



**Walter T. Roach American Legion Post 182**  
**165 West Lincoln Street - Hubbardston, Michigan. 48845**  
**Newsletter Number Twenty-Six, May 2006**



### **Jack Spencer Annual Golf Tournament**

It was a huge success! The weather was wonderfully sunny on Saturday, March 4, 2006 when Tim Chartrand organized his crew (above) to embark on a perfect 'Winter' golf experience with 64 golfers registered for the event. The day was very profitable for Post 182, an exciting experience for the golfers and onlookers, and most probably a well-deserved feeling of accomplishment for Tim Chartrand, his wife Susan and Leo McMillan who work together on this project. Refreshments were furnished along the golf route which started at Doug Cusack's on Cook Road and ended at the Chartrand farm on Maple Rapids Road. Returning to Post 182, participants were served a hot lunch; seventy door prizes were given away in drawings, or auctioned to the highest bidder and a great time was enjoyed by all with the club filled to near capacity. In the Par 99 Golf Tournament itself the winners were: first place- male, Kevin Ludwig (96), second place – male, Jack Spencer (98). The ladies scoring lowest were: Lezlie Hauck (136) and Jessica Root (155). Tim Chartrand pioneered this event. It has grown each year. Sincere thanks to all involved!

We were honored in our January district meeting at Hubbardston Post 182 by the presence of Past National and State Commander Thomas P. Cadmus, National Executive Committeeman Kenneth Dittenber and 3<sup>rd</sup> Zone Commander Joseph Burman. We had good attendance at our district meeting and a great thanks to our host Post 182. (Richard Root, 8<sup>th</sup> District Comdr.)

### **A Traditional Wedding Toast!**

Bread! That this house may never know hunger.  
Salt! That life may always have flavor.  
And wine! That joy and prosperity may reign forever. (Irish Blessings)

We always used to spend holidays with Grandpa and Grandma and they lived in a big brick house, but grandpa got retarded and they moved to Florida. Now they live in a tin box, and have rocks painted green to look like grass. They ride around on their bicycles and wear name tags because they don't know who they are anymore. Nobody cooks; they just eat out and have the same thing every night ---'early birds.' (J. Dailey-A grandchild's point of view)

### Legion Officers

Commander - William Kruger  
Adjutant - Dan Heckman  
Vice Comdr. - Terry Fletcher  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Comdr., Newsletter - Bud Howard  
Sgt.-At-Arms - Leo McMillan  
Finance Officer - James Barker  
Service Officer - Murdo Wood  
Chaplain - James R. McGinn  
Historian - John Stoddard  
Trustees -Terry Fletcher, Bud Howard, Leo McMillan

### Auxiliary Officers

President - Kelly Melton  
1st Vice - Tracey Ewalt  
2nd Vice - Membership - Lezlie Hauck  
Sec.-Treasurer -Tanya Mills  
Chaplain - Agnes Bradbury  
Historian - Joanne Howard  
Sgt.-At-Arms - Kim Brown  
Poppy Chairman - Staci Dailey  
Girl's State Chairman - Sheila Thurston  
Sunshine Chairman - Carol Fitzpatrick  
Public Relations-Carolyn Cunningham

### Sons of the American Legion Officers

Comdr. - Bill Cunningham  
Adjutant - Bob (Red) Ward  
1st Vice Comdr. - Rick Cunningham  
Finance Officer - Dave Oistad  
Chaplain - Bart Cunningham  
Historian -Pat White  
Sgt. at Arms - Tim Ward

### Everything you wanted to know about a 'Redneck Church' but were afraid to ask...

You know your church is a 'Redneck Church' if:  
The finance committee refuses to provide funds for a chandelier because none of the members know how to play one.

People ask when they learn that Jesus fed the 5000, whether the two fish were bass or catfish and what bait was used to catch them.

A member of the church requests to be buried in his 4-wheel drive truck because "It ain't never been in a hole it couldn't get out of."

The choir is known as 'The OK Chorale.'

Baptism is referred to as 'branding.' The baptismal pool is a #32 galvanized washtub. The collection plates are really hubcaps from a '56 Chevy. The communion wine is Boone Farm "Tickled Pink."  
"Thou shalt not covet" applies to hunting dogs, too.  
The final words of the benediction are, "Y'all come back now!! Ya Hear!"

**Attention Auxiliary: All dues must be paid by June 1 of each year to avoid a late fee. Memorial weekend is the perfect time!**

### Calendar of Events

May 14 Mother's Day Breakfast 8:30-11:30 a.m.  
May 27 Irish Stew Brunch-Annual Meeting-Parish Hall  
Hubbardston Area Historical Society 11:00-3:00p.m.  
Hubbardston Irish Dancers 2:00 p.m.  
Museum Room open 10 a.m.-12:00 noon  
May 27-28<sup>th</sup> Softball Tournaments all day  
May 27 Heckman Brass Band-Post 182 9:00 -1:00 a.m.  
May 28 Salute Veteran's Graves 10:00 a.m.  
May 29 Annual Memorial Day Celebration all day  
Chicken Dinner at Tuscan Lodge 11:00-1:00  
5 K Race 9:00 a.m.  
Hubbardston Irish Dancers Noon  
Garden Club Plant Sale-Celtic Path - all day  
Grilled Sandwiches at Post 182 from Noon on  
Memorial Day Grand Parade 1:30 p.m.  
Tractor Pull at Post 182 following parade  
June and July-Tractor Pulls to be announced  
August 13 Annual Chicken BBQ 12:00-3:00 p.m.

A special 'Note of Thanks' to Dick Slocum and Mary See for recent donations to the parking lot fund. If you have yet to make your donation, Jim Barker is available to accept whatever you can spare at Box 182, Hubbardston, Mi. 48845.

### Lewis McKenna, Vet. of WW II & Korea

Lewie, concerned as are many veterans in the turmoil of the Iraqi situation sends some 'food for thought.'

The United Nations was formed to end all future national disagreements by peaceful negotiation and to avoid the disaster of war during the administration of Woodrow Wilson. It has had its successes and failures. This is the voting record of the various Arabic/ Islamic states as reported by the US State Dept. and the United Nations Records:

Egypt has voted against the US 79% of the time and receives annually 2 billion dollars from us.  
Pakistan voted against the US 75% of the time and receives annually \$6,721,000 from us.  
Jordan voted against us 71% of the time and receives \$192,814,000 annually from the US.  
India voted against us 71% of the time and receives \$143,699,000 annually from the US.  
Just those four countries receive over "Two Billion in US Foreign Aid" each year. It appears the US is not very successful in buying any votes. "This is a deep concern of mine and I hope my fellow vets take this to heart. God Bless All!"  
(Lewis McKenna, Lansing, Mi.)

Fifteen days ago I read that smoking can kill you. The next day I stopped smoking. Twelve days ago I read that red meat can kill you. The next day I stopped eating red meat. Eight days ago I read that drinking can kill you. The next day I stopped drinking. Yesterday I read that having sex can kill you. This morning I stopped reading.

### **Lenten Fish Fry Dinners at Post 182**

It takes 25 or more people working tirelessly each year for seven Friday nights in a row in an effort to raise funds for renovations, additions, and improvements to the Walter T. Roach Post 182 club house. Beautiful new marble bathrooms, a stainless steel kitchen of perfection, new tile flooring, carpeting, picture windows, outside staircase and continued efforts now to complete the paving of the expanded parking lot are projects made possible by the Fish Fry dinners, Lotto, Sunday breakfasts, Tim Chartrand's Annual Golf Tournament, and various other activities regularly scheduled throughout the year. Now in the ninth (?) year and still going stronger than ever, the Fish Fry Dinners have become a tradition for Lenten Friday nights. Huge crowds, great profits, visits with friends, midst a community of caring, hard-working people make it all worthwhile. Thanks to Terry and Mary Fletcher for chairing the event the past two years. It takes a crew of 20-25 people to carry these dinners to perfection and Terry and Mary wish no credit whatsoever, but someone has to do a bit of background work, find the workers, call the bakers, check supplies and see that the food is ready to go early Friday afternoon. Thanks to Leo, Mark and Terry for all the running to Lansing, Ionia and wherever. Thanks to Mark and Delores for keeping the club looking like a showplace and a special thanks to all of the ladies for their spectacular desserts each week for seven weeks. That is no small chore. And a special thanks to Ella Robinson for her specialty cakes each week and those decadently delicious cheesecakes. All of you together (Legion, Auxiliary and SALS) make a great group of dedicated workers and **'With no one caring who gets the credit, it works!'** **Everyone works hard!** A huge thank you to members, friends and neighbors who came by the hundreds to enjoy the dinners.

A woman was having a passionate affair with an inspector from a pest company and one afternoon, her husband came home unexpectedly while she was entertaining.

"Quick!" said the woman to her lover, "into the closet!" and she pushed him into the closet stark naked. The husband however became suspicious and after a search of the bedroom, discovered the man in the closet. "Who are you?" he asked him "I'm an inspector from Bug-Be-Gone," said the exterminator.

"What are you doing in there?" asked the husband.

"I'm investigating a complaint about an infestation of moths," the man replied.

"And where are your clothes?" asked the husband.

The man looked down at himself and said...

"Those little bastards!" (L. Howard)

### **Some Irish Facts for You to Ponder**

**10.7** percent of Michigan residents claim Irish ancestry.

**8 million** St. Patrick's Day cards are exchanged each year.

**25,870** U.S. residents speak Irish Gaelic at home.

**34.5 million** U.S. residents claim Irish ancestry. That's almost 9 times the population of Ireland.

**\$75 million** in lime green chrysanthemums (for St. Patrick's Day) were sold by florists in 2004.

(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Hallmark Cards research, U.S. Department of Agriculture)

### **The Birthday Present**

"Hello, is this the sheriff's office?"

"Yes."

"I'm calling to report my neighbor Virgil Smith. He is hiding marijuana in his firewood."

"Thank you very much for the call, sir."

The next day, the Sheriff's Deputies descend on Virgil's house. They search the shed where the firewood is kept. Using axes, they bust open every piece of wood, but find no marijuana. They sneer at Virgil and leave.

The phone rings at Virgil's house.

"Hey, Virgil! This here is Floyd. Did the Sheriff come?"

"Yeah!"

"Did they chop your firewood?"

"Yep!"

"Happy Birthday Buddy!"

Joe Smith started the day early having set his alarm (made in Japan) for 6 a.m. While his coffeepot (made in China) was perking, he shaved with his electric razor (made in Hong Kong). He put on a dress shirt (made in Sri Lanka), designer jeans (made in Singapore), and tennis shoes (made in Korea). After cooking his breakfast in a new electric skillet (made in India) he sat down with his calculator (made in Mexico) to see how much he could spend today. After setting his watch (made in Taiwan) to the radio (made in India) he got in his car (made in Germany) (filled it with gas from Saudi Arabia) and continued his search for a good paying American job. At the end of another fruitless and discouraging day checking his computer (made in Malaysia) Joe decided to relax a while. He put on his sandals (made in Brazil) poured himself a glass of wine (made in France) and turned on his TV (made in Indonesia) and then wondered why he can't find a good paying job in America. (J. Dailey)

#### **What's Deployment Like?**

If you want to know what your son, daughter, or spouse experiences during deployment, try these tips at home.

Use 18 scoops of coffee per pot and allow it to sit for five or six hours before drinking.

Replace your garage door with a curtain.

Sleep on a cot in the garage.

Two hours after you've fallen asleep, have someone rip open the curtain, shine a flashlight in your eyes, and mumble, "Sorry, wrong cot."

Spread gravel throughout your house and yard.

Don't watch TV except for movies in the middle of the night. Have your family vote on which movie to watch and then show a different one.

When you take a shower, wear flip-flops and keep the lights off.

Sandbag the floor of your car to protect it from mine blasts and fragmentation.

Have the paperboy give you a haircut.

Set your alarm clock to go off at random times during the night. (Source: [www.armywives.com](http://www.armywives.com))

#### **A Soldier's Perspective**

Eric Alva remembers sitting in a wheelchair at a military hospital, tears streaming down his cheeks, as he gazed out the seventh floor window and watched people walk to work. What a seemingly simple task – one foot in front of the other. He glanced down at his

bandaged stump and wondered if he would ever lead a normal life again.

It was March, 2003 and the Marine staff sergeant had come back from Iraq deeply wounded in body and spirit. Three hours after crossing into southern Iraq with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Marines, he stepped on a land mine that mangled his right leg. It had to be amputated above the knee. The blast also broke his right arm and left leg, took part of an index finger, and left 27 pieces of shrapnel in his body. And, for awhile, it broke his heart. I remember just hating life and being miserable," says Alva, now 34. "I couldn't even tie my shoe because my right hand was damaged. I didn't know how to live."

Alva didn't allow himself to stay in that dark place. Within five months the former marathon runner learned to walk using his prosthesis. Today he swims, snow skis, scuba dives, and has tried out twice for the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games. "If someone had told me in March, 2003 that I would be doing all these things, I would've called them crazy."

Though Operation Iraqi Freedom forever altered his life, he remains fiercely patriotic... "Being bitter will never bring back my leg...My life isn't perfect. Other people put on their clothes after they finish brushing their teeth in the morning. I put on my leg...I'm at peace with that," he says.

(Eric Alva, *USAA Magazine*, 2005)

Gallagher opened the morning newspaper and was dumbfounded to read in the obituary column that he had died. He quickly phoned his best friend Finney. "Did you see the paper?" asked Gallagher. "They say I died!"

"Yes, I saw it," replied Finney. "Where are ye callin from?"

#### **Taps:**

##### **Eleanor R. "Pat" McKenna**

Eleanor "Pat" McKenna, DeWitt Township aged 74, died April 18, 2006. Our loving wife, mother and grandmother was called home to her Lord after a valiant battle against ovarian cancer. Born April 22, 1931 in Forestville, Mi. she was the daughter of Anthony and Erna Reuter Patz. Eleanor graduated from Alma College, was a devoted Catholic and member of St. Therese Church.

She enjoyed sewing, latch hooking, gardening and was an avid Spartan fan. Surviving are her husband of 50 years, Lewis; children Matthew, Karen, Kevin, Kelly, Mary Ellen, and Shannon, 10 grandchildren; one sister, Florence and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Karleen, her parents, and brother. Tiffany Funeral Home on West Saginaw served the family. Internment was in St. Joseph's Cemetery. Memorials may be made to St. Therese Church or Sparrow Hospice Services. Pat was a beautiful, quiet and wonderful person. Rest in peace, Pat!

**Linda Lee Wohlfert Fields**, 56, of Hubbardston passed away on April 25, 2006 at Metron of Greenville. She was born in Carson City on January 12, 1950 to Harold and Wanda Shinabarger Wohlfert. She worked at Oldsmobile in Lansing, enjoyed gardening and sewing and especially her grandchildren. She is survived by two sons, Jerry of Arizona. Michael of Nevada; two daughters, Rhonda and Craig Carberry of Williamston, Jamie and Darrell Osterman of Carson City; nine grandchildren; brother James Wohlfert and nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at St. John the Baptist Church on Saturday April 29, with internment at the church cemetery. Dinner was served to family and friends at St. John the Baptist Parish Hall immediately following the ceremony. Linda's mother, Wanda was a long-time member of Post 182.

**James "Jack" Davern** of Pewamo, Mi. was a kind, gentle, loving husband and father, grandpa and papa who passed away on Tuesday February 21, 2006 at Carson City Hospital. He was born in Carson on January 20, 1923 to Neville and Freda Kropf Davern. He married Rosemary O'Connell on May 21, 1949 in Carson City and they celebrated 56 years together. He was a member of St. Joseph's Parish, Pewamo Knights of Columbus Council 8071, Fowler VFW, a veteran of WWII and served in the Army Medical Corps for 38 months serving two years on the Hospital Ship Wisteria. He was on the Board of Director's at First Security Bank in Ionia from 1965-1987, co-owner of Davern Equipment and President of the Pewamo Village Council for many years and served in Detroit on Mayor Exchange Day in

1964. He was on the finance Board of St. Joseph's Church for 28 years. After closing Davern Equipment in 1986, he was a loyal employee of Rehmann's Clothing Store in St. Johns for 14 years retiring in May, 2000. He was preceded in death by his parents and infant son, James. Surviving are his wife Rosemary, daughter Mary of Grand Rapids, son Neville (Lisa) of Pewamo, two grand daughters, brother William (Bertha) Davern, sister Jean (Jim) Cook, and several nieces, nephews and good friends. Pastor Charlon Mason celebrated the Mass of Christian burial on Friday, February 24, 2006 at St. Joseph's in Pewamo. Memorials may be made to St. Joseph's Educational Trust Fund.

**LaVonna Jean Schafer**, Lansing, Mi. age 75, went to be with her Lord on Sunday April 23, 2006. Jean was born in Detroit, the daughter of Karl and Irene Wirt. She was employed by Minnesota Mutual for 20 years, and a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. She enjoyed her bowling league for 20 years, but her family was her true love. She met and married Ben Schafer of Hubbardston and they were married for 54 years until his death in 2004. They had six children: Bernard, Mike, Kevin, Pam Schafer Brown, Mark, and Doug. She was interned at St. Joseph Cemetery.

As was the case with many brides in those days prior to the new parish hall, Jean dressed for her wedding at Joe and Eve Burns's. Norwood Tabor and Joanne Burns were their witnesses. Jean was a beautiful girl, a good friend and a fantastic mother. She and Ben are together again and that is as it should be. Memorial contributions can be made in her name to the Alzheimer's Association. Sister-in-law Agnes Schafer Bradbury and brother-in-law Gerald Schafer are senior members of Post 182.

While working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet who insisted that he didn't need my help to leave the hospital. After a chat about rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him.

"I don't know," he said, "She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."



**WWII U.S. Army Sgt. Richard Fenn-Salute**

Twenty-five years ago, (March 17, 1981), World War II veteran, Richard Fenn was called to his eternal reward. Dick and Noreen McKenna Fenn reared four children: Janie (Bill Dailey), Danny (Nancy Tucker), Marlon (Dave Felzke), and Gary (Linda Helman). Dick was proud of his family, his ancestry and as a young man, was determined to serve his country. His record speaks for itself. Dick served temporarily in the peacetime military prior to WWII and was 25 years old when the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor plunged the country and the world into war. He was a quiet, contemplative man; a patriotic American, and he saw his duty to serve as a challenge and re-entered the military. His was a record of courage and valor. He trained his way into overseas deployment and a service assignment in the European Theatre of War. Serving as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army, he was the recipient of the Silver Star, and the Purple Heart. Following is the official citation:

**Headquarters 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry, APO 36, U.S. Army, for Gallantry in Action, a Silver Star is awarded to Richard H. Fenn.**

Richard Fenn, 36152417, Sergeant, Company L, 142<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19, March, 1945 in the vicinity of Rott, France. After seizing a prisoner on the outskirts of Rott and learning of the enemy strength in the area surrounding the village, Sergeant Fenn took two members of his patrol on a reconnaissance of German positions. They encountered four enemy soldiers and, in the ensuing fire fight, Sergeant Fenn was seriously wounded. Despite the pain of his wounds, he took cover in a ditch with his comrades. Throwing hand grenades at the enemy they killed two German soldiers and forced the others to withdraw. By his courageous and determined actions, Sergeant Fenn obtained valuable information concerning enemy dispositions. He entered the service from Saginaw, Michigan. Signed: John Dahlquist, Major General, U.S. Army. Commanding.

“Judy, do you see that elderly couple down at the other end of the counter?”

“Yeah! What about them?”

“I was just thinking that’s probably what you and I will look like in about ten years or so.”

”You do realize that’s a mirror at the end of the counter, don’t you?”

**“We cannot allow the gross offense...of flag desecration.”**

Sen. Bill Frist R-Tenn., promises to bring S.J. Res. 12, the flag amendment to a vote on the Senate floor the week of **June 26, 2006**. The amendment reads, “The Congress shall have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.” **It is important for Legion family members to communicate with their senators their desire to see the flag protected. Urge their support for the amendment.** A complete list of where the US Senate stands on the flag issue can be found on the Citizens Flag Alliance web site. [www.cfa-inc.org](http://www.cfa-inc.org) Legionnaires can contact them through the American Legion Legislative Action Center at [www.capwiz.com/legion/dbq/officials/](http://www.capwiz.com/legion/dbq/officials/) The American Legion and veteran’s organizations across the nation have been working for years to get this topic up for a vote to prevent the desecration of the stars and stripes by those people who do not understand the sacrifice and commitment that young men and women in the military make and have made to insure the freedom of the individual to speak their minds freely. Respect for the flag of the country insuring that freedom is only common sense to patriotic Americans. Contact your senators, now!

Ionia County Genealogical Society is producing a book about the **veterans of World War II** who at any time lived in Ionia County. This is a rare opportunity for you World War II veterans or the families remaining of a World War II veteran, to preserve that memory of their service to their country for the generations to come. You may write to Bud Howard, 6851 East Carson City Rd., Sheridan, Mi. 48884 or e-mail [mjh655@pathwaynet.com](mailto:mjh655@pathwaynet.com) for a form requesting your service information to make the whole process very simple for you. Please do this as soon as possible, so your name can be included in the Ionia County World War II veteran’s roster.

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