

# The Groves - Walker News American Legion Post 346 February 2009 Edition



Delivering Gifts to our adopted family: December 20, 2008  
Sr. Vice; Mike Williams, S.A.L.; Andrew Lysak, P.C.; Jim Koponen  
Behind Camera, Chaplain; Wally & Vice Pres; Lori Christensen



## COMMANDER; GARY FIERK

### COMMANDER'S NOTES:



The holidays have come & gone, I hope they were good to all of you.

Welcome to another winter in Michigan, remember to take it easy on the snow shoveling and dress warm.

Friday, January 9 the Nativity Scene was put away for another year. Due to the possibility of bad weather on Saturday it was moved to Friday, volunteer's of the Legion and S.A.L. braved the cold weather. Thanks to all. And the Wiseman stilled stayed home!

Sr. Vice Commander Mike Williams is still on track meeting the membership goals. His job is still not done, in order to meet the 100% we need everyone's help. Membership is crucial for a healthy and active post. So, if you have not paid your dues, please get it in to Mike. If you know someone who hasn't paid, encourage them to get paid up. Lastly, if you know a veteran and he is eligible sign him up. **Remember, 2009 cards are required for service in the Clubroom.**

#### Did you know:

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**Offer valid for new customers only.**

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or by phone: **1-866-318-5461**

Military Trivia: (Answers somewhere in the Newsletter)

1. What is the first "high-technology light division" in the US Army?
2. In the days of sail, what draconian punishment involved pulling the miscreant under the hull of the vessel?
3. What US Civil War Confederate general was also known as "Old Ace of Spades"?
4. What island campaign earned US Marines more Medals of Honor than any other operation of World War II?
5. What is the woven design (originally a small piece of rope) on top of US Marine Corps officer's dress headgear?

I hope everyone had a great start to the New Year and that it will bring health, happiness and prosperity to all our members.

Gary Fierk, Commander Post 346

734-525-2906

[fierkg@dteenergy.com](mailto: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 (248) 476-7993  
 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  
 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE: LORRAINE CHRISTENSEN (248)-474-8554  
 2<sup>ND</sup> 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:

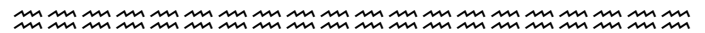
AMERICANISM: LEAH BRANCHEAU (248) 474-5054  
 AUX. EMERGENCY FUND: CATHERINE ARTHUR (313) 537-5729  
 CHILDREN & YOUTH: BETTE PFLUGRAD (248)-356-5007  
 COMMUNITY SERVICE: BETTY MARTIN (248)-474-6368  
 CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS: HELEN CURRIE (248)-476-0723  
 FIELD SERVICE: VA & R: DOREEN PANARETOS (248)-476-8563  
 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  
 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE: MIKE BYTNER (248)-888-6826  
 2<sup>ND</sup> 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**



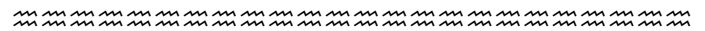
## DROP BOX FOR RETIRED AMERICAN FLAGS



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.

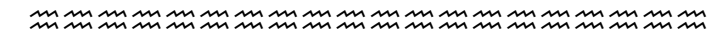
The Post is located between Orchard Lake and Powers at 31775 Grand River Ave in Farmington. Citizens can pull into the Post parking lot and place flags into the Drop Box 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

Kim Jaske (248) 474-1362 [Kimdavidjaske@aol.com](mailto:Kimdavidjaske@aol.com)



# Come Play Bingo,

Every Friday at 6:15 PM  
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 Rain or Shine!  
 Snow or Sleet!



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## FROM THE DESK OF AUXILIARY PRESIDENT; JUDY MAU

I hope you are enjoying our beautiful Michigan weather? (From you windows of course.) It certainly has been a cold and snowy winter!

The weather also prevented members from coming to the January meeting. The meeting was rather short.

A new Bingo Concession calendar was passed around, and we do need volunteers to work. Working only consists of 1 to 3 Fridays per year. If you have recently joined our Auxiliary, we would appreciate a call to Leah Brancheau (248) 474-5054 or Paula Cotroneio (734) 718-8673. This project, besides our Spaghetti Dinners, are the only way we put money into our Unit, so PLEASE HELP US!

Lorraine Christensen reported what we did as a Unit to support our needy Family. The Family received food, clothing, and Money to make their Christmas one they wouldn't have, had without our help. Thanks to Wally Christensen, John Grossman, Jim Koponen, Mike Williams, and S.A.L. Member Andrew Lysak, who gathered and delivered the gifts. We have a great Unit and members who hardly get mentioned for the efforts they put forth. So I say Thank You all!



Some of the gifts delivered to our adopted family  
December 20th, 2008

A thank you note was read by Eleanor Farrell, thanking our unit for the \$50.00 check that was sent to the Legion Villa, in Grand Rapids, for their Christmas Party. Also for the Gift sent to our adoptee. Thanks Eleanor.

I hope to see you all at the February meeting. New members, Please come join us so we can meet you in person.

Our Hostess sign up sheet for the month of January, didn't get signed at the meeting. So if you are interested, please call. Your time, effort or donation, would be greatly appreciated. This activity does give us a chance to get acquainted with each other, and you might win the 50/50! So lets all participate.

If you need any questions or concerns answered or if I can be of any help, Please contact me.

Your President, Judy Mau 734-454-4142

## FROM THE DESK OF THE S. A. L. COMMANDER JOHN MIRLING



**BRRRRRRRRRRR!!!!!!!**

Baby it is cold outside! But it was hot outside for the Steak Fry Dinner, and the band was Hot! Thanks for coming out on a very bad day. See you next time. A BIG thanks to all who helped to make this a great night. That's what makes this a Great Post!

Thanks to the Legion for a very fine funeral service they did for my father Joseph Mirling. The Mirling family also said thanks. Job well done.

**PUT THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ON YOUR CALENDAR:**  
February 21<sup>st</sup> "BREAD SOUP DINNER" 5-7pm, W/salad, \$ 6.00  
March 14<sup>th</sup> "ST. PATTY'S DAY-CORN BEEF & CABBAGE" 5-7pm.  
April 18<sup>th</sup> "SPAGHETTI DINNER" 5-7pm, \$ 6.00

Everyone keep your troops in mind and in your hearts.

Book a room have a party, help keep the lights and heat on. See you in the Clubroom. Go Legion Go!

**S.A.L. MEMBERS! IF YOU ARE NOT HOLDING A 2009 MEMBERSHIP CARD, THE CARD YOU HAVE IS NOT VALID. YOU DUES ARE \$25.00 THIS YEAR. IF YOUR CARD IS NOT 2009, YOU NEED TO PAY FOR 2008 ALSO.**

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



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# TAPS

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



## Dr. Justin "Judd" Conlon

July 18, 1930 - November 29, 2008  
Of Farmington Hills, He was 78 years old. Judd's beloved wife Helenrose and his loving children, Tom (Elle), Kathy (Tony), Bob (Wendy), and Tim (Keri), will miss him dearly. Judd also leaves behind 10 marvelous grandchildren.



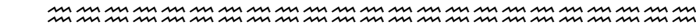
The family requests that memorial donations be made to Angela Hospice.

Judd Transferred into American Legion Post 346, 4 years ago.



## 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 THE CHAPLAIN.



# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, With many more to come! February 2009



**Bill & Barb Lapham 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Dale & Kathy Popa 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Dick & Pam Joslyn 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Jim & Debbie Brancheau 23<sup>rd</sup>**

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING! FEBRUARY 2009:

Stacy Popp	1 <sup>st</sup>	Elinor Kokko	14 <sup>th</sup>
Harold Sweet	1 <sup>st</sup>	Carol Thompson	14 <sup>th</sup>
Chris Wasilewski	5 <sup>th</sup>	Dorothy Montour	15 <sup>th</sup>
Joe DesRoches	6 <sup>th</sup>	Joseph Bytner, II	15 <sup>th</sup>
Sara Jondro	6 <sup>th</sup>	Robert Smart	18 <sup>th</sup>
Ben Kokko	7 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy Maki	19 <sup>th</sup>
Mary Kawecki	8 <sup>th</sup>	Norm Granger	19 <sup>th</sup>
Kathy Popa	8 <sup>th</sup>	Dave Franzen	20 <sup>th</sup>
Evelyn Winters	9 <sup>th</sup>	John Lapham	20 <sup>th</sup>
Colleen Pirko	9 <sup>th</sup>	Curtis Steelman	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Dawn Workman	10 <sup>th</sup>	Ida M. Valley	24 <sup>th</sup>
Ed Bland	10 <sup>th</sup>	Jeanette Schremser	25 <sup>th</sup>
William Monson	12 <sup>th</sup>	Marie Currie	28 <sup>th</sup>
Joe Nafe "92"	13 <sup>th</sup>	John E Pirko	28 <sup>th</sup>
		Michael Williams	29 <sup>th</sup>

Sorry we missed Donald McCune's Birthday, January 13<sup>th</sup> !  
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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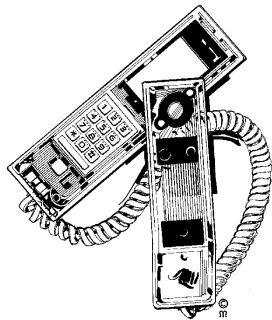
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will be helping your Post!

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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.

Jim Hopson (313) 533-1613

[PAHOPSON@GMAIL.COM](mailto: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.

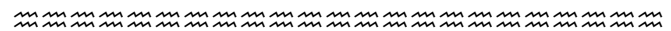
We now Advertise you on our Bingo Programs!

**If you would like to Advertise with us,  
Please contact the Editor: Skip Nafe:**

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

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

Farmington Hills 48336-2280



## Memorial Stone Project F or 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](mailto:skipnafe@yahoo.com)

**ALL YOU CAN EAT!**

**BREAD BOWL**  
**SOUP DINNER**

**WITH SALAD & DESSERT**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>**

**FROM 5:00 TO 7:00 PM \$ 6.00**



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**PUT YOUR**  
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**FOR A GREAT**  
**ST. PAT'S DINNER,**

**Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> Time 5:00 to ?  
Dinner \$?? or a Sandwich for \$5.00**

**CORN BEEF, CABBAGE, CARROTS, AND POTATOES.  
THIS IS NOT AN ALL YOU CAN EAT DINNER.**

Not to mention,  
a lot of good fun!

**SPECIAL KIDS BOWLING**

Here are the new dates for our Special Kids bowling.

**Feb. 27, 2009, March 27, 2009, April 17, 2009**

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**  
**Sr. Vice Commander**  
**Michael Williams**



Dear Friends,

The holidays are over now, so I hope the rest of our members have the time now to renew their memberships! I know times are hard so if your not going to renew, please contact me and let me know. I hate to see anybody lose their member privileges, so I say again please contact me.

Hope everybody has a great year!

Sincerely, Michael C Williams (734) 421-4106

**VERY INTERESTING STUFF**

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled "Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden"...and thus the word GOLF entered into the English language.

-----  
The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28%  
(Now get this...)

The percentage of North America that is wilderness:38%

-----  
The first novel ever written on a typewriter: Tom Sawyer.

-----  
The San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments.

## From the desk of Poppy Chairman John Crissman Jr.



Poppy Program 2009

Progress continues with the program, Letters will be sent to the local governments asking permission to offer Poppies to the public on Poppy Days. This year those days are May 21, 22, and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The weekend before Memorial Day. I will also request that those Mayors proclaim those days as "POPPY DAYS"

I will be asking for names of those that might be interested in offering Poppies to the public on one of those days or better yet, all three days. WE will meet back at the post on Tuesday, May 26, bring back any Poppies or equipment you have and the money containers. I plan to be at the Post at 4:00'clock with lots of Pizza, come hungry and plan to stay to help count.

Poppies and canisters, vests, etc. will be available on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> (after the meeting) and on Friday, May 15. Look for me around the "Post Clubroom, back hall", I should be there and if not, I'll leave a sign-up sheet, help your self, but sign-off, thanks. **WEARING THE VEST IS A MUST, IT HELPS TO IDENTIFY YOU AS A LEGION MEMBER.**

**Stay out of the traffic, the Police get upset when they have to clean up the street, when a legionnaire gets splattered by a car.**

Any Questions? See or call me 248 926 9594

Poppy - John Crissman, Jr., Poppy Chairman

~~~~~

## DON'T YOU JUST LOVE OUR MARINES!

In addition to communicating with the local Air Traffic Control facility, all aircraft in the Persian Gulf AOR are required to give the Iranian Air Defense Radar (military) a ten minute 'heads up' if they will be transiting Iranian airspace.

This is a common procedure for commercial aircraft and involves giving them our call sign, transponder code, type aircraft, and points of origin and destination.

I just flew with a guy who overheard this conversation on the VHF Guard (emergency) frequency 121.5 MHz while flying from Europe to Dubai. It's too good not to pass along. The conversation went something like this...

**Iranian Air Defense:** "Unknown aircraft at (location unknown), you are in Iranian airspace. Identify yourself."

**Aircraft:** "This is a United States aircraft. I am in Iraqi airspace."

**Iranian Air Defense:** "You are in Iranian airspace. If you do not depart our airspace we will launch interceptor aircraft!"

**Aircraft:** "This is a United States Marine Corps F/A-18 fighter. .... Send 'em up, I'll wait!"

**Iranian Air Defense:** (no response ..... total silence)

## From the desk of Auxiliary Chaplain Helen Currie



I hope that everyone has a very Happy, Healthy New Year! So here we are with a fresh new start!

Keep the cards going to our shut-ins:

Elinor & Ben Kokko, 21450 Archwood Circle, Botsford Continuing Care, Room 252, Farmington Hills, 48336

Betty Martin, Grand Court, Room 210, 36550 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills, 48336

We have a new one;

Evelyn Winters, Regency Nursing Home, 12575 South Telegraph Rd, Taylor, Mich. She has Dementia & Parkinson's, 4 weeks ago she was hospitalized with Diarrhea, which they cleared up. Now she is in the Nursing home, because she is too weak to eat or walk. (Per: Bill Winters).

### WHAT IS A FRIEND?

A friend is somebody who knows you and likes you exactly the way that you are. Someone who's special and so close in thought that no distance can ever seem far. A friend understands you without and words. Stands by you when nothing goes right, and willingly talks over problems with you till they somehow just vanish from sight. Weather you're neighbors or live miles apart, a word from a friend gives a lift to your heart and your spirit that shows you once more why friendship is life's dearest gift.

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone, and if it keeps up this snowing, Stay Indoors!

DON'T FORGET TO SEND ME YOUR PRAYERS FOR JUDY'S PRAYER BOOK!

Your Chaplain, Helen Currie 248-476-0723

~~~~~

## From the desk of Jr. Past President Leah Brancheau



Dear Ladies,

We are sending out our yearly plea for concession stand workers for Bingo. At this time, we have only 12 workers for the year. These ladies work 4 times a year or more. If anyone could work for only 2 weeks would give the other ladies a break once in awhile. If you or anyone you know would help out by volunteering a couple of hours on a Friday night please call. **Without your help, our bingo stand will fold.** This is our only way of earning money to help out our veterans and/or their families.

Thanks, Paula Cotroneio 734-718-8673

Sincerely,

JR. PAST PRES., LEAH BRANCHEAU (248) 474-5054



## The Legal Corner

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

### Wills and Their Common Objectives

A Last Will and Testament is a term or expression used to refer to the most recent document created by the person making the will, called a "Testator." This document directs the distribution of the estate, both real estate and personal property, of that particular person after death. It also appoints a person to be the Personal Representative (formerly known as an Executor or Executrix) of the Testator to make funeral arrangements, pay legal debts and represent the estate in probate court. It is the first building block in a complete estate plan.

A will is a declaration of how a person has decided his or her estate should be disposed of after death. Such a declaration in a will is revocable during life and carries no force or effect until death.

A person who dies leaving a will is said to have died "*Testate*" meaning he or she left a will and the distribution of property should be according to the terms of the will. A person who dies without a will is said to have died "*Intestate*" meaning he or she did not leave a will and the distribution of the testator's property will be determined by a probate court judge according to Michigan statutory law.

There are several types of wills that can be used by individuals in various situations. **First** is a *custom will* drafted by an attorney with the aid of the Testator to properly distribute his or her property. Often this attorney drafted will is made in conjunction with a Revocable Living Trust, Durable Power of Attorney, Patient Advocate and other documents. This will is usually more complex and may contain provisions for guardians of minor children, name a conservator to manage the children's inheritance, indicate a Memorandum of Special Bequests and specify the powers of the Personal Representative.

The **Second** type is a *Holographic Will*. This is a will that is entirely written, dated and signed in the handwriting of the Testator him or herself. In some states, under statute, a Holographic Will need not be witnessed. This type of will is usually not seen except in cases where the Testator was in a situation of impending death and wanted to leave some written instrument to leave a legacy to his family or friends. **This is not recommended in ordinary circumstances** as it can be challenged more easily in court especially if the Testator had created a prior will and he attempts to revoke the prior will and change beneficiaries with a Holographic Will.

A **Third** type of will is the *Michigan Statutory Will*. It is a short, fill in the blank, form will. The Testator can have a valid will by completing the form correctly. Under this type of will, the Testator leaves everything to his or her spouse. If the spouse predeceases the Testator, all property and assets are given to the heirs or their children by right of representation, meaning the grandchildren take what their deceased parent would have taken if the parent had survived the Testator. Only two specific cash gifts are permitted by use of this form of will. The testator can name a guardian for his children and specify a personal representative. However, **a major drawback** to using this form will is that it does not have provisions for postponing distribution of assets to children once the child reaches age 18. This means the child could be given a very large amount of

money at an age when he or she is not mature enough to properly handle the money. Because of the limitations of the Michigan Statutory Will, most Testators find it inadequate for their estate planning purposes.

Another common objective of a will is whether only surviving children (the heirs) should divide the estate on the death of the surviving parent. An alternative disposition would allow the descendants of a deceased child (Testator's grandchildren) to take from the will what their deceased parent would have taken. The question also arises on what to do if an adult child that has been married a long time pre-deceases the parent. Should the spouse of the deceased child benefit from the will disposition?

Another concern is who should be named as beneficiaries of the estate if the entire family should die in a common disaster such as an airline crash or catastrophic automobile accident? The probability of such a disaster is most possible when the family is young and the parents travel frequently with their minor children. Who should take the Testator's property should they all die and leave no heirs?

Another very important consideration for young families is the selection and appointment of guardians for minor children if both parents die in a common accident. Who will take the children, care for them, and love them as the parents would? Who is qualified, competent and trustworthy enough to handle the children's inheritance? A will is the best document in which parents can designate guardians for their minor children. If a guardian is not designated by the parents, then the probate court will decide who gets custody of the children and who will be raising them. This could be a choice the parents, if alive, would never have chosen themselves.

Another important facet of an attorney drafted will is the ability to incorporate what is called a "Pour Over" provision. This is a paragraph in the will that empowers the Personal Representative to take property that was not put into a Revocable Living Trust prior to the death of the Testator and titled it in the name of the trust after the death of the Testator and probate of the asset. This pour over provision ensures that valuable assets are put in trust and are invested wisely for the benefit of any minor children.

A will, by itself, is not a complete estate plan. The major drawback of only having a will and no other documents, is that, upon death of the Testator, and filing of the will in Probate Court, the document becomes "published." This means that *anyone* can go to the probate court, pay a small fee and get a copy of the Testator's will. The Testator's entire estate, the heirs and beneficiaries, are open to scrutiny of anyone who is interested enough to look.

For this reason, most clients will incorporate a trust into their estate plan. **A trust**, containing all of the Testator's assets, his or her named heirs and beneficiaries, **is not filed with the probate court**. Therefore, the Testator's estate with all its assets is not subject to scrutiny by the public. The Testator's, and his family's privacy is maintained.

Many people mistakenly believe they don't own enough assets to justify creating a trust along with a will. However, anyone who has children, owns real estate, or has financial investments such as stocks, bonds, a 401k an IRA or life insurance, should have a trust in addition to a will.

**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.

# From the desk of Historian Claudette Calka



**We salute Louie Kordus**, Who was in Unit 1877 – Aviation Engineer Battalion. The Unit built Air Bases. Louie was stationed in China, Burma, and India During WWII. He remembers during Christmas 1943 being near the Rock of Gibraltar, while passing through Casablanca.

In remembrance to our 4 year member  
**Dr. Justin "Judd" Conlon**  
July 18, 1930 - November 29, 2008



Nestled in the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains, between the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario, lies the sleepy rural village of Croghan, New York. It was there, on July 18, 1930, that Frank Conlon and his lovely wife Marie (nee Strife) welcomed their third child into their hearts and their home. Older siblings Frank and Marie were delighted with the new addition to their family. Later, little brother Noel would round out the family circle. Together, they forged an extremely close-knit relationship.

In the early days of the era known as the Great Depression, Frank was fortunate to own his own construction company. In later years, he became a fire inspector. Marie was the heart of the Conlon home. She unselfishly devoted herself to the care and feeding of her husband and their four children. Their welfare was her primary concern.

Young Justin did most of his growing up in Syracuse as the family left Croghan when he was three years old. However, he spent many summer vacations in Croghan with his grand parents. Life was hard during the Depression, and the youngster learned quickly what it meant to pitch in for the common good. As a child, Justin milked cows and learned to tap the many local maple trees, gathering their precious sap to make homemade maple syrup. Justin enjoyed spending time engaging in downhill skiing and participated in scouting. In fact, he became one of the elite few who attained the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout.

As a teen, Judd often worked with his father in the construction company. He continued helping in the construction business during summers and on breaks from college and medical school. He mastered so many useful skills that would stand him in good stead later in his life. Also, in his teen years, Judd and Noel became budding mechanics. They both loved tinkering with cars.

Following Judd's graduation from North High School in Syracuse, New York, in 1948, he entered Syracuse University. When the Korean War broke out, Judd took a two-year break from his studies to serve his country as a corpsman in the United States Navy. After an honorable discharge from the service, Judd resumed his studies at Syracuse. He graduated from that hallowed institution in 1955. At that time, Judd enrolled in the Chicago School of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his studies there in 1960.

It was while Judd was studying for his medical degree in Chicago that he met the lovely Helenrose Pearson. She stole his heart, and he made her his bride in Chicago on June 11, 1960. The newlyweds moved to Michigan, making their first home in Highland Park.

Judd began his internship at Art Centre just after his wedding. He completed his residency in the field of anesthesiology in 1963. He remained at the Art Centre after his residency, becoming a certified Anesthetist in 1968. Judd became the head of the anesthesia

department in 1974. During his tenure in the department, Judd had the extreme pleasure of mentoring 22 promising young residents. Undoubtedly, each of them appreciated his help and his interest in their careers. They will mourn his passing. After 31 years of devoted service to his community, Dr. Conlon retired in 1994.

During their 48 wonderful years of marriage, Judd and Helenrose were blessed with four amazing children. Judd and Helenrose felt privileged to have Tom, Kathy, Bob and Tim in their lives. They considered their children to be the greatest gift that they could ever have received. Of course, the eventual addition of 10 fantastic grandchildren was the crowning glory of their lives. Judd treasured each and every one of his grandchildren.

When not at the hospital, Judd enjoyed his leisure time at home. He loved doing projects around the house and even took pleasure in doing the yard work. He was the ultimate handyman, perhaps thanks to the excellent training that he had received when he worked at his father's side. He could fix anything around the house. Judd even built a doghouse for the family pet.

Judd also spent many happy hours in the bowling alley. Helenrose had given him his own bowling ball as a graduation gift when he completed his residency.

Vacation times brought treasured memories for the whole family. Judd was fond of returning to his roots in Syracuse and in the rural village of Croghan. Croghan's famous Candy Kitchen turned out mouth-watering treats that the children would look forward to sharing, and the old-fashioned General Store fascinated them, with its huge cornucopia of wares. The store boasted that it still carried everything from "soup to nuts." Judd also enjoyed trips to Las Vegas. Just "hanging out" at their cottage in Michigan was a special treat, too.

Judd Conlon will always be remembered as a modest, down-to-earth man. Even though he was a well-respected doctor, he continued to live as if he was still on the farm. He was ready to lend a hand to anyone in need, and he wasn't afraid of getting his hands dirty in the process. He prided himself in working harder than the next guy. His vast experience in construction, military service and medicine made him a true jack-of-all-trades.

Dr. Justin "Judd" Conlon, of Farmington Hills, passed away on November 29, 2008. He was 78 years old. Judd's beloved wife Helenrose and his loving children, Tom (Elle), Kathy (Tony), Bob (Wendy), and Tim (Keri), will miss him dearly. Judd also leaves behind 10 marvelous grandchildren.

-----  
If you are willing to tell me your story. I will buy you a breakfast at a local restaurant.

Historian, Claudette Calka (248) 474-0267  
~~~~~

## Commander's Trivia Answers:

1. **9th Infantry Division**
2. **Keel-hauling**
3. **General Robert E. Lee**
4. **Iwo Jima**
5. **"quatrefoil"**

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Former Oakland County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney  
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Served in U.S. Marine Corps  
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**February - 2009**

| Sun                                     | Mon                                                                                                     | Tue                                  | Wed                         | Thu                                                                                                         | Fri                                                            | Sat                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1<br>Nat'l Freedom Day                  | 2<br>Ground Hog Day                                                                                     | 3<br>Executive Board Meeting 7:30 PM | 4                           | 5<br>Legion & Auxiliary Meeting 7:30P<br>SAL District Meeting                                               | 6<br>Bingo 6:15P<br>18 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting          | 7                                                   |
| 8<br>Boy Scouts of America Founded 1910 | 9                                                                                                       | 10                                   | 11<br>S.A.L. Meeting 7:30PM | 12<br>Lincoln's Birthday  | 13<br>Bingo 6:15P<br>News Letter Deadline for "March"          | 14<br>St. Valentine's Day                           |
| 15                                      | 16<br>Presidents' Day  | 17<br>Home Board 7:30P               | 18                          | 19                                                                                                          | 20<br>Bingo 6:15P                                              | 21<br><b>Bread Bowl Soup Dinner 5 to 7PM \$6.00</b> |
| 22<br>Washington's Birthday             | 23                                                                                                      | 24                                   | 25<br>Ash Wednesday         | 26                                                                                                          | 27<br>Bingo 6:15P<br>Handicap Bowling 12 Noon<br>Country Lanes | 28                                                  |

**18<sup>th</sup> District S.A.L. Meeting:**  
Clawson Post 167, Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:30PM

**18<sup>th</sup> District Meeting:**  
Chief Pontiac Post 377, Friday 6<sup>th</sup>, 8PM

**March - 2009**

| Sun                                | Mon                         | Tue                                                                                      | Wed                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Thu                                                                    | Fri                                                                            | Sat                                                                                           |  |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 1                                  | 2<br>Vietnam War Began 1965 | 3<br>Executive Board Meeting 7:30 PM<br>-----<br>Star Spangled Made National Anthem 1931 | 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 5<br>Legion & Auxiliary Meeting 7:30P<br>-----<br>SAL District Meeting | 6<br>Bingo 6:15P<br><b>18<sup>th</sup> District Meeting</b>                    | 7                                                                                             |  |
| 8<br>Daylight Savings Spring Ahead | 9                           | 10                                                                                       | 11<br>S.A.L. Meeting 7:30P                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 12<br>Girl Scouts Founded 1912                                         | 13<br>Bingo 6:15P                                                              | 14<br><b>St. Patty's Dinner 5 to ?</b>                                                        |  |
| 15                                 | 16                          | 17<br>Home Board 7:30P<br>-----<br>St. Patty's Day                                       | 18                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 19<br>Operation Iraqi Freedom Began 2003                               | 20<br>Bingo 6:15P<br>News Letter Deadline for "April"<br><b>Spring Begins!</b> | 21                                                                                            |  |
| 22                                 | 23                          | 24                                                                                       | 25                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 26                                                                     | 27<br>Bingo 6:15P<br>Handicap Bowling 12 Noon<br>Country Lanes                 | 28                                                                                            |  |
| 29                                 | 30                          | 31                                                                                       | <b>18<sup>th</sup> District Meeting:</b><br>Clawson Post 163, Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> , 8PM<br><b>18<sup>th</sup> District S.A.L. Meeting:</b><br>Wixom Post 224 Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> , 7:30PM<br>Nomination of Officers |                                                                        |                                                                                | <b>Saturday - April 18<sup>th</sup></b><br><b>Spaghetti Dinner</b><br><b>5 to 7 PM \$6.00</b> |  |

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# THE GROVES – WALKER NEWS!

## FEBRUARY 2009 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

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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.

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