



# The American Legion

## Charles A. Conklin Post #28

**HOURS:** Mon. – Fri. 1pm – 10pm Saturday 12pm – 10pm Sunday 1pm – 7pm

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

### LEGION

Janet E. Fonger, Post 28 Commander  
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Rick White, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander  
Larry Lambert, Adjutant  
Cyndy Wierenga, Finance Officer  
Duane Smith, Chaplain  
TBD, Judge Advocate  
Freddy Smith, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Dennis Siron, Historian  
Garrett Veihl, Service Officer  
Larry Lambert, Service Officer  
Hoyt Fonger, Service Officer  
Ray Ribbink, Executive-at-Large  
Freddy Smith, Executive-at-Large  
Jim Vette, Executive-at-Large  
John Bilski, Past Commander

### AUXILIARY

Darlene DeHaan, President  
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Melanie Riekels, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.  
Diane Janusch-Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.  
Ginny Hebert, Secretary  
Michele Stetts, Treasurer  
Linda Gieske, Historian  
Pam Medendorp-Peck, Chaplain  
Barb Kelly, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Kathleen Edwards, Membership

### SAL

Ross Berens, Commander  
[salcmdrpost28@yahoo.com](mailto:salcmdrpost28@yahoo.com)  
Hans VanHorsen, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander  
Charlie Chittenden, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander  
T.L. Lowe, Finance Officer  
Al VanDam, Chaplain  
Charlie Chittenden, Historian  
Steve VanderWall, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Scott Kelly, Membership  
Paul Kubicek, Adjutant  
Jeff Warner, Past Commander

### LEGION RIDERS

Gerald Keen, Director  
[gerald.keen88@gmail.com](mailto:gerald.keen88@gmail.com)  
Charles Potter, Assistant Director  
Chase Kamhout, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Diana Arens, Secretary  
Larry Foose, Treasurer  
TBD, Chaplain  
Sally Kemme, Membership Chair

### POST MANAGER

Lori Pulciani  
(616) 842-5310

### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Operation KP is almost to the finish line!  
Checkout the numbers to date....

Total Fundraising Donations:	<b>\$225,957.65</b>
Total project cost (to date)	<b>\$227,972.15</b>
Shortfall:	<b>\$ -2,014.50</b>

Chair plaques are now available for 8 low deck chairs only (upstairs deck area). Please note that all plaque engraving is on hold until new guidance from Governor Whitmer regarding COVID-19 and Michigan business operations.

We look forward to our deck opening soon and seeing your loved one honored and recognized with a chair plaque. The plaques for the outside deck chairs will be a bit different as they will be made to withstand the weather. Words cannot express how grateful I am to our donors for supporting the kitchen project.

You might think that during the Michigan "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order issued by Governor Whitmer, all would be quiet on the Post 28 front. Not so! With the COVID-19 crisis at hand and upcoming election of Officers for Michigan Posts, the American Legion Department of Michigan passed Emergency By-Laws guiding Michigan American Legion Posts with their elections of Post Officers.

The Department Emergency By-Laws give Post Executive Committees two (2) options for conducting Post elections. The first option, and option "strongly urged" by the Department and National was to pass a resolution maintaining the status quo and keep current Post Officers in place for another term. Both the Department and National have done so, given COVID-19 uncertainties.

The second, and possibly a more complicated option regarding fairness and transparency, was to hold elections for Post Officers in one or a combination of three ways: 1) conference call or video teleconference with all members (Legionnaires) in good standing to obtain nominations for Officers and vote for Officers, 2) conduct the election by email where all members (Legionnaires) in good standing nominate candidates through email, then vote for candidates by email or 3) conduct a mail-in ballot election, where members (Legionnaires) in good standing are mailed a ballot to nominate candidates, then mail their nomination ballot back to Post. Then, members in good standing are mailed another ballot of candidates to mail back with the member's vote for nominees (candidates).

Please note that the Post Commander does not have a vote on items before the Executive Committee except in cases of a tie vote. The majority of the Post 28 Executive Committee voted down the Department's and National's recommendations to keep the status quo and instead expressed the desire to conduct a mail-in ballot election to keep with tradition of our Officers going through the "chairs".

Post 28 Adjutant, Larry Lambert explained that the Department's Emergency By-Laws supersede our Post's by-laws and therefore a vote by the membership to approve the cost of a mail-in election is not required.

Continued on p. 3

## AUXILIARY

"Normal" is most certainly VERY different for each of our 1600+ Auxiliary members and their families, and I'm sure each of us could write a small book at this point about some very unique experiences during the quarantine! I am hoping that May brings some semblance of the previous normal back to all of us, but meanwhile stay healthy, and please keep praying for everyone affected negatively in any way, as well as those on the front lines!



### KEY DATES:

- **May 4-8: Teacher Appreciation Week – 2020 Theme is 'Teachers are Out of This World!'**
- We are donating \$1,000 each to Spring Lake Schools Food Bank and Grand Haven Weekend Back Pack Food Program in honor of our teachers, since they care deeply about their students who do not have enough food at home during this very challenging time! In addition...
  - Our Education Chairwoman, Melanie Riekels, would like to challenge our members to send an email, FB video, Instagram message, etc. to thank at least one special teacher who is continuing to educate remotely!
  - Please share what you did (email Melanie Riekels ([mrriekelsinsagent@gmail.com](mailto:mrriekelsinsagent@gmail.com)) or me ([marcdarlene@gmail.com](mailto:marcdarlene@gmail.com)) / message me on Facebook) so that I can post on our Auxiliary FB page to share your expressions of appreciation!
- **May 22: National Poppy Day** – Please check the Auxiliary FB page for specific plans.
- **May 25: Memorial Day** – TBD...Many activities will be done virtually, so please watch the Post 28 website and our FB page for details).
- **May 26: Junior (5:45-6:45pm) and Senior Auxiliary Meetings (7pm)** – Please check our FB page closer to the date to get the status of these meetings!

This month I would like to highlight someone from Auxiliary who does not need an introduction for anyone who has spent a time at the Post! Michele Stetts is someone who has and continues to faithfully serve in many capacities for Auxiliary (and for the Post)! Michele has been our Past President (2013/14 – 2015/16), Membership Chair (2005 – 2013), and currently serves as our Treasurer and Chairwoman of the Community Service Program. She has served at most funeral luncheons for Veterans when held at the Post, Auxiliary catered events, as well as she volunteers for every Meatloaf dinner. She creates the monthly Post Newsletter and served for many years on the Building and Grounds Committee. Over the past year she has researched information on every one of our Unit 28 Past Presidents, and created books with the photos and information, which will be treasured for many years to come. I'm guessing her detailed and thorough approach to every job she does is a result of her 35-year career as a math teacher! It is really difficult to get a photo of her since she doesn't like to have her photo taken, so if anyone can get one going forward, you have succeeded where many have failed!

Since we could not meet in person, I asked Michele to write about who / what inspired her to join the Auxiliary, as well as to be so involved. From the history she has written, it is clear that her parents left a huge legacy with the Post and with her. Read her story...on page 5.

Darlene DeHaan, President & PR Chair

## SAL

I hope that you and your family members are well and remain in good health as we deal with this unprecedented time.

I want to share the current situation regarding the Sons of the American Legion here at Post 28. Events currently affected:



- Bingo at Grand Rapids Home for Veterans – May 7 (Cancelled), will be rescheduled at a later date.
- SAL Annual Golf Outing – May 23 (Cancelled), hope to reschedule Summer or Fall
- State SAL Convention in Southgate – June 5 - 7 (Cancelled)
- Corn Hole Tournament – Hope to reschedule

As you may have already heard, under the urging of the American Legion Department of Michigan, the 2020 conventions and elections have been cancelled and we are to maintain the status quo of the existing officers until next year's elections (2021 – 2022).

Please continue to monitor the Grand Haven American Legion website to see when the Post will reopen. One of the first agenda items for the SAL will be to open the deck.

I look forward to the day we can get back to normalcy at the Post to celebrate the kitchen renovation and seeing you all again. Stay Safe / Stay Healthy

Serving Veterans and the Community  
Ross Berens, SAL Commander

## LEGION RIDERS

The A.L.R. will have a virtual meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. To join the meeting use the following:



URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81542509195>

Post 28 Legion Riders Director Gerald Keen.



Poppy Poster  
Winners  
(more on page 5)

## Around The Bar



As you all know, due to the Coronavirus we shut the doors on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Now it's May and we're still unsure as to when we will reopen. But during this time, and in anticipation of reopening, the Post has been cleaned and sanitized from top to bottom. We are ready for you when the Post reopens. How about "Welcome Back" drink specials when we open the doors? Stay tuned for more information.

The bar staff, Richie, Kyle, CJ, Kaleena, Chelsea, Mary and myself miss you all and look forward to seeing you soon.

Lori, Post Manager

**Commander's Comments** continued...

Please read the information sent to Michigan American Legion Post Commanders and Adjutants by the American Legion Department of Michigan:  
[michiganlegion.org/assets/misc/2020misc/lettertopostapr1132020-finalpackage.pdf](http://michiganlegion.org/assets/misc/2020misc/lettertopostapr1132020-finalpackage.pdf)

Please visit the Post 28 Face book page and our Post 28 website [americanlegiongh.org](http://americanlegiongh.org) for regular updates and important information.

Stay healthy and looking forward to our new normal and a warm and virus free summer.

Commander Janet

### Election of 2020-2021 Post 28 Legion Officers

Due to the pandemic situation, the Post 28 Officers election for 20-21 will be by mail. All Post 28 Legionnaires (veterans) in good standing will receive three mailings – 1) a call for nominations, 2) a proposed ballot to challenge the nominees' credentials, and 3) the Officers Ballot for election, which is due back by June 2. Please check your mail in the coming weeks.



Kitchen photos by Chris Petras

The **Operation KP Fundraising Committee** thanks the following donors, as well as several anonymous donors, for their support of the Post's Kitchen Renovation Project.



Sue Thompson  
 Edith Tomandl  
 John Rosema  
 John & Michelle Strainer  
 Mary Landgren  
 Ronald & Denise Nuismer  
 Leon & Kathleen Mazurek  
 Lester & Cathie Vanallsburg  
 Jo & Yvonne Kramer  
 Merle & Linda Hanson  
 Randall & Michelle Burnett  
 Frederick & Patricia Alt  
 David Kacheck  
 Gerald & Sondra VanderWall  
 Bernard Wade  
 William & Deborah Polanic  
 Thomas & Elizabeth Deater  
 Nancy Emmerich  
 Philip Galbavi  
 Georgia Gillespie  
 Edward Roberts  
 & Nancy Bauer  
 Thomas & Ann Wassmann  
 James Leet Trust  
 Joseph & Lynda Bozin  
 Cecil & Mary McDonald  
 Sharon Yonker

Bruce Byl  
 Jeff Beukema  
 Gloria Draeger  
 Willaim Henry Vanee  
 Noreen Sayranian  
 Raymond & Ruth Peuler  
 Robert & Judy Fleming  
 James & Marilyn Rush  
 Nelson Eisenga  
 Mary Borchers  
 Mark & Abigail Montsinger  
 Gerald & Kathleen Fisher  
 Connie Carlson  
 Scott Drolema  
 Frederick Vaas, Jr.  
 Gregory & Cathy Meyers  
 Kenneth Ennenga  
 Robert & Marilyn Dougall  
 Burton Wolters  
 Mary Kay Alquire  
 Philip Young  
 Jan Yurkowski  
 & Michele Yasenak  
 Steel Forming Systems, Inc.  
 Roger & Linda Ennenga  
 Howard Miller  
 Carol Harden

If you know of anyone who should be added to this list, or would benefit from a call from me as their Chaplain, please let me know @ [dstirlingsmith70@gmail.com](mailto:dstirlingsmith70@gmail.com), or 616.502.1555.

**SICK CALL**



In His and Your Service, Duane "Smitty" Smith, Chaplain

**George Bryant, Walter Pedersen, Jim "Jimbo" Land, George Bennett, Charles Davis, Ken Kelly, Carl Kuzyk, Mike Ey, Darrel Myers, Jim Vette** and all of our Legion family who are mourning the passing of loved ones.



## HONOR GUARD

In a normal year, the Honor Guard from American Legion Post 28 in Grand Haven participates in an average of one funeral a week. The Honor Guard gathers to honor service men and women by providing Military Honors for the deceased. In 2018-2019 the Honor Guard participated in 60 services and in 2019 -2020, 63 rites were conducted. Total man-hours for 2018-2019 were 3,262. For 2019-2020, 3,247.05 hours were spent.

Any honorably discharged veteran is worthy of military honors based on his/her service. One doesn't need to be a member of the American Legion. Our post (the largest in the State of Michigan) has more than 25 members who can be called upon on a moment's notice. If available, active duty military members participate by folding and presenting our nation's colors, sometimes driving as far as five hours to share in honoring the deceased, and at times participates in three to four services a day.

The Honor Guard is made up of a Commander for the Day, Color Guard and a Firing Team. Our own members or active duty servicemen and women will unfold the flag, our firing team will fire three volleys followed by taps, after which the colors are presented to the family of the deceased. After an individual salute from the Honor Guard, the members retreat, the firing team leader presents the rifle cartridges from the day's firing, and the Guard offers one final salute as the family leaves the facility.

We are fortunate to have a "live" Bugler as an active member of Honor Guard. The Post Chaplain may be called upon to conduct the memorial service or a graveside ceremony. The Honor Guard also provides a final toast with participation of the family at the Post, at which time our national flag and the appropriate branch of service flag are raised after being at half staff for twenty-four hours.



In addition to honoring our fallen, the Honor Guard participates, along with the VFW and other community service organizations, in the planning and organizing of the annual community Memorial Day parade and Memorial Service. The Honor Guard coordinates placing a flag on every veteran's grave in the Tri-Cities area, during the days prior to the Memorial Day events. Expending numerous hours, with the help of local Boy and Girl Scout troops, in placing the flags. At the memorial day events, additional honors are provided at the GAR monument in Lake Forest Cemetery, Central Park Monuments, and the Veterans Memorial at the Y Drive and Harbor Drive.

Over the years, it has become a tradition of Post 28 Honor Guard to provide Flag Etiquette programs for most local schools. In addition, the Honor Guard presents the Colors at local High School Sporting Events.

Duane S. Smith, Chaplain & Honor Guard Commander

## It's Poppy Time! Help Support Our Veterans

National Poppy Day is May 22, 2020.



Now, more than ever, our veterans need your support. Please consider making a donation to the Auxiliary's Poppy Fund. One hundred percent of your donations support veterans, active duty personnel, and their families.

MAIL in a donation to:

ALA Unit 28  
ATTN: Poppy Fund  
700 S. Harbor Dr.  
Grand Haven, MI 49417  
(Checks payable to ALA Unit 28)

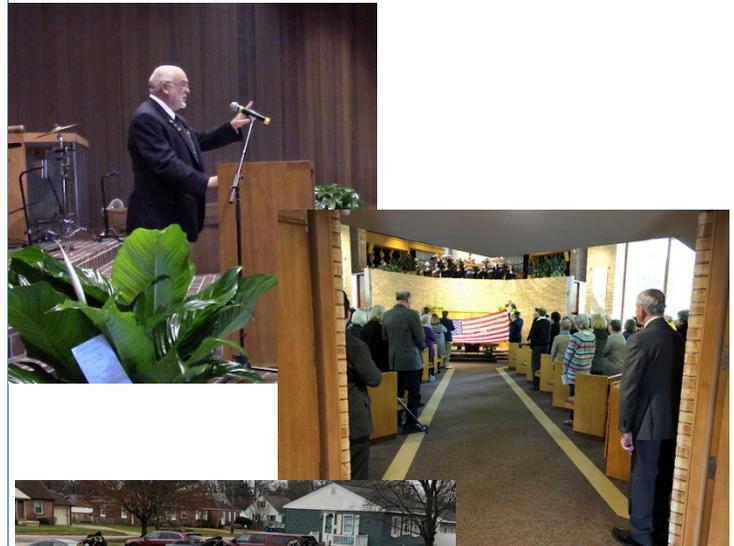
OR....

PAY ONLINE, anytime, with a credit/debit card:

Go to [www.americanlegiongh.org](http://www.americanlegiongh.org), click on the INFO menu, select DONATE, then choose POPPY PROGRAM.



Thank you for your support.



## Spotlight on the Auxiliary

Sometimes, good things can happen during trying times. I took the opportunity this downtime afforded me to finally begin researching my family's history, something I've been meaning to do for years. Well, now I'm obsessed with it! I began looking for ancestors who may have served in the military, of which I found there are many on both sides, and my "tree" has grown to almost 1,000 members!

My grandmother, Gertrude Rescorla, had six sons, all of whom served. She joined the Auxiliary on June 12, 1946, shortly after her oldest son was discharged.

I'll begin with her third son and my father, Donald "Chops" Rescorla, who served in the Navy aboard the USS New Jersey during WWII. Dad was a Past Commander of Post 28 and was instrumental in starting up the Wednesday night dinners (Chops Meatloaf is my favorite!). For many years, he also coordinated the Chicken Dinners during Coast Guard Festival. He was a proud man and a true patriot. But, I would be remiss if I did not, at this point, include my mother, Ruth Rescorla, in my ramblings. Mom often worked side-by-side with Dad in many Post activities, and she was also an active Auxiliary member, having served as President for two years and volunteer Dinner Coordinator for many years.



During WWII, William "Bill" Rescorla enlisted in the Army (May 1, 1944 - May 24, 1946). Uncle Bill enlisted again for the Korean Conflict on April 2, 1951 and was discharged on July 21, 1952. Robert Rescorla joined the Navy during WWII, serving aboard the USS Albatross. Charles Rescorla enlisted in the Navy on September 20, 1943 and was discharged on August 16, 1946. Russell Rescorla attended the University of Michigan where he played in the 1951 Rose Bowl. After college, he served two years in the Army, primarily stationed at Okinawa. Gerald Rescorla (Russ' twin) served in the Navy aboard the USS Piper.

My great uncle, George Rescorla, was a Private with the Gloucestershire Regiment of the British Army. The poem

*Flanders Fields* became even more meaningful when I learned through my ancestry research that George was killed in action on May 8, 1917 during the Second Battle in Ypres in Flanders in the Western European Theatre (WWI). His

name is engraved on the Arras Memorial in France, where he is buried. He was 36 years old and left behind his wife of less than two years.

Many of you may know my first cousin once removed, Ray Ribbin. Ray enlisted in the Army, and is a Past Commander of Post 28 and still very active in Post committees and activities.

My nephew, Ben Glockzin, served four years (in the medical field) in the Army, and completed one tour of Iraq. He is currently employed as an RN at the VA Hospital in Denver, CO. His mother (my sister), Becky Glockzin, is an active Auxiliary member and his father, Tom Glockzin, was an active SAL member.

My mom's brother, Donald "Mac" Wilson, was a paratrooper during WWII, having enlisted in the American Legion Post #28

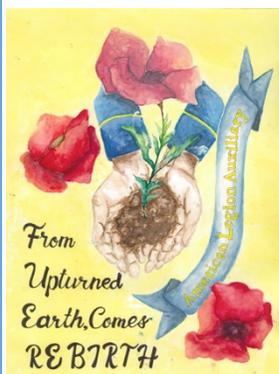
Army in 1946 and discharged in 1948. Uncle Mac was an active Post 28 member and Boy Scout leader.

My brother-in-law, Mike Chaco, retired after twenty-two years in the Air Force. Mike and his family have been stationed around the world, including Korea, Germany and several Air Force bases in the U.S. He is currently working with the VA and the State of Arizona, helping veterans secure housing and jobs. Another brother-in-law, Rick Behm, served in the Army during Vietnam. Rick is a Legionnaire and married to my sister, Deb, who is an Auxiliary member and a former Post 28 waitress/bartender. Rick is retired and living his dream life of huntin' and fishin' "up north" near Traverse City.

My father-in-law, Michael Stetts, was a Navy man, serving aboard the USS Columbus during WWII. Mike was a quiet man and never talked about his service. In fact, I never knew he was a veteran until his funeral, when military rites were performed.

These are just a few of my relatives who served in the military. I choose to honor them by being an active member of the Auxiliary. Michele Stetts

[Side note: I also had several ancestors who fought for the Union during the Civil War. One in particular, my great great grandfather, Asa Wilson, enlisted in the Army immediately after the Civil War broke out in April 1861, and served for almost three years. He was placed in Co. E of the 20<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was involved in several well-known battles, and his name is engraved on a plaque inside the Illinois Monument at the Vicksburg battlefield. An interesting story (that I have not verified yet), passed down by a great aunt Mary, was that Asa was one of the sentries who stood guard over President Lincoln's body as it lay in state in Springfield, Illinois.]



Poppy Poster Winners

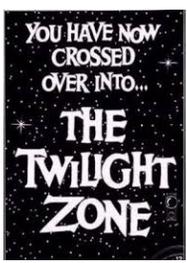


**ATTENTION!**

**POST CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Please check the Post's website [www.americanlegionh.org](http://www.americanlegionh.org) & Facebook page for updates on Post meetings & activities.

# MAY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> <b>1951</b> Mickey Mantle hits his first home run. <b>1952</b> Mr. Potato Head is introduced.	<b>2</b> <b>1939</b> Lou Gehrig plays in 2,130 games, a record that lasts for 57 years (until Cal Ripken).
<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b> <b>1961</b> Alan Shepard becomes the first American in space aboard Freedom 7.	<b>6</b> <b>1833</b> John Deere produces the first steel plow.	<b>7</b> <b>7 pm</b> ALR meeting on Zoom	<b>8</b> <b>1794</b> The U.S. Post Office is established.	<b>9</b> 
<b>NURSES WEEK &amp; TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK</b>						
<b>10</b> 	<b>11</b> 	<b>12</b> <b>1792</b> The flush toilet is patented. 	<b>13</b> <b>1983</b> Reggie Jackson, <i>Mr. October</i> , is the first major league baseball player to strike out 2,000 times.	<b>14</b> May Meeting of the 5 <sup>th</sup> District @ Post 28 is Cancelled 	<b>15</b> <b>1940</b> Nylon stockings hit the market for the first time.  <b>1862</b> President Lincoln established the USDA.	<b>16</b> 
<b>17</b> <b>1875</b> The first Kentucky Derby is held at Churchill Downs.	<b>18</b> 	<b>19</b> <b>7 pm</b> Executive Committee	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b> <b>1881</b> The American Red Cross is formed. 	<b>22</b> <b>1967</b> The debut of Mr. Roger's Neighborhood.	<b>23</b> 
<b>NATIONAL POLICE WEEK</b>						
<b>24</b> <b>1830</b> Mary Hale of Boston writes <i>Mary Had A Little Lamb</i> .	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b> Sally Ride Day 	<b>27</b> <b>1919</b> The pop-up toaster is patented.	<b>28</b> 	<b>29</b> <b>1953</b> Sir Edmund Hillary is the first to reach the summit of Mt. Everest.	<b>30</b> <b>1889</b> The brassiere is invented.
<b>EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK</b>						