



AMERICAN LEGION POST 46
NEWSLETTER
January, February, and March 2010

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

To All Fellow Legionnaires of American Legion Post 46

The fall months were so busy for Post 46 that they flew by almost as fast as the brief summer of 2009 and the New Year is already upon us.

This fall, Post 46 members received invitations from two University of Michigan athletic programs. The men's soccer team invited us as veterans to be honored at the men's soccer game and the women's basketball team invited us as veterans to attend a practice session. We hope that these relationships can be further developed in the years ahead so that Post 46 members can each follow the particular sport that they most enjoy.

Early in November, members of Post 46 joined with the Vietnam Veterans of American at the local VFW post to fill, pack and send packages to our armed forces personnel serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. The messages that we receive back from Iraq and Afghanistan indicate that these packages are gratefully received and, perhaps more importantly, that our troops recognize that some people stateside are thinking of them and are thankful for their service. A few days later, on Veterans Day, Post 46 members were honored to be a part of the celebration ceremonies conducted at Concordia University. We participated in an early breakfast, a moving chapel service, a flag retirement ceremony (the lowered flag was presented to Post 46 for appropriate disposal) and a closing lunch all of which was accompanied by a jet fly-over, college choir, army band, a helicopter landing and, the icing on the cake, a short address by beautiful Ms. Michigan.

Finally, our year was concluded with our annual Christmas Party at Weber's and a late year bingo evening at the Ann Arbor Veterans' Hospital on December 29th (more on these events later in this Newsletter).

As Post 46 extends to all its members best wishes for a prosperous and healthy 2010, it also extends an invitation to all of you to participate in its activities so that we can better fulfill our duty to serve our community, our veterans and active military personnel.

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year,

Michael P. Malley
Judge Advocate
734-996-1083

michael@malleylaw.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 4 Regular Post Meeting
Directors Room, Weber's Inn, 7:00 p.m.
- January 10 2nd District Meeting
Saline American Legion Post 322, 2:00 p.m.
- January 15 Bingo
Ann Arbor Veterans Administration Hospital, 7:00 p.m.
- January 18 Washtenaw County Council of Veterans, 8:00 p.m.
Manchester American Legion Post #117
- January 20 Luncheon Meeting
Classic Cup Café, Jackson Road, 11:45 a.m.
- February 1 Regular Post Meeting
Directors Room, Weber's Inn, 7:00 p.m.
- February 15 Washtenaw County Council of Veterans, 8:00 p.m.
- February 17 Luncheon Meeting
Classic Cup Café, Jackson Road, 11:45 a.m.
- March 1 Regular Post Meeting
Directors Room, Weber's Inn, 7:00 p.m.
- March 14 2nd District Meeting
Onsted American Legion Post #550, 2:00 p.m.
- March 15 Washtenaw County Council of Veterans Dinner, 8:00 p.m.
Saline American Legion Post #322
- March 17 Luncheon Meeting
Classic Cup Café, Jackson Road, 11:45 a.m.
- March 20 Banquet to Honor Vietnam Veterans
Weber's Inn , 5:30 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. We intend to invite guest speakers from time to time on various topical issues. Please suggest what type of speakers you would like - salesmen, investment advisors, athletic coaches, veterans, etc.

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.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Post 46 gathering at Weber's on December 5th was truly a festive one and the hospitality, food and service of Weber's was again appreciated by all attendees. Our Commander, Steve Duncan, organized another memorable event. We greatly enjoyed the camaraderie of Post 46 members, ROTC cadets and midshipmen, Post 46 baseball team members and their families, active duty personnel, and other invited guests. Our guest speaker, Joe Schwarz, MD, captured the attention of all present. As some of you may know, among other things, Dr. Schwarz served in the US Navy from 1965-2007. Dr. Schwarz has continued to remain active concerning many medical issues which confront our Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. After a splendid address by Dr. Schwarz, Post 46 then awarded door prizes to a number of lucky winners. Our Chaplain, Bob Oxenger, then ended the festivities with a closing prayer.

Every year, this Newsletter urges all members not to miss our annual Christmas party. It is a great tradition dear to the heart of our late Commander, J.J. Van Gasse, and continued by Commander Steve Duncan. Please make a note on your calendar to join us next December if you were unable to join us this year.

PACKAGES FOR TROOPS SERVING OVERSEAS

Although members of all veterans' groups such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, and others regularly participate in sending packages to troops serving overseas, not only for the tangible benefit each package might contain but as an intangible symbol of our thanks for their service, it is always a pleasure to recognize other individuals or groups who also are involved in similar projects. From an article in Washtenaw County Legal News, it was reported that, for the second year in a row, the Washtenaw County Court Service staff put together boxes to be sent to troops serving overseas. Ms. Nancy Petosky, is reported to have spearheaded this effort. Congratulations and thanks to all involved in this worthwhile enterprise!

BANQUET TO HONOR VIETNAM VETERANS

As announced in our previous Newsletter, Legionnaire, Tom Scott, is organizing a banquet to be hosted by Post 46 at Weber's Inn for the specific purpose of honoring Vietnam veterans for the services and sacrifices made by them on behalf of our country. We now have scheduled a date for the banquet. It will be held on March 20, 2010. Commander Steve Duncan recently attended a meeting of the local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America ("VVA") and extended an invitation to its members to attend the banquet. We remind all Post 46 members to put this date on their calendars so that each of you can attend to honor our Vietnam veterans or to be honored as a Vietnam veteran. Tom Scott and Post 46 would like to hear from all Post 46 members who might have suggestions, input or other advice

regarding the conduct of the banquet. Also we need to gather information as to the e-mail or post office addresses of all our local Vietnam veterans so that we can invite them to this special celebration.

If you are able to plan your lives this far in advance, please contact Steve Duncan either by telephone at 734-997-9485 or by email at duncanssm@comcast.net and let him know if you plan to attend.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER VETERANS GROUPS

The items in this Newsletter regarding the sending of packages to our troops overseas and the banquet planned to honor Vietnam veterans highlight our focus on working in cooperation with other veterans organizations. Most of you are aware that American Legion posts and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts are closing across the country as the number of members continues to decline. Further, there will obviously be no more Vietnam veterans to fill the ranks. The numbers of World War II veterans numbered in the millions. The numbers of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans number only in the thousands and these returning veterans have so many other interests and diversions that it is difficult to enlist them as members of the American Legion. If you know of any Iraq or Afghanistan veterans in our community, please contact us so that we can encourage them to join Post 46 as fellow veterans. Similarly, if you know of any such veterans who you believe are entitled to some form of benefits arising from their military service, please let us know so that we can point these veterans in the right direction. We cannot and should not forget the "veteran connection" which links us all together.

BINGO NIGHTS AT THE VA HOSPITAL

Bingo nights are schedule at the VA Hospital on December 29, 2009, and on January 15, 2010. If you can help us help hospitalized veterans with their bingo cards or hand out sandwiches and soft drinks, please let us know. Steve Duncan will continue his regular role of calling out the numbers.

NAVY SEALS FACE ASSAULT CHARGES FOR CAPTURING MOST-WANTED TERRORIST

Many of you will remember that, back in 2004, four Americans were captured in Fallujah, Iraq, and their bodies mutilated. After their corpses were dragged through the streets, two of them were left hanging from a bridge over the Euphrates River for all the world to see. One of those murdered was a former Navy SEAL.

For many years, the SEALS tracked the ringleader of these atrocities, Ahmed Abed. A few months ago, the SEALS finally captured Ahmed Abed and brought him back alive. Upon being interviewed, however, Ahmed Abed told investigators he had been punched by his captors and had a bloody lip to show for it. Three of the SEALS have since been charged with assault. All three have refused to submit to non-judicial punishment or "captains mast" which is generally viewed as admitting guilt and, therefore, will be arraigned on criminal charges.

It has evidently become very difficult to draw the dividing line between deeds of outstanding valor and courage and those which invite criminal prosecution. Many veterans believe that these Navy SEALS should get the highest medal their country can bestow for their service in finally capturing this most-wanted criminal terrorist.

Whatever your individual opinion about the circumstances, it would seem that veterans, particularly those who have experienced combat situations, should become familiar with this ongoing saga and make their opinions known to the appropriate military and civilian authorities.

You can address your letters to:

Major General Charles T. Cleveland
SOCCENT/CC
7201 Tampa Point Boulevard
McDill AFB, FL 33621; or

U.S. Navy Judge Advocate Generals Corp.
1322 Patterson Avenue, Suite 3000
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066

Letters may also be addressed to the Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus. For those more electronically inclined, you might wish to check the following websites:

usnavyseals.com or savethenavyseals.com

There is obviously not enough space in this Newsletter to develop the full story and facts of this case or to debate the various issues involved. As veterans, we have a unique involvement in legal proceedings such as these which concern our service personnel and have a more compelling obligation to investigate the facts in some detail and make our opinions known.

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
William Bacon, Historian
Graydon Krapohl, Service Officer
Thomas Scott, Executive Committee
Douglas Woolley, Executive Committee
Dale Burgess, Executive Committee

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