



# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS Sgt. Alvin Jonker Post 2326

20 N. FIRST STREET • GRAND HAVEN, MI 49417  
Phone: 616.842.6210 • Website: www.vfwpost2326.org

July  
August  
September

2014

## POST OFFICERS

Commander	Ted Raggl	616.846.4353
Sr. Vice	Jack Maxfield	616.842.9085
Jr. Vice	Al Schmidt	616.502.3747
Quartermaster	Mike Baauw	231.286.5182
Chaplain	Jerry Tripp	616.384.3186



## Service Officer

Al Schmidt 616.502.3747

## Honor Guard Commander

Al Schmidt 616.502.3747

## Facility Rental Managers

Bill & Claudia Schippers 616.846.1102

## LADIES AUXILIARY

Debra Hallada	616.846.6964
Sally Kemme	616.846.3949
Carol Verploegh	616.847.8929
Edna McCarthy	616.842.6586
Meg Young	616.846.2418
Anne Parchert	616.842.8034



## OFFICE

← President →
← Sr. Vice →
← Jr. Vice →
← Secretary →
← Treasurer →
← Chaplain →

## MEN'S AUXILIARY

Dan Raggl	616.846.3946
Bill Schippers	616.846.1102
Dale Henshaw	616.638.5382
Jim Koats	616.402.7766
Brian Schippers	616.846.6062
John Zlotnicki	616.638.0239



## CLUB BOARD

Ted Raggl	Chairman
Mike Baauw	Treasurer
Terry Grotemat	Trustee
Jack Maxfield	Trustee
Debra Hallada	Ladies Aux. Pres.
Dan Raggl	Men's Aux. Pres.
John Siemion	Club Manager

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Hi everyone, well the Ribfest was a big success. So many great helpers. Thanks again to all who helped. It seems to get bigger and more popular every year.

We have to say thanks to Carol Verploegh for all the years she put into president of the Ladies Auxiliary. And a big welcome to Deb Hallada our new Ladies Auxiliary president. We wish you both the best.

Don't forget to come down and visit us on Saturdays for happy hour from noon till five. A great way to chill this summer.

Sally Ann Harmon is our wonderful bartender. We depend on her a lot, but we could use someone to help her. Anyone interested in volunteer bartending, please contact John Siemion or myself.

Coast Guard will be here before you know! Volunteers to help signup sheets at the bar. Thursday, July 31, Ladies Auxiliary will be doing burgers and dogs. Friday, August 1, the post is doing pork dinners, and Saturday, August 2, the Men's Auxiliary will be doing breakfast. The grill is open in the afternoon. We will be having live music in the beer tent. Your help and participation is needed and appreciated.

Ted Raggl

## HONOR GUARD ACTIVITIES

Only had four funerals this quarter.

Several of our team members, along with Legion members, went to two veterans homes and pinned them. They were both under hospice care. One of these vet's passes away about a week later. Both of these veterans really appreciated getting honored for their service to our country.

We entered our float in the Memorial Day parade plus fired at the Memorial by the Coast Guard Building and at Lake Forest Cemetery.

It seems like that every person I ask to join our team has reasons not to. That OK I guess, but when the day comes when our Post doesn't have a Honor Guard Team, they have no one to blame but themselves. We need a few new members, women or men, not necessary Post members to join us. Works out best for people that are retired. It sure doesn't take up a lot of personal time like it would if you were a member of the American Legion Team. I'm also getting ready to step down as the Teams commander. I been honored to be the Commander for approx 7 years and will be 74 very soon. I'll stay on the team but a "Gung HO" new leader will be a good thing. Call me if you are interested in joining the Team.

### Upcoming events:

July 4: We are entering our float in the Ferrysburg Parade. The parade starts at 10:30.

I invited veterans from the Grand Rapids Veterans Home and from the Robbins-wood Living Center to come to the Post on September 17, at noon, for a hot dinner plus games/etc.

Have a great summer

Al Schmidt

## ENTERTAINMENT TENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our annual Coast Guard Entertainment Tent is approaching fast. In order to make it a success we need volunteers to fill a variety of jobs. You do not need to be a VFW member to volunteer. Jobs available are bartenders, ticket takers, security, and sanitation engineers. The Entertainment Tent will be held on August 1st and 2nd. If you can help out please sign up at the bar.

### NOTICE!

We strive To keep the VFW Post 2326 property looking nice. Lately people are throwing butts on the ground right next to the ashtray! Please, show some respect for our club and use the receptacle placed there for YOUR convenience or we may have to look at banning smoking on the premises entirely.

**LADIES AUXILIARY  
NEWS**

Hello Everyone! Welcome to the lazy, hazy days of Summer. It has finally arrived, so enjoy it before it fades away.

We held an election of officers in April. They are as follows: President, Debra Hallada; Sr. Vice President, Sally Kemme; Jr. Vice President, Carol Verploegh; Secretary, Edna McCarthy; Treasurer, Margaret Young; Chaplain, Anne

Parchert; Conductress, Barbara Fletcher; Guard, Judith Brown; Trustees: Barbara Fletcher, Janice Woirold and Judith Brown.

**JULY:** This is the beginning of 2014-2015 year. July 1 starts the 2015 year for membership. The dues are \$20.00. Also, life members need to only pay \$2.00 for cancer insurance. You can send it to Meg Young, 1231 Marion Street, Grand Haven, MI 49417 or pay at the VFW Post.

Remember to fly your Flag on Independence Day. Let your patriotism show!

The Past Presidents of Auxiliary #2326 will meet with the Holland Auxiliary #2144 for lunch at Sandy Point Restaurant on Wednesday, July 21 at 11:00 a.m.

The July Auxiliary meeting is scheduled for Wednesday , July 16 at 7:00 p.m.

**AUGUST:** Michigan Day at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids is Sunday, August 10. It would be a nice way to spend the day. Take a picnic lunch or eat at their lunch room.

Camp Trotter Days in Newaygo are Friday, August 22 through Tuesday, August 25. National President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Ann Panteleakos will her make official visit to Michigan at Camp Trotter on Saturday, August 23. The address is 5566 86<sup>th</sup> St., Newaygo MI 49337. Camp Trotter is located on Bill's Lake off M-82 in Newaygo.

The Auxiliary meeting will be Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**SEPTEMBER:** The Ladies Auxiliary will be having a garage sale at the VFW Post on Friday & Saturday, September 26 & 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All donations will be accepted. It's a good time to do your fall cleaning. You can drop off your items on Wednesday, September, 24 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm. and Thursday, September 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will need a lot of volunteers to help with sorting and marking Thursday, so if you can help, please come early. Call Meg Young 846-2418 or Deb Hallada 846-6964.

It is time for students to start thinking of scholarships to help fund their higher education. The 'Voice of Democracy' essay contest title for high school students is: "WHY VETERANS ARE IMPORTANT TO OUR NATION'S HISTORY & FUTURE". The middle school Patriot's Pen title is "WHY I APPRECIATE AMERICA'S VETERANS" All essays are due by November 1, 2014.

The September Auxiliary meeting will be Wednesday, September 17, at 7:00 p.m.

**CLOSED SUNDAYS**

The club will be closed on Sundays and will reopen on Sunday, October 5, 2014

NEWS FROM  
THE CHAPLAIN

Bob Butler lost his legs in a 1965 land mine explosion in Vietnam. He returned home a war hero. Twenty years later he proved, once again, that heroism comes from the heart.

Butler was working in his garage in a small town in Arizona, on a hot summers day, when he heard a woman's screams coming from a nearby house, but the dense shrubbery wouldn't allow him access to the back door. So the Veteran got out of his chair and crawled through the dirt and bushes.

"I had to get there," he says. "It didn't matter how much it hurt."

When Butler arrived at the house, he traced the screams to the pool, where a three year old girl was lying at the bottom. She had been born without arms and had fallen into the water and couldn't swim. Her mother stood over her baby screaming frantically. Butler dove to the bottom of the pool and brought little Stephanie up to the deck. Her face was blue, she had no pulse and she was not breathing.

Butler immediately went to work performing CPR to revive her while Stephanie's mother telephoned the fire department. She was told the paramedics were already out on another call. Helplessly, she sobbed and hugged Butler's shoulder.

As Butler continued with his CPR, he calmly reassured Stephanie's mother. "Don't worry," he said. "I was her arms to get out of the pool. It'll be okay. I'm now her lungs. Together we can make it."

Seconds later the little girl coughed, regained consciousness and began to cry. As they hugged and rejoiced together, the mother asked Butler how he knew it would be okay.

"When my legs were blown off in the war, I was all alone in a field," he told her. "No one was there to help except a little Vietnamese girl. As she struggled to drag me into her village, she whispered, in broken English, "It okay. You can live. I be your legs. Together we make it."

"This was my chance," he told Stephanie's mom, "to return the favor."

### **Food for thought.....**

You never get a second chance to make a good first impression.

Overheard George McCarthy at the Post.....

"The most valuable gift you can give another is a good example."

### **On the lighter side.....**

Someone described laughter as being quite similar to changing a baby's diaper. The action doesn't solve any serious problems but, for a time, it makes things a whole lot more agreeable.

God bless and see you at the meetings.

Jerry Tripp