

The Groves - Walker News American Legion Post 346 December 2008 Edition



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY LEFT TO RIGHT: CMDR.; GARY FIERK, SR. VICE; MIKE WILLIAMS, JR. VICE; JARRETT LOTT, AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE – ELECT: VICKI BARNETT



COMMANDER; GARY FIERK

COMMANDER'S NOTES:



Veteran's Day 2008 was a success! This year's event was held at 7:00 pm with finger foods and a champagne toast. The post was crowded early and there was much visiting and socializing prior to the program. The event brought in approximately 80 people. Thanks to special Guest speaker Vicki Barnett, newly elected State Representative. Additional thanks go out to the Jan Smart, SAL, Auxiliary, and others who manned the kitchen and put out the delicious food for all to enjoy. Speaking of food, Jr. Vice Jarrett Lott the MC of the evening, also provided some pretty tasty food. If your looking for Thanksgiving Dinner help, he is the guy to call. Thank you to all the workers who volunteered their time in preparing the meal and setting up the tables and chairs. Don't miss out next year, come early and stay late.



Christmas is getting closer and closer. So, mark your calendars for **December 7, 2008 from 2pm – 4pm**. For the "Kids Christmas Party". The Legion and Ever

Seven Club will once again join forces to sponsor this year's event.

IMPORTANT: Please Sign up in the Clubroom. It is necessary to purchase food, crafts, gift bags, etc. for this event and without the proper notification of who may attend, makes it very difficult to plan for the correct amount. We do purchase a little extra as a "just in case" more show up than expected. It would be terrible not to have enough for everyone. Sign-up sheet will be posted in the clubroom or call (248) 478-9174 and ask to be added to the list of attendees.

Military Fun Facts: Interesting Facts: World War II

The youngest U.S. serviceman was 12-year-old Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded and given a Dishonorable Discharge for lying about his age. (His benefits were later restored by act of Congress).

The German submarine U-120 was sunk by a malfunctioning toilet.

**HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Gary Fierk, Commander Post 346

734-525-2906

fierkg@dteenergy.com

AMERICAN LEGION OFFICERS (2008 - 2009)

COMMANDER; GARY FIERK (734) 525-2906
 SR. VICE CMDR; MIKE WILLIAMS (734) 421-4106
 JR. VICE CMDR; JARRETT LOTT (248) 427-0542
 CHAPLAIN; WALTER CHRISTENSEN (248) 474-8554
 HISTORIAN; CLAUDETTE CALKA (248) 474-0267
 SGT-AT-ARMS; JIM WESTON
 ADJUTANT; VERNON MCBRIDE (248) 357-3863
 FINANCE OFFICER; JOHN GROSSMAN (248) 624-8243
 POST (248) 478-9174

LEGION DUES: \$ 45.00

OTHER OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES:

ACTIVITIES; JARRETT LOTT (248) 427-0542
 MEMBERSHIP; MIKE WILLIAMS (734) 421-4106
 JUDGE ADVOCATE, VA AFFAIRS,
 REHABILITATION; JIM HOPSON (313) 533-1613
 AMERICANISM, BOYS STATE,
 & BASEBALL; WALLY CHRISTENSEN (248) 474-8554
 BOWLING; JOHN GROSSMAN (248) 624-8243
 SCOUTING; JERRY LYNCH (248) 471-0348
 COLOR GUARD; RAYMOND BARRY (248) 685-9216
 COMMUNITY SERVICE; FRED TROKE (248) 851-9498
 PUBLIC RELATIONS;
 NEWS LETTER, BINGO; G. SKIP NAFE (248) 737-4451
 POPPY CHAIRMAN; JOHN CRISSMAN JR. (248) 926-9594
 H / B PRES.; WALLY CHRISTENSEN (248) 474-8554
 CANTEEN CHAIRMAN; GARY FIERK (734) 525-2906
 CANTEEN, H / B FINANCE; JERRY SHEAHEN (734) 462-1079

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY OFFICERS (2008 - 2009)

PRESIDENT: JUDY MAU (734)-455-4142
 1ST VICE: LORRAINE CHRISTENSEN (248)-474-8554
 2ND VICE: CAROLYNN MALLIA (248)-478-7253
 SECRETARY: CAROL THOMPSON (248)-476-2262
 TREASURER: JAN YOUNT (248)-738-9278
 CHAPLAIN: HELEN CURRIE (248)-476-0723
 HISTORIAN:
 SGT. AT ARMS: MYRTLE GRANGER (313)-272-1476
 JR. PAST PRES.: LEAH BRANCHEAU (248) 474-5054

AUXILIARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

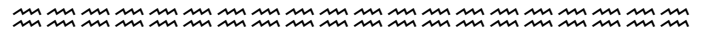
AMERICANISM: LEAH BRANCHEAU (248) 474-5054
 AUX. EMERGENCY FUND: CATHERINE ARTHUR (313) 537-5729
 CHILDREN & YOUTH: BETTE PFLUGRAD (248)-356-5007
 COMMUNITY SERVICE: BETTY MARTIN (248)-474-6368
 CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS: HELEN CURRIE (248)-476-0723
 FIELD SERVICE: VA & R: DOREEN PANARETOS (248)-476-8563
 GIRLS STATE: JUDY MAU (734)-455-4142
 LEGION VILLA: ELEANOR FARRELL (248)-474-3062
 LEGISLATIVE: JANE KEENE (734)-525-8128
 MEMBERSHIP: Cheryl Fierk (734) 525-2906
 POPPY: LORRAINE CHRISTENSEN (248)-474-8554
 MUSIC: LENORE WATTS (313)-532-1861
 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY: LEAH BRANCHEAU (248) 474-5054
 SPECIAL BOWLING: BETTE PFLUGRAD (248)-356-5007
 & HARRIET HOPSON (313)-533-1613

AUXILIARY \$ 15.00 & JUNIOR. DUES: \$ 3.00

SONS OF THE LEGION OFFICERS 2008 - 2009

S.A.L. COMMANDER: JOHN MIRLING (248) 474-9385
 1ST VICE: MIKE BYTNER (248)-888-6826
 2ND VICE: DENNIS LIS (248)-476-0803
 FINANCE: JOHN MIRLING (248)-474-9385
 ADJUTANT: MIKE BYTNER (248)-888-6826
 HISTORIAN: ROB HOLTON
 CHAPLAIN; CARL BIRCH (248)-471-3927
 SGT-AT-ARMS: ROB SMART (248)-477-2347

SR. S.A.L. DUES: \$ 25.00-JR. S.A.L. DUES: \$ 11.00 (UNDER 21)
PLEASE NOTE THE DUES ARE NOW \$ 25.00



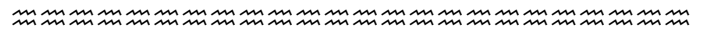
DROP BOX FOR RETIRED AMERICAN FLAGS



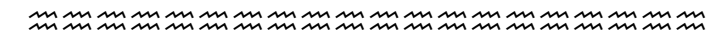
A Drop Box has been installed at American Legion Post #346 for the citizens to bring their retired flags, so they may have them properly disposed.

The Post is located between Orchard Lake and Powers at 31775 Grand River Ave in Farmington. Citizens can pull into the Post parking lot and place flags into the Drop Box 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

Kim Jaske (248) 474-1362 Kimdavidjaske@aol.com



Come Play Bingo, Every Friday at 6:15 PM Rain or Shine! Snow or Sleet!



Michael Fallone (248) 478-2345

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**FROM THE DESK OF
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT; JUDY MAU**

For the next few months all of us have a busy schedule getting ready for the Holidays. There was a spaghetti Dinner on November 22, which I hope everyone enjoyed. I also hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.

On December 1st, 2nd, and 3rd the Auxiliary is planning to help those less fortunate Veterans at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor. The annual Christmas Workshop is such a rewarding outing. At the Workshop gifts are purchased by each Unit member. (George and Doreen Panaretos do a great job for us! Thanks!) Then we help the Veterans shop at the Workshop, for their families. We then wrap the gifts, and they take them back to their rooms or we mail the gifts for them.

I would like to remind our Auxiliary Members, Post Members, and the SAL Members, that a large cardboard box will be placed in the Clubroom. We all need to help filling it for a needy family. If anyone has any questions or knows of a family in need, please contact Commander; Gary Fierk, SAL Commander; John Mirling or My Self.

At the December Meeting the "Mitten Tree" will be available to hang your gloves and mittens to help the needy.

I would like to talk about the Luncheon the Auxiliary puts on after the Meetings. Members volunteer each month to put this on. We currently request a \$2.00 donation to cover the cost, which is \$25 to \$30.00. Unfortunately, the donations aren't enough. If any Legion member would like to donate money to provide this luncheon, Please see me.

GIRLS STATE

The 69th session of the "Michigan American Legion Auxiliary, Girls State" will be held on June 21st thru the 27th, 2009. It will be held on the campus of Michigan State University. Young women who will complete their Junior Year of High school in June of 2009 are eligible to apply. The program is based on the State of Michigan Government, at the City, County, and State levels. It emphasizes the impact of Government in today's world. If you have a daughter or Grand daughter that would be interested in attending, either call me or contact your school Counselor. Our only requirement is the child live in the Farmington / Hills Area.

I would like to wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Your President, Judy Mau 734-454-4142

**FROM THE DESK
OF THE S. A. L.
COMMANDER
John Mirling
VETERANS DAY**



They fought many battles, in both World Wars by air, on the seas, and defending the shores in Korea, Viet Nam, and in Desert Storm too.

They did it for you, and me, and fought for YOUR FREEDOM, and the WORLD TOO. Many returned but some died. They answered the Call they Gave Their All. So please raise your hand for a special toast too them, and salute our flag on Veterans Day. Keep our troops in your Heart, Freedom has a cost not only in Dollars. Write them, thank them on the street, and show them on TV.

S.A.L. GUN AWARENESS

S.A.L. Gun awareness program, sign up sheets will be up in the clubroom by Dec. 1, 2008. Sign up have some fun and learn what is new. Bring someone with you. We would also like to get a shooting program going at the local gun range, so shooters sign up too.

Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving with your family, and watched some football, ate some great food, took a nap and started over.

Have a great December with your family and others. I hope to see you around the club.

Get ready for some Country in the New Year, its coming back on Jan. 17th, 2009, Greater, Bigger and Better then the last one!

John Mirling, Commander, Sons of the Legion
(248) 474-9385 jmirling@easternmichiganbbb.org

STEAK DINNER

WITH POTATO, SALAD & DESSERT

**AT: GROVES-WALKER AMERICAN LEGION POST 346
31775 GRAND RIVER AVE. , FARMINGTON**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17TH

from 5:00 to 7:00 PM

\$ 12.00

**Put on your Hat and Boots!
Dance to a
Country and Western Band
Until 11:00 PM**



From the desk of Sr. Vice Commander, Mike Williams

Dear Friends,

Hi, how is everybody doing? Good I hope. First I want to wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I cant believe its here already.

Membership

Well we are still pretty good on the renewals, the 18th district is at 69.98%, we are at 75.6%. That puts us in third place, but we want to be in first place. The district shows us at 285 renewals, I have us at 290. So come on people lets get those renewals in before the end of the month, OK. Also we could use new members. So if you know anyone who would like to join bring them on in. If they are on active duty, the Post will pay their dues for that year.

The Groves Walker Post held its annual membership drawing on Veterans Day, November 11, 2008. Three prizes of \$100.00 each were awarded. The Winners were: Fred Troke, Mike Williams, and Dale Sievert.

Veterans Day 2008

A great time was had by all that attended. Jr. Vice Jarrett Lott did a super job of running the program. He also treated us to some his Gourmet Cooking, and it was very good!

Respectfully Yours,

Michael C Williams

Michael C Williams, Sr. Vice Commander, 734-421-4106
mcwspeed@yahoo.com

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From the desk of Chaplain Wally Christensen



SICK CALL & RELIEF

GOOD NEWS!

Don Gould is recuperating nicely after his double knee surgery.

Harold Westfall is also doing well after his surgery on November 11th and can hopefully go back home soon. I'm sure he would enjoy hearing from you.

Ben & Ellie Kokko are now both at Botsford Commons at 21450 Archwood Circle, Farmington Hills, 48336 and both are on the 2nd floor. Happy Anniversary to them also.

Please remember all our members during the holiday season and if anyone knows of anyone in need, please contact your chaplain....

Veterans Day

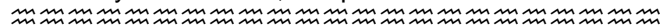
Thanks to all that were able and took the time to come to the Post for our Veterans Day ceremony and especially to all who participated in any way. This will be marked down as one of our patriotic programs that Post 346 is well known for. Sorry for all who missed the outstanding program.

Messages for Our Overseas Troops

Our Thanksgiving program is just about completed with the Lanigan and William Grace Elementary Schools and the Dance Studio who are making Thanksgiving cards and letters for our troops overseas. This is similar to the program that we did for Valentines Day. When it is completed, we will give you a follow up report.

Yours in Comradeship!

Wally Christenson, Chaplain 248-474-8554



TAPS



To those members who
have joined the Lords
Army, We on earth will
mourn their passing!



THE LORD HAS BLESSED US THIS MONTH.

WE HAVE NO DEATHS REPORTED.



**THE POST HAS 2 BURIAL PLOTS
AVAILABLE FOR VETERANS!**

1 PLOT AT NORTH FARMINGTON CEMETERY.

1 PLOT AT NAT'L MEMORIAL GARDENS, ON PLYMOUTH ROAD.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT CHAPLAIN.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO THE FOLLOWING!
DECEMBER 2008:**

TERRY ROBERTS	1 ST	CONNIE CRISSMAN	19 TH
JIMMY BRANCHEAU	1 ST	GERALD SHEAHEN	19 TH
MARILYN SMART	1 ST	TRACEY SMART	19 TH
DONALD GATES	1 ST	KATHY BRADLEY	20 TH
DIANA SWEETEN	2 ND	MARVIN DUCKETT	21 ST
NEIL DEVINE	2 ND	STEPHANIE GOULD	22 ND
WALTER DOGONSKI	3 RD	ROBERT CHAMBERS	23 RD
KIM WONG	3 RD	MARY GRACE LIESS	23 RD
MICHAEL WILLIAMS	4 TH	MIKE HUGHES	24 TH
LEONARD KAWECKI	6 TH	WILLIAM WINTERS	25 TH
RANDALL WALLACE	6 TH	PHYLLIS KLEIN	25 TH
A. (BILL) HORTON	6 TH	CAROLYN MIRLING	25 TH
WILLIAM GATES	7 TH	RAYMOND RIEGER	26 TH
ROY GREGETSKY	8 TH	RONALD BORETTI	26 TH
LYNDA NICHOLS	12 TH	DOREEN PANARETOS	27 TH
RUBIN KRESS	13 TH	ANDY LINGNER	28 TH
EDWARD NADER	14 TH	HOWARD LOOS	28 TH
MARIAN SPISAK	14 TH	ANGELA CURRIE	30 TH
KRICIA GROSSMAN	15 TH	FRED TROKE	31 ST
CARL BURGER	16 TH	KENNETH YOUNG	31 ST
		WENDY KEENE	31 ST

If it is your Birthday and you are not listed, it is because we don't have the information. Please contact me, and I will add you!

If you have any additions, Deletions or Corrections, Please contact me. Skip Nafe, Editor, 248-737-4451

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**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY,
With many more to come!
December 2008**



**WALLY & LORRAINE CHRISTENSEN 1ST
TERRY & ANN ROBERTS 1ST
MR. & MRS. RICHARD SHRUM 15TH
JOHN & COLLEEN PIRKO 23RD
DAVE & CATHY FRANZEN 26TH**

**FROM THE DESK OF
POPPY CHAIRMAN,
JOHN CRISSMAN JR.**



Two things came to mind when your editor of this newsletter reminded me that the due date had passed and I am going to touch on both , if that is OK?

First was an e-mail that crossed my desk and here it is in part.

Payback is fun!!!

WRITE IT ON THE BACK OF YOUR ENVELOPES
or the front!

You may have heard in the news that a couple of Post Offices in Texas have been forced to take down small posters that say; "IN GOD WE TRUST", The law, they say, is being violated.

Anyway, we heard proposed on a radio station show, that we should all write "IN GOD WE TRUST" on the back of all our mail. After all, that's our National Motto, and it's on all the money we use to buy those stamps. We think it's a wonderful idea. What do you THINK ?

The second thought I had came to me just a few days ago, never give up on any-one , when it come to Offering Poppies to the public----

I had the good fortune of visiting PC Ben Koko, who many of you know, Ben has been riding a wheel chair for the last 12/14 years, (assisted living) but any way he said "John, next Poppy season, bring me some Poppies and I'll ride around the halls of Botsford Commons and offer Poppies " and I replied "That sounded great to me, and thanked him." I 'am going to take him up on that! How many of you will not lift a finger to help out with the Poppy Program?

“IN GOD WE TRUST”

John Crissman Jr. 248-926-9594
jcrissman8@sbcglobal.net

GREAT IDEA!!

JUST TO LET THEM KNOW WE CARE!

When doing your Christmas cards this year, take one card and send it to this address. If we pass this on and everyone sends one card, think of how many cards these wonderful special people who have sacrificed so much would get. When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include the following:

**A RECOVERING AMERICAN SOLDIER
C/O WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
6900 GEORGIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC. 20307-5001**

**DOWNTOWN
FARMINGTON'S
HEENEY
SUNDQUIST
FUNERAL
HOME**

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Post 346
Veterans
& Auxiliary*

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WALTER E. SUNDQUIST
(American Legion Life Member)

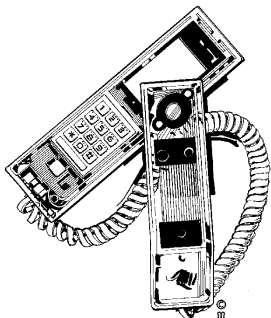
MARK R. ZIEGLER

Join the Great CELL PHONE DRIVE

Donate your inactive Cell Phones Today and you will be helping your Post!

We have collection boxes both up & down Stairs.

We don't need the chargers or accessories, just the phones!



We made the deadline for turning in phones. So far we have turned in over 100 phones and I have another half dozen to be turned. The money made from the phones is used for our children and youth fund.



THE PULL TABS PROGRAM IS ON GOING PROJECT.

Thanks to all those that have turned in tabs. It's nice to see the notes that are left in the packages that are turned in. Thanks TEMPLE BETH EL, Jerry Lynch, Rosemary Hudson, Jackie Grohman, Roger Goers, Monday Golfers, John Crissman, Skip Nafe, the Grossman's, Jane Keen, Pflugrad, the Watts Family, The Farmington Hills Nardineers. I know that I have left out a lot of you that have turned in tabs. Leave me a note the next time you turn in tabs. You just might see your name in print.

Jim Hopson (313) 533-1613
PAHOPSON@GMAIL.COM

ADVERTISING PROGRAM WE NEED YOU!

To reduce the cost of the paper following ad prices have been implemented by the Executive Board.

Large Ad: \$ 40.00 per issue or \$ 400.00 Annual 3.5"x 10"

Small Ad: \$ 15.00 Per Issue or \$ 150.00 Annual 3.5"x 3"

Circulation information demographics.

The paper has 700+ Issues. 500+ Farmington area, 650+ Metro Area.

The News Letter is also E-Mailed to an additional 100 households and is available on our Web Site.

We now Advertise you on our Bingo Programs!

If you would like to Advertise with us,

Please contact the Editor: Skip Nafe:

Phone & Fax: (248) 737-4451 E-Mail: skipnafe@yahoo.com

Address: 30251 W. 13 Mile, Apt: B26,

Farmington Hills 48336-2280

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chain stores don't carry!

Memorial Stone Project For both Living and Deceased!

The Elevator is done. We now have to pay the bills! Your help is needed! Each stone is a \$ 125.00 donation to the elevator Project. There are 22 stones left. Each stone is 8½ x 2½ inches in size. Stones will be cut as soon as we have a sufficient number to call the Stone Cutter out, and warm weather.

Please send this form, along with your check, made out to:
"Groves Walker, AL Post 346" Earmarked: "Elevator Donation"

TO: Groves Walker American Legion Post 346
31775 Grand River Ave.
Farmington, MI 48336-4238
Attn.: G. Skip Nafe, Editor

You may put whatever you would like on the stone. The very maximum amount of spaces is 18. This includes spaces and punctuation.

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Person making

Donation: _____

Address: _____

City, St., Zip: _____

Phone Number: () _____

If you have any questions, Please call or E-Mail me.
Phone & Fax: (248) 737-4451 skipnafe@yahoo.com
~~~~~

## SPECIAL KIDS BOWLING

Here are the new dates for our Special Kids bowling.

Dec. 12 2008  
Jan. 16, 2009  
Feb. 27  
March 27  
April 17

They start bowling at noon, and are all through by 1 PM at **Country Lanes**.  
Come out and see our special kids bowl.

Jim Hopson (313) 533-1613  
[PAHOPSON@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PAHOPSON@GMAIL.COM)

## From the desk of Auxiliary Chaplain Helen Currie



Again, see that our shut-ins are remembered. If you know when someone is ill, please give me a call: 248-476-0723.

Also, now is the time to give me your favorite Prayers and/or Thoughts for Judy's Prayer Book.

### CHRISTMAS FACTS;

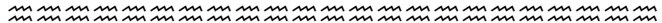
Electric lights for trees were first used in 1895.  
The first Christmas cards were vintage and invented in 1843, the Victorian Era.  
If you received all of the gifts in the song; "The Twelve Days of Christmas", you would receive 364 presents.  
Christmas became a National Holiday in America, on June 26, 1870.

### MY CHRISTMAS PRAYER;

God keep thee, friend thru all the years, thru all the joys, the sorrows, tears of life – its common places too. God keep the sweet, and brave and true. Amid the doubts and fears that rise in every life – the mysteries. Things that are hard to understand. The moving of Mystic Hands. God keep thy reason sound and sure, thy mind alert, thy heart still pure. God keep thee always – this I pray. For thee my friend, this Christmas Day.

A most enjoyable, Happy Christmas Season to each of you.

Your Chaplain, Helen Currie 248-476-0723



## A Little Military Humor!



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Former Oakland County Deputy Sheriff  
Served in U.S. Marine Corps  
Member American Legion Groves Walker Post 346**

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## A HOSPITAL GERM ON THE WARPATH

By Betsy McCaughey

Grace Voros was 85 and enjoying life, watching her family grow and taking romantic walks with the man she fell in love with 61 years ago, when she took a minor fall. She went to the hospital for an x-ray, where tests confirmed she had no broken bones. But while there, she contracted an infection no one in the family had ever heard about, "C. diff," and died.

C. diff, short for *Clostridium difficile*, is raging through hospitals, infecting hundreds of thousands of patients a year. The bacteria contaminate every surface, including bed rails, bed tables, nurses' uniforms, privacy curtains, faucets and call buttons. When patients touch these surfaces and then pick up food without washing their hands, they ingest the germ. Any patient taking antibiotics who ingests C. diff is in danger of developing severe diarrhea, leading to dehydration, inflammation of the colon and even death.

After routine cleaning, 78% of surfaces were still contaminated. Routine cleaning isn't enough to protect you from C. diff. Researchers at "**Case Western Reserve**" and the "**Cleveland VA Medical Center**" found that after routine cleaning at a hospital, 78 percent of surfaces were still contaminated. To kill the germ, you need to use bleach. When surfaces are not properly disinfected, the results can be deadly.

At "**Thomas Jefferson Medical Center**" in Philadelphia, three consecutive patients occupying the same room came down with C. diff. One died. Staffs at many U.S. hospitals are woefully uninformed about what to do.

One study reported that 39 percent of medical personnel didn't know that C. diff could be spread on stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs and other equipment. About two-thirds of medical staff were unaware they should clean their hands with soap and water, because alcohol sanitizers don't kill this super-bug.

What can you do to protect yourself? Insist that everyone treating you clean their hands before touching you. Clean your own hands thoroughly before eating. Do not touch your hands to your lips. Do not place your food or utensils on any surface except your plate. Ask family to bring wipes containing bleach to clean the items around your bed.

When you leave the hospital, assume any belongings you bring home are contaminated. Do not mix clothes from the hospital with the family wash; wash with bleach. Regular laundry detergents do not kill C. diff.

If you are visiting someone in the hospital, be careful about eating in the cafeteria or a restaurant where the staff go in their scrubs or uniforms. These uniforms could be covered in invisible super-bugs. More than 20 percent of nurses' uniforms had C. diff on them at the end of a workday, according to one study. Imagine sliding into a restaurant booth after a nurse has left the germ on the table or the seat. You could easily pick it up on your hands and then ingest it with your sandwich.

Poor hospital hygiene and lax practices such as wearing scrubs in public are putting all of us at risk. That's why I founded RID, the Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths, so that other families won't have to go through what Grace Voros' family suffered.



## The Last Flight Home

Last week, while traveling to Chicago on business, I noticed a Marine sergeant traveling with a folded flag, but did not put two and two together. After we boarded our flight, I turned to the sergeant, who'd been invited to sit in First Class (across from me), and inquired if he was heading home. No, he responded... Heading out I asked? No. I'm escorting a soldier home. Going to pick him up? No. He is with me right now. He was killed in Iraq, I'm taking him home to his family.

The realization of what he had been asked to do hit me like a punch to the gut. It was an honor for him. He told me that, although he didn't know the soldier, he had delivered the news of his passing to the soldier's family and felt as if he knew them after many conversations in so few days. I turned back to him, extended my hand, and said, Thank you. Thank you for doing what you do so my family and I can do what we do. Upon landing in Chicago the pilot stopped short of the gate and made the following announcement over the intercom. 'Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to note that we have had the honor of having Sergeant Steeley of the United States Marine Corps join us on this flight. He is escorting a fallen comrade back home to his family. I ask that you please remain in your seats when we open the forward door to allow Sergeant Steeley to deplane and receive his fellow soldier. We will then turn off the seat belt sign.'

Without a sound, all went as requested. I noticed the sergeant saluting the casket as it was brought off the plane, and his action made me realize that I am proud to be an American. So here's a public Thank You to our military Men and Women for what you do so we can live the way we do.



## The Legal Corner

By Raymond C. Barry, J.D.  
Attorney At Law

### Guardianships and Conservator-ships of Minor Children.

One of the hardest decisions facing parents preparing their estate plan is deciding who should be the guardian and conservator of their minor children should both parents be unable to act due to death or disability. The guardian selected would be not only be responsible for providing food and shelter for the minor children, but also provide love and emotional support to the children in their care.

The decision as to who a parent names as a potential guardian for their children is one of the most important decisions parents can make in drafting their estate plans. Major factors that parents should take into account in deciding who would be the most appropriate choice for guardian include the following:

1. Does this person have a close, caring, personal relationship with the children?
2. Will this proposed guardian be willing to accept such a tremendous responsibility?
3. If the children are mature enough, do they have trust and confidence in this proposed guardian?
4. Will this proposed guardian be able financially to take all of the children?
5. Is the proposed guardian's spouse also willing to take on the responsibility of another person's children?
6. Does the proposed guardian have children of his or her own that could cause disputes between the deceased's children and the guardian's children?
7. Is the proposed guardian young enough and healthy enough to take on the physical demands of raising children? Although Grandparents certainly are often in a position to give love and support to their grandchildren, it could be possible that their age or medical conditions would prohibit them from serving as guardians.
8. Is there an adequate life insurance trust with adequate assets that will allow the guardian to properly care for the children without causing financial strain on the guardian's family?
9. Should this proposed guardian also be named as the conservator for the children's inheritance? There could be drawbacks to allowing the guardian access and control over the children's trust or life insurance proceeds.
10. Does this proposed guardian possess the necessary financial knowledge to be both guardian and conservator?

The appointment of a guardian for a minor child can be done by naming the individual in the Will or by another separate writing signed by the parents and attested to by at least two witnesses. If a minor is at least 14 years of age, they can object to the appointment of a guardian made by the parent. Guardianships are also subject to review by the Probate Court. In addition, the court must review a guardianship annually if the minor is under age 6 and as the court considers necessary thereafter.

Powers and duties of the guardian. A guardian for a minor child has the powers and responsibility of a parent except that a guardian is not legally obligated to provide for the child from the guardian's own money and is not liable to third persons by reason of the parental relationship for acts committed by the child. For example, the child grows rebellious in his or her teenage years and commits an act of malicious destruction of personal property. The guardian is not under any obligation to pay for the damages as a biological parent would be in the same situation.

In addition, the guardian has the following duties:

1. To take reasonable care of the minor's personal effects and to protect and preserve the child's property.
2. The guardian may receive money payable for the child's support and apply that money to the child's current need for support, care and education.
3. The guardian is responsible for the child's education, social, or other activities and can authorize medical or professional care, treatment or counseling.
4. A guardian may consent to a minor's marriage. (Would the guardian you select consent to your 16 year old daughter getting married?).
5. A guardian must report the condition of the child and of the child's estate as ordered by the court.

By definition, a conservator is a court appointed custodian of property belonging to a person determined to be unable to properly manage his or her property. This term is sometimes used interchangeably with the term guardian. However, a conservator can be a public or private agency as well as a person. As the name implies, the person named as a conservator should be able to exercise what is called the "Prudent Investor Rule." This is a common term used in the court to decide if the person named as conservator handled the minor child's money in a reasonable and prudent manner when it comes to investing the minor child's money.

In other words, a conservator has no business investing in speculative ventures such as gold mines or oil wells. Putting a minor child's money in something so reckless would subject the conservator to personal liability for any losses of principal of the child's trust or insurance funds.

In short, parents need to select a guardian for their children wisely and give it serious thought before naming anyone as guardian for their child or children. Further, it would be very wise (and considerate) for parents to ask the proposed guardian how they feel about being named as guardian and taking on such a responsibility. Parents should do this before drafting them into their Will. In addition, Parents should take time to select another alternate guardian in the event their first choice either predeceases them or dies subsequent to the parents.

**Raymond C. Barry** served in the U.S. Marine Corps and is a former Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Oakland County. He is a 1994 graduate of The Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan and is currently in private practice. He is an active member of American Legion Post 346 and Marine Corps League 162. Readers having specific questions of law may contact him at email: [dnrbarry@comcast.net](mailto:dnrbarry@comcast.net) or telephone (248) 505-1648.

# Groves-Walker American Legion Post 346 (248) 478-9174 December - 2008

| Sun                            | Mon                                                                | Tue                                  | Wed                                                  | Thu                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Fri                                                            | Sat |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Kids Christmas Party 2-4PM<br> | 1                                                                  | 2<br>Executive Board Meeting 7:30 PM | 3                                                    | 4<br>Legion & Auxiliary Meeting 7:30P<br>SAL District Meeting                                                                                                                                        | 5 Bingo 6:15P<br>18 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting             | 6   |
| 7 Pearl Harbor Day<br>         | 8 News Letter Deadline for "January"<br>War Declared on Japan 1941 | 9                                    | 10 S.A.L. Meeting 7:30PM                             | 11 Bingo Christmas Party<br>Germany & Italy Declared War on U.S. 1941                                                                                                                                | 12 Bingo 6:15P<br>Handicap Bowling<br>12 Noon<br>Country Lanes | 13  |
| 14                             | 15 Bill of Rights Day                                              | 16 Home Board 7:30P                  | 17                                                   | 18                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 19 Bingo 6:15P                                                 | 20  |
| 21                             | 22                                                                 | 23                                   | 24                                                   | 25 Christmas Day<br>                                                                                                                                                                                 | 26 Bingo 6:15P<br>KWANZAA                                      | 27  |
| 28                             | 29                                                                 | 30                                   | 31 <b>New Years Eve</b><br>Official End of WWII 1946 | <b>18<sup>th</sup> District Meeting:</b><br>Clawson Post 163, Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> , 8PM<br><b>18<sup>th</sup> District S.A.L. Meeting:</b><br>Oxford Post 108, Thursday, 4 <sup>th</sup> , 7:30PM |                                                                |     |

# January - 2009

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Mon                                | Tue                                         | Wed                     | Thu                                                                 | Fri                                                                                                   | Sat                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>18<sup>th</sup> District Meeting:</b><br>Berkley Post 374, Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> , 8PM<br><b>18<sup>th</sup> District S.A.L. Meeting:</b><br>Royal Oak Post 253 Thursday, 8 <sup>th</sup> , 7:30PM |                                    |                                             |                         | 1 New Years Day<br>                                                 | 2 Bingo 6:15P                                                                                         | 3                                                                |
| 4 Daylight Savings Time Ends! "Fall Back One Hour"                                                                                                                                                     | 5                                  | 6 Executive Board Meeting 7:30 PM           | 7                       | 8 Legion & Auxiliary Meeting 7:30P<br>-----<br>SAL District Meeting | 9 Bingo 6:15P<br>18 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting                                                    | 10                                                               |
| 11                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 12                                 | 13<br>                                      | 14 S.A.L. Meeting 7:30P | 15                                                                  | 16 Bingo 6:15P<br>News Letter Deadline for "February"<br>Handicap Bowling<br>12 Noon<br>Country Lanes | 17 Country & Western 5P to 11P<br>Steak Dinner 5P to 7P \$ 12.00 |
| 18                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day<br> | 20 Home Board 7:30P<br>Inauguration Day<br> | 21                      | 22                                                                  | 23 Bingo 6:15P                                                                                        | 24                                                               |
| 25                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 26                                 | 27 SIGNING OF VIETNAM PEACE ACCORD 1973     | 28                      | 29                                                                  | 30 Bingo 6:15P                                                                                        | 31                                                               |

Groves –Walker Post 346  
**American Legion**  
31775 Grand River Ave.  
Farmington, MI 48336-4238  
Mailed on or before 10/29

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FARMINGTON, MI

"IN GOD WE TRUST"

# THE GROVES – WALKER NEWS!

## DECEMBER 2008 ISSUE!



### MEETING NIGHTS

Legion & Aux 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month @ 7:30 PM  
Exec. Board The Tuesday before the Legion Meeting @ 7:30 PM  
SAL 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, @ 7:30 PM  
Home Board 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month @ 7:30 PM

### PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

- TO UPHOLD AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA;
- TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER;
- TO FOSTER AND PERPETUATE A ONE HUNDRED PERCENT AMERICANISM;
- TO PRESERVE THE MEMORIES AND INCIDENTS OF OUR ASSOCIATIONS IN THE GREAT WARS;
- TO INCULCATE A SENSE OF INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATION TO THE COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATION;
- TO COMBAT THE AUTOCRACY OF BOTH THE CLASSES AND THE MASSES;
- TO MAKE RIGHT THE MASTER OF MIGHT;                      TO PROMOTE PEACE AND GOOD WILL ON EARTH;
- TO SAFEGUARD AND TRANSMIT TO POSTERITY THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY;
- TO CONSECRATE AND SANCTIFY OUR COMRADESHIP BY OUR DEVOTION TO MUTUAL HELPFULNESS.

"IN GOD WE TRUST"