



AMERICAN LEGION POST 46  
NEWSLETTER  
April, May, and June 2010

"In Memory of Those Who Served and to Honor Those Who Are Serving."

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To All Fellow Legionnaires of American Legion Post 46

I was fortunate enough to escape to Mexico for a large part of the winter but I want to reassure all snowbirds that, as I write this introduction to the newsletter, spring has officially arrived in Michigan, there is no snow on the ground, crocuses (croci?) have already made their appearance and buds are on the trees. Can the daffodils be far behind? Sooo...come on back to your good friends and family in Michigan and keep up with a busy Post 46 spring season.

By the time you read this introduction, our big major event - our Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Banquet - will have already taken place. Details of this gala event appear later in this newsletter.

Please also review the Calendar of Events for Post 46 for the next three months so that you can participate in our activities.

This calendar not only includes dates of luncheon meetings and Regular Post Meetings but also includes dates for our annual presentation of ROTC scholarships at the University of Michigan, our annual poppy sales dates, bingo dates at the Ann Arbor Veterans Hospital and information about the opening day for our Post 46 Baseball Team. All members are, of course, warmly welcomed to attend our luncheon meetings and regular Post meetings. We would also enjoy it if you would become more actively involved, if you are able to do so, and join in our other activities. For example, if you can spend a couple of hours selling poppies, it would be a big help. The workload is considerably lessened if it is shared among 30 members rather than 15. It also puts you in contact with some of your fellow veterans of Post 46. Most of them are pretty special people. If you can volunteer for any of these activities, please call me or our Commander, Steve Duncan, at 734-997-9485 to let us know when you are available to help us out.

Many thanks for your support of American Legion Post 46 and for any contributions you make to its various missions to serve our veterans, active service personnel and our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael P. Malley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Michael P. Malley  
Judge Advocate  
734-996-1083  
[michael@malleylaw.com](mailto:michael@malleylaw.com)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 5                   Regular Post Meeting  
Directors Room, Weber's Inn, 7:00 p.m.
- April 6                   ROTC Awards Ceremony, Rackham Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.
- April 16                  Bingo  
Ann Arbor VA Hospital, 7:00 p.m. All volunteers welcome.
- April 19                  Washtenaw County Council of Veterans, 8:00 p.m.
- April 21                  Luncheon Meeting  
Classic Cup Café, Jackson Road, 11:45 a.m.
- May 3                     Regular Post Meeting  
Directors Room, Weber's Inn, 7:00 p.m.
- May 16                   2<sup>nd</sup> District Meeting  
Ida American Legion Post 392, 12:30 p.m.
- May 19                   Luncheon Meeting  
Classic Cup Café, Jackson Road, 11:45 a.m.
- May 20, 21 & 22        Poppy Days  
(See more poppy details later in this Newsletter)
- June 7                    American Legion Post 46 Baseball Team Season Begins  
Chelsea High School Field - 4:00 p.m.  
(See more baseball details later in this Newsletter)
- June 7                    Regular Post Meeting  
Directors Room, Weber's Inn, 7:00 p.m.
- June 16                  Luncheon Meeting  
Classic Cup Café, Jackson Road, 11:45 a.m.
- June 21                  Washtenaw County Council of Veterans, 8:00 p.m.

## LUNCHEON MEETINGS

As always, our luncheon meetings are held each month at the Classic Cup Café on Jackson Road, Ann Arbor. It is an opportunity for all members to get together, relax, enjoy a meal and get to know other members of Post 46 in an informal setting. It is always a welcome surprise when members we have not seen in some time attend and renew old friendships. If you would like us to invite any particular speaker or special guest to one of our luncheons, please let us know.

## POPPY SALES

Post 46 will again be selling poppies on behalf of our veterans who are patients at the Ann Arbor Veterans Hospital. We will be selling poppies from at least three (3) locations in Ann Arbor (probably Busch's at both Green Road and Saline-Ann Arbor Road and K-Mart in Maple Village). We plan to conduct poppy sales for three days on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The proceeds of our poppy sales are earmarked (if that word is still politically acceptable) to cover the expenses which Post 46 incurs for providing entertainments, prizes and other items to our hospitalized veterans. THIS IS AGAIN AN ANNUAL APPEAL FOR POST 46 MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER TO SELL POPPIES SO THAT THE PRIMARY BURDEN DOES NOT ALWAYS FALL ON THE SHOULDERS OF JUST 8 OR 10 MEMBERS!!

Our schedule generally calls for 2 hour shifts from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Surely, everyone can make the time to volunteer for at least one shift for such a worthwhile cause. Please contact Steve Duncan at 734-997-9485 or at [duncanssm@comcast.net](mailto:duncanssm@comcast.net) so that we can add your name to our roster of volunteers.

## BINGO AT VA HOSPITAL

As the Calendar of Events indicates, our next bingo night at the VA Hospital is April 16, 2010. As always, we expect our Commander, Steve Duncan, to be present to catch the bouncing balls and to read the numbers; however, there has been one major change to our bingo night entertainment – Post 46 has been instructed not to serve the food and soda which we normally provide to the veterans apparently because of dietary restrictions. Although this restriction might dampen some of the entertainment value this activity brings to our veterans, Post 46 intends to make up for this change in instructions by increasing the size of the prizes to be awarded to our bingo winning veterans.

## POST 46 AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Our post 46 American Legion baseball team will soon be back in action. Commander Duncan has submitted the following report:

Our baseball team starts its 2010 season on Tuesday, June 7, at its home field. The team plays its home games at Chelsea High School baseball field. The season runs until mid-July followed by tournament play. The season schedule is posted on the team website. The team website is [post46baseball.com](http://post46baseball.com). You will also find a map to the field. If you are interested in donating to support the team, send your donation to American Legion Post 46, P.O. Box 2192, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. All donations are tax-deductible. Please make your checks payable to American Legion Post 46 Baseball.

On Tuesday, June 29, there will be a Veterans Appreciation game at the home field. There will be a special ceremony before the game to recognize all veterans attending the game. Please come to as many

games as you can and support the Post 46 baseball team. If you have any questions, please contact Commander Duncan at 734-997-9485 or [duncanssm@comcast.net](mailto:duncanssm@comcast.net).

### VIETNAM VETERANS BANQUET

One of the biggest projects ever undertaken by Post 46 took place on the evening of Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at Webers in Ann Arbor – our Welcome Home to the Vietnam veterans of Washtenaw County.

To say that the evening was a tremendous success would be a huge understatement. Post 46 hosted some 200 guests to some fine dining and the good company of fellow veterans while celebrating our Vietnam veterans who returned and mourning those who did not.

Our own Legionnaire, Tom Scott, served as Master of Ceremonies and the evening began with the posting of both the US and Vietnam Veterans flags by an ROTC Color Guard from the University of Michigan and an invocation by our Post 46 Chaplain, Bob Oxenger. Both Commander Steve Duncan and President Tim Driscoll of VVA Post 310 gave some welcoming remarks followed by a solemn reading of the names and military branches of the 77 Vietnam Veterans from Washtenaw County who either died in Vietnam or who are still missing.

After dinner, Post 46 Judge Advocate Malley then read a letter from veteran Bob Lutz apologizing for being unable to attend but also reminding us that:

“It’s been said Vietnam was a war that asked everything of a few and nothing of most in America.”

His letter concluded by reminding us that, despite the neglect of the past, Vietnam veterans should also acknowledge “the joys of the present and hope for the future.”

After a brief description of the Vietnam Veterans flag and an explanation of its symbols, Judge Advocate Malley then introduced the featured speaker of the evening, Gen. William Henderson. Gen. Henderson’s address was particularly well received by the audience. Among other things, he described some of his combat experiences in Vietnam (he himself flew 125 combat missions) and also asked members of the audience for some of their comments. He concluded by stating that “All of us, you and me, through skill, through luck and through God’s grace, survived.”

Chaplain Oxenger then gave a closing prayer to conclude the banquet festivities.

Some members of the media attended the festivities and an article appeared in AnnArbor.com. This article was posted at: <http://www.annarbor.com/news/vietnam-veterans-formal-welcome-home-ceremony-produces-tears-tingles/> but it is uncertain how long this article will be posted.

This was an historic evening for Post 46, its officers and guests. Such a banquet celebrating the achievements, commitments and sacrifices of Vietnam veterans has never before been held in Washtenaw County and may sadly never occur again.

## CONTINUING SAGA OF 3 NAVY SEALS

It was very surprising to get so much feedback from so many of you as to the article in our last newsletter regarding the three Navy Seals being charged with assault during the capture of the terrorist, Ahmed Abed, who murdered four Americans and left their mutilated bodies hanging from a bridge over the Euphrates River and pictured in a photograph viewed around the world.

As one might expect, the continued arraignment and accusations being directed at these three men have caused considerable publicity and dissent. For its part, the U.S. Navy has restricted public access to the court records involved. On December 7, 2009, 2 of the Navy Seals accused of mistreating Ahmed Abed, Matthew McCabe and Julio Huertas, were arraigned in military courts in Norfolk, Virginia. At this time, there was no formal record of the arraignment of the third Navy Seal, Jonathan Keefe. Later, trials for the Seals were scheduled for various dates in January, 2010.

There are hundreds of postings on the Internet regarding this continuing saga. Simply Google "3 Navy Seals" and you will spend hours in front of your computer reading all the results.

In one recent article appearing in The Virginia Pilot, it was reported that the case against Julio Huertas was delayed because the military judge ordered that the five witnesses prepared to testify on behalf of the Seal must be granted immunity for their testimony or he would halt or abate the court-martialed proceeding. Evidently, the witnesses who were prepared to testify were warned that they too could face prosecution. The military judge ruled that, unless the five witnesses were granted immunity by March 24, he would abate the court-martial. The court-martial proceeding is otherwise scheduled for April 22 and has been moved to Baghdad so that Huertas could face his accuser.

If anyone of you has additional news or views regarding the prosecution and court-martial of these 3 Navy Seals, please share them with us for publication in our next newsletter.

## PACKAGES FOR IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

The local chapter of the VVA, Post 310, is to be congratulated. On February 28, 2010, the VVA reached a significant milestone when it mailed its 2000<sup>th</sup> "care package" to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Assisting at this milestone event were Post 46 members Malley, Wischmeyer, White and Carp. The sending of 2000 packages overseas is no mean accomplishment but requires volunteer time, money, effort, planning, devotion and dedication. Kudos to all involved!!!

## REGULAR POST MEETINGS

Our regular post meetings continue to be held each month at Weber's on Jackson Road, Ann Arbor. All members are invited to attend and become active in Post 46 activities. These meetings are also operated in an informal manner and members are urged to participate to express their views, voice their opinions, and vote on any business matters on the agenda.

POST OFFICERS

Steve Duncan, Commander & Finance Officer  
Greta Krapohl, Sr. Vice Commander  
Michael Malley, Jr. Vice Commander & Judge Advocate  
Bob Wischmeyer, Adjutant  
John "Laurie" Howley, Sgt. at Arms  
Robert Oxenger, Chaplain  
Graydon Krapohl, Service Officer  
Thomas Scott, Executive Committee  
Douglas Woolley, Executive Committee  
Dale Burgess, Executive Committee

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TO CONTACT POST 46:

Send mail to:       Adjutant, Post 46  
                          P.O. Box 2192  
                          Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Website:             [www.americanlegionannarbor.org](http://www.americanlegionannarbor.org)

Email addresses:    Steve Duncan - [duncanssm@comcast.net](mailto:duncanssm@comcast.net)  
                          Michael Malley - [michael@malleylaw.com](mailto:michael@malleylaw.com)