday morning, the weather was great. Now that we're in the month of September our attention turns to the September Legion Picnic and the 9-11 program, both will take place on September 11, 2011 at the Legion. The 9-11 memorial will be held at 10:00 AM and the Legion picnic at 1:00 PM. I look forward to seeing many of you there. September also brings the start of road construction on Harbor Drive on or about September 12th, so please be prepared for some inconveniences. In closing, I again want to thank everyone who worked so hard during Coast Guard week. So till next month, I'll see you at the post. Phil Smith Commander Post #28

## American Legion Officers

Phil Smith, Commander  
Ron Bauer, 1st Vice Commander  
Ed DeKoekkoek, 2nd Vice Commander  
Butch Balk, Adjutant  
Jim Thayer, Finance Officer  
Chris Tanke, Chaplain  
Hugh Hyde, Judge Advocate  
Sue Metzler, Sergeant-At-Arms  
Ken Kelly, Adam Shumaker, Service Officers  
Nathan VanKampen, Historian  
Hugh Hyde and Bill Kaufman  
Executive Board at Large  
David L. MacKeller "Mack", Past Commander

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Keith Carpenter, Glen Carroll, Kenneth DeHann, Gene Gray Jr., Jodi Tsaftarides, William Leach, Frederick Vaas Jr., David Lukasik, Louis Wickman, Rachel Harden, Barry Kram, Timothy Barron, Ray Baxter, Steven Graeser, Samuel Kline, Ashley Livingston, Kevin Ruiter, Stephen Wolgemuth, Stephen Zachar, David Barbier, David Crop, Robert Hemp, Thomas Taylor, Michael VanDam, Stuart Smith, Herbert Blair III, Daniel De Baar, Donald Miedema, Joey Bertschinger, Clifford Hovis, Julie Johnson, Larry Goldman, David Wol-ski, Charles Erway, Michael Bilyk, James Lemke, Clarence Pridemore, Ivan TenBrink, Lawrence Veihl, Robert Brinkman Jr., Daniel Kiomento, Raymond Clover, Paul Lange, Daniel Ocharzak, Ronald Van Heest, Steven Barnes, William Wanrooy, Cornell Beukema, Gerald Larson, Maynard DeGarmo, Gardner Bird, Gerald Yaklin, Daniel Massetti



Taps were played for the following  
Al VanZantwick, Raymond Van Dam,  
Robert Reavis, Homer Magers, Orvil Fox,  
William Jope, Emert Trimble, Army Staff Sgt.  
Joshua A. Throckmorton, Navy Seaman  
Aaron D. Ullom, Army PFC Brian Backus,  
Army Specialist Robert Voakes, Detroit  
Police Officer Charles Armour



Commander Phil Smith with the Coast Guard Pipe Band

## HONOR GUARD

This past month we had 5 funerals. Army National Guard helped with funerals for Orvil Fox and Homer Magers. Coast Guard Honor Guard helped with funeral for William Jope. Marine Corps Honor Guard helped with funeral for Emert Trimble. Members attended Memorial program for "Michigan Vietnam Moving Wall". Julie and Roman Marciniak presented the Commander with their fathers flag to be flown at the post during August.  
Honor Guard Leader: George Bennett



Commander Phil Smith presents Army Sergeant Ken Kelly with a "Special Commendation Award" for his tour of duty in Afghanistan.



## AUXILIARY COMMENTS

Fall is here, the Coast Guard Festival is over. Time for fall actives. The officers were invited to dinner by the Legion Riders and a Memorial service for the Vietnam Veterans on August 4th . Thanks to all involved. It was a beautiful service. On August 9th, some of the officers traveled to Cedar Springs to the 5th District Meeting. On the 18th, we were in Grand Rapids to help the veterans play Bingo. September 15th-18th is Fall Conference in Troy, Mi. Cleo Phipps President

## AUXILIARY OFFICERS

Cleo Phipps, President  
Ruth Kelly, 1st Vice President  
Diane Kirk, 2nd Vice President  
Ann Kammeraad, Secretary  
Romayne Althaus, Treasurer  
Michele Stetts, Historian  
Peggy Vermeer, Chaplain  
Barb Kelly, Sgt. At Arms  
Molly Pippys, Char MacKellar,  
Sharron MacConnack, Executive Board  
Peggy Vermeer, Ruth Kelly, Kay Dougall,  
Lisa Davis, Parliamentarian  
Jean Koehs, Past President



## Andy's Draught

We have set a new Post #28 burger record. Friday July 29th the PPFs (Past, Present and Future Post Commanders) cooked up 440 burgers! That's almost 4 burgers every minute for 2 hours. Great work PPFs. Don't let that number scare you if you were thinking about helping out. We are in desperate need of help for burgers. If we don't have enough volunteers to help burgers will be cancelled. We will pair any new volunteers with an experienced crew to show them the ropes. Let me know if you would like to help. After Labor Day we will go back to our Fall/Winter hours. Monday – Friday 2pm -10pm & Saturday noon – 10pm. Sundays, we will be open the 4th and the 11th, but after that Sundays we will be closed due to the road construction.

We will be hosting the Legion picnic here at the Post Sunday the 11th from noon-6pm. We ask everyone bring a dish to pass. The Post will provide hot dogs, beer and pop.

It is not too early to renew your dues. Feel free to renew at the bar if you don't get a renewal reminder in the mail. You must have your card on you to renew as well as purchase drinks. Don't take offence if the bartender asks to see your card. Be proud to show it. The bartenders are only trying to protect your Post.

We are still looking for a few Veterans to participate in our Wounded Warriors/Healing Waters Fly Fishing program the end of this month. This program is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of our Veterans through fly fishing.

Our goal for this program is to teach a group of Veterans the fundamentals of fly fishing. Participants will be instructed on proper casting techniques, including where to cast, choosing the correct weight rod, and choosing the proper flies for the fishing conditions. During the last week of this month, the group will put the skills they have learned to the test during a fly fishing excursion on the Muskegon River.

September drink specials: \$3 Anothers, \$2 U-call talls Mondays & \$1 12oz can beer every Tuesday. Cheers! Andy

## WEDNESDAY'S MENU

### SEPTEMBER 7TH

PERCH DINNER (L)

### SEPTEMBER 14TH

ZESTY SPAGHETTI (L)

### SEPTEMBER 21ST

COUNTRY PORK (R)

### SEPTEMBER 28TH

SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK (L)

Just to thank a few who volunteered Coast Guard weekend: Phyllis, Fran, Patricia, Betty, Cleo, Ron, Mack, T.L., Barb, David, Charlie, Phil, Tom, Dale, Rich, Jack, Steve, Pat Kuck and his crew, and the Coopersville Bean Boys: Doc, Don, Rip, and Joe. And if you partook of Chicken Dinner, thanks to you too.

Dinner Committee



Twenty-seven Grand Haven and Spring Lake soon-to-be seniors attended the American Legion 2011 Boys State program, held June 19 - 21 at Northwood University in Midland.

The students were nominated by their respective schools in recognition of their leadership, scholarship, and interest in government. They were sponsored by the Charles A. Conklin American Legion Post 28 of Grand Haven.

This was the largest delegation sent to Boys State 2011 by any post in Michigan. One of our 27 delegates, Michael Ginocchio, was further honored to be selected on the basis of leadership, academic record and performance in activities at Boys State, to be one of 98 Boys State from across the country to attend Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. held in late July.

Our Boys State delegates' attendance was made possible, in part through donations by local organizations and individuals.

Delegates to 2011 American Legion Michigan Boys State: From Grand Haven High School: Brent Boerema, Jared bolaarte, Eric Bruch, Danny Cotter, James DeWitt, Michael Ginocchio, Daniel Hanson, Hugo Lawton, Daniel Pancy, Jacob Peplinski, Brandon Piotrkowski, Robbie Reid, Peter Srutwa, Darren Tiles, Douglas VanBennerom, William VerDuin: From Spring Lake High School: Keith Allison, Noah Ellingboe, Michael Hartliep, Kyle Kendall, Thomas Kramer, Samuel Lavin, Alec Newsted, Nic Parnell, Luke Platz, Jacob VandenBosch, Nicholas Zaeck.

Sponsors and Contributors: American Legion Post #28 Grand Haven (Veterans, Auxiliary, SAL, & Riders, American Legion Northeastern Post 459, Grand Rapids, Butch's Beach Burritos, Fraternal Order of Eagles, JSJ Corporation, Michigan Commerce Bank, Rendezvous Family Dining, Rotary Club of Spring Lake, Shape Corporation, Stanco Metal Producta, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2326, West Michigan Auto Body.

Individuals: Steve and Sara Allison, Mary Beth and Gordon Bruch, David Hanson, Larry and Babbara Hartliep, Daniel and Susan Lavin, James and Kathleen Pancy, Jane Seely-Parnell, Scott and Ann Peplinski, Robert and Susan Verduin.



## SAL COMMENTS

Summer is nearing its' end and Fall we be upon us before we know it. I look forward to cool weather, high school and college football, and finishing the remainder of summer projects that still need to be accomplished.

A reminder of two fun events coming up in September: First the Legion Picnic which will be held at the Post on Sunday September 11th. Bring a dish to pass. Hot dogs and corn on the cob we be provided. Second is the Salmon Festival which will be held on September 16th. Tickets will be \$10.00 per person. Just Joe will be providing the musical entertainment for the evening.

Wine and Cheese Tasting will be held on October 22nd. We will be expanding our wine and unique beer selections for the second year of this new annual event. Be sure to mark your calendar and enjoy the festivities.

We have added twenty-one new members and they are as follows: Glen Sigsby, Peter Jackson, Keith Vadas, Norman Welch, David Maguire, Randy Kunish, Roy Yenkel, Ray Cameron, James Teets, Jeffery Hoffman, Doug Westhouse, Martin Winicki, Joe Voss, Nick Federico, Ron Vandoorne, Phillip Hooper, Larry Fisher II, Jeffery Jareo, Michael Geerlings, Robert Fischer, and Randall Seaver.

Enjoy the rest of this great summer and be sure to find time to come down to the Post for good times, fun, and friendship.  
TL Lowe - SAL Commander

### 8&40 Salon 499

A new year has begun and the 8&40 officers are taking over their duties. One important change is that Char Mac Kellar is the new La Secretaire and Partnership Chair. She has the new cards for 2012 & you can pay her at our meetings or mail them to her at 330 DeWitt Ln, Spring lake, Mi 49456. Our Sept. meeting is on the 13th at 7:00pm. Please join us. Chapeau, Ann



Cakes for Coast Guard enlisted party were donated by the "Ladies Auxiliary."

## SAL OFFICERS

- TL Lowe, Commander
- Tom Greenberg, 1st Vice Commander
- Jack DeMaar, 2nd Vice Commander
- Rich Kelly, Finance Officer
- Tom Glockzin, Chaplain
- Mike Zolik, Sergeant-At-Arms
- Tom Greenberg, Historian
- Carl Lori, Legion Advisor
- Mike Brown, Membership
- Paul Kubicek, Adjutant
- Brad Chittenden, Past Commander



Coast Guard Vice Commandant, Vice Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara, American Legion Commander Phil Smith and Rear Admiral Michael Parks Commander Ninth Coast Guard District. Met at post and talked about Coast Guard City Grand Haven.

## LEGION RIDERS



First of all, thank you to all that have been able to come down and help with the dinners. Your help is very much appreciated.

In June we road to the old warriors camp in the upper peninsula and met with the special man that conceived and built the camp.

It is a lodge built for wounded solders from Iraq and Afghanistan to go and relax for a few days and escape the rigorous and painful process they endure while recovering from their wounds. While at

the camp they can hunt, fish, ride quads, snowmobile or just relax. There is no cost for these veterans to stay at the camp. They have already paid the price.

The camp is run and maintained with money from Retired marine Sgt. Bob Blevens ( founder of the camp) as well as with donations. The Riders here at post 28 are proud to be able to help with our monetary donation for the 2nd year for this special place. Please see me if your interested in making a donation.

In July we attended the national r.o.m.p.( Riding on military pride) in saint Anthony Indiana were we attended meetings to get up to date on the latest news from national. Other than that all i can say is, it was hot.VERY HOT.

The moving wall was again a big success this year. We had many hugs and tearful story's from family members at the wall with a special visit from the brother of a medal of honor recipient from Holland.. What a privilege to get the story from the tear filled eyes of the brother of someone who received this nations highest honor.

The guys at the wall gave out around 25 medals of thanks to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans while at our post. Thank you all who worked so hard to bring the wall back for another year.

Special thanks to Brent Ewing for his very generous help with the tent.

August 21st we leave for Mount Pleasant to meet up with the legion national legacy run as it makes its way to Minnesota via the u.p.

The winners from the raffle for the t.v.s were Larry Foose from grand haven and Dirk Van Dam also from grand haven.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who bought tickets to help us help our veterans.

God bless those wonderful men and women who sacrifice so much to keep us free.  
Billy Riders Director

## LEGION RIDERS OFFICERS

- Billy Haynes, Commander
- Freddy Smith, Assistant Director
- Ed Mc Donald, Secretary
- Larry Culbertson, Treasurer
- Rev. Wesley Spyke, Chaplain
- Michael Capman, Historian
- Sally Kemme, Membership Chair
- Glen Bullock, Past Director



Commander Phil Smith and Honor Guard Leader George Bennett place Memorial Wreath at Michigan Vietnam Moving Wall that was at the Legion during Coast Guard Festival.

