

The Groves-Walker Bulletin

American Legion Post 346 Farmington, Michigan September/October 2022 - Vol. XIII Issue 1



Chartered July 10, 1923 - For God and Country

Meeting Nights

1st Tue. of the month at 7:00pm: SAL 1st Thu. of the month at 7:30pm: Legion - Auxiliary 3rd Thu. of the month at 6:30pm: Home Board and at 7pm: Executive Committee

Clubroom Hours

Monday - Friday: 4pm - 9pm Watch your email for weekend event hours

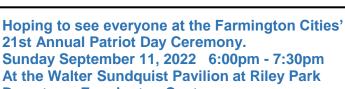
Contact Info

Clubroom: 248-478-9174 Information: 248-939-4910 GrovesWalkerPost346@gmail.com www.AmericanLegionPost346.org LIKE us on Facebook!

Groves-Walker American Legion Post 346 31775 Grand River Ave. Farmington, MI 48336-4238

Please remember that all of the cooks & bartenders at our Post have been working on a volunteer basis since the beginning of COVID. Please tip them generously at the end of your stay.

The downstairs banquet room of the Post is still available to our members, family and friends. We ask only for a donation for it's use, on an as-is basis, and with the agreement that the users clean up after themselves. Please talk to Eric for more details.



Downtown Farmington Center

Post 346, along with the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills, present our 21st Annual Patriot Day Ceremony to honor the memory of the nearly three thousand citizens and first responders who died in the 2001 terrorist attacks. We are also honored to recognize our own local



heroes who serve our community every day.

Light refreshments will follow the ceremony. Minimal seating available, please bring your lawn chairs.

The Queen is Back!

NEW cash consolation prizes! \$50 if you find a 3, 4 or 6 of any suit. Tickets available NOW in the clubroom! \$1 each Need not be present to win. MI License #C30429 More info and E-tickets at: 346Queen@gmail.com

Jackpot will be at least - \$1600 on 09/05/22

Date -	Enve	elope - Card
06/13	42	6 spades
06/20	24	8 hearts
06/27	26	A diamonds
07/11	19	Q spades
07/18	21	9 clubs
07/25	46	9 hearts
08/01	05	3 spades
80/80	40	6 hearts
08/15	16	5 spades
08/22	08	6 spades
08/29	28	J diamonds



A new partnership between the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) and the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP), a national nonprofit, will mean free legal representation for Michigan veterans and their families in appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

When disability claims are denied by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), veterans have the right to appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC).

This process begins when NVLSP reviews a case in which a veteran's appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) is denied and determines there are grounds for an appeal to the CAVC. When this is the case, NVLSP offers to represent the veteran or the veteran's family at no cost. In addition, NVLSP will also assist Michigan veterans with discharge upgrades, which will help veterans access benefits they may be wrongfully denied due to a less than honorable discharge. https://www.nvlsp.org

Labor Day Monday September 5th



Sep/Oct 2022 vol. XIII issue 1. The Groves-Walker Bulletin is published 6 times per year. Post 346 membership as of 07/01/22: Legion 162, Auxiliary 106, SAL 81, Total 349

The opinions expressed herein are those of the editor and/or contributors and are not necessarily those of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion or Post 346. Publication of advertisements does not imply endorsement by the American Legion, Auxiliary, SAL or Post 346 of the products and/or services featured.

Groves-Walker Bulletin Editor - Carol Hopson

Anyone can submit an article for the next Bulletin, including photos (articles may be edited for length and/or content). Articles can be submitted at any time,

please don't wait for the deadline of Friday October 22nd for the Nov/Dec 2022 issue of the Bulletin.

Please remember...

When we talk about functions (dinners, ceremonies, etc.) taking place at the Post, these functions are not specifically "Legion things", "SAL things", or "Auxiliary things." Although the LGN, AUX or SAL may be the one taking the lead in organization, with very few exceptions, all functions at our Post are open to all members of our organization, our family, friends, guests and interested members of the community.

And when we ask for volunteers to help with various projects around the Post, help with our ceremonies, or with maintenance, this also means every one of our members are invited to participate.

Please think of yourself as a member of Post 346, not just an SAL, AUX, or Legion member. We need to pull together, help each other, take pride in our home (where ever our home may be), and make Post 346 the best we can make it.

We recommend to all members that, when you get your **annual flu shot**, you also include the latest **COVID booster** shot. The CDC and Dr. Fauci says that the COVID virus is in a transitional phase in the US, becoming "Endemic" instead of a "Pandemic". This means that the desease is still around but not at a level that is causing significant disruption in our daily lives. The seasonal flu is endemic.

We will not be hosting a flu shot clinic this year at Post 346.



Below are thank you notes from our sponsored Boy's State representatives for 2022. We would also like to sincerily thank our Boys State Chairman Rich Higginbottom



for all his efforts in making this program a success.

"I appreciate you deciding to send me to Boys State. During my time at camp I have become more familiar with the state election process, learned how cutthroat politics can be, gained a deeper appreciation for the judicial system as I am serving as a defense attorney, and gained more insight of the relationship between the government and its people. I feel the lessons taught at boys state can only be taught through this camp and again wanted to express my gratitude toward you."

From Nathan Hooker, South Lyon MI

"Once again I thank you for sponsoring me and allowing me to attend Boys State. I am having a great time as a Chairman in the House of Representatives due to your generosity." Sincerely Ryan Taylor, Northville MI

Apply now for burial in a VA cemetery

You can apply to find out in advance if you can be buried for free in a VA national cemetery. This is called a pre-need determination of eligibility - and it can help make the burial planning process easier for your family



members and loved ones in their time of need. Simply follow the steps at the website:

https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-needeligibility

Download the application: <u>https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-40-10007</u>

Or for more information call: 800-535-1117.

Did you know that there is also a burial at sea benefit for Navy Veterans? Click here: <u>https://www.va.gov/burials-</u>

memorials/eligibility/burial-at-sea

Coming up!

November 11: Veterans Day November 24: Friendsgiving at the Post December 07: Pearl Harbor Day w/ The Elks December 10: Army/Navy game & Chili Cookoff December 17: Post Potluck Holiday Party

Commander's Corner... Post 346 Commander Marya Davis

ADVANCING THE VISION - means The American Legion educates, mentors and leads new generations of Americans. I am

proud to serve the American Legion and this steadfast pillar of our mission.

The American Legion was founded on four pillars: Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Legion Posts constantly remind communities that freedom and prosperity come with a price. Our community knows the difference between Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Young people who seek positive opportunities turn to The American Legion, which has mentored generations into responsible citizens. Our Post annually honors individual students for their patriotism and service with the Americanism Essay Award. Schools serving Farmington Farmington Hills nominate students for this nationally recognized award. We are very appreciative of Steve Koponen who leads this program.

Every primary and secondary school in Farmington and Farmington Hills are invited to select two graduating students, one boy and one girl, to receive an American Legion School Award, which includes a certificate and medal. Students who win this award excel in several areas defined by the national American Legion organization: courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service. The aim of this national award is to "develop those ideals of Americanism among young people which will make them citizens of the highest type."

I recently had the opportunity to participate in the Miss Farmington Cities Scholarship Program. It is a domestic non-profit, run by a board of volunteers passionate about empowering young women in our community. They aim to provide an opportunity for young women in the Farmington and Farmington Hills Community to improve their leadership skills, gain self-confidence and foster a love for community service while earning scholarship money for future studies. As the Post doesn't have funds to support this scholarship, I received private donations. This was an opportunity to share Veteran Values with a generation who might not have veterans in the family and therefore not be aware of the sacrifices our Veterans have made and intrinsic value of being a part of something bigger than themselves. The scholarship required them to Interview at least two (2) veterans and then write an essay on what they learned; How being a veteran in a War era impacted them. This is an introspective essay on life lessons. The entrants were asked to go beyond what they learned about the veterans. Also identify what you learned from them that is applicable to your life and future. At least one veteran must have been from the Korean War, Vietnam War or before. Miss Carrington Wash won the 2022 Miss Farmington scholarship of \$100. Her essay was exceptional. At only 16 years of age, she was able to capture how it was difficult to stay healthy during the war due to the many treacherous living conditions.

Commander's Corner Cont.

She highlighted these veterans' tenacity as prime examples of resilience and optimism. Miss Wash was truly inspired to further encourage people to listen to veterans' stories and reflect on their service and commitment. She was able to compare some of those qualities of perseverance to her recent success of managing high school online during COVID. Adapt and overcome! This young lady has exceptional insight and very professional communication skills. The American Legion Miss Farmington Cities 2022 award plaque reads in part: "Carrington Wash is recognized for her initiative, professionalism and introspection on the lives and experiences of veterans. How the values and moral code all veterans cherish impact you, your community and your future. Post 346 is proud to assist in your quest for higher education."

In service, Marya Davis, Commander

Don't wait for the move! The process of selling our building is a very long road and we still do not have a solid acceptable offer. So come on in! The club room is still open Monday through Friday, and sometimes weekends for sporting and other televised events.

Also, please talk to Eric if you would like to use a banquet room (holiday events with friends and family?) in exchange for a donation. We are still viable in our community. We are still having fun. Stop by and join us.

The September 18th District meeting (Legion & Auxiliary) will take place at Post 346 on Sunday September 18th at 2:00pm

All Post members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Come on down to see how our 18th District works.

My 2 Cents... Unit 346 President Carol Hopson

I would simply like to ask all of our members to read over the Bulletin for all the upcoming events happening during the next 2 months

and join with your Legion family to celebrate, educate, and have a whole lot of fun! See you at the next meeting.

That's my 2 cents worth, I'm always willing to hear yours, Carol Hopson, President







2022 Miss Farmington Cities Scholarship competition



Contestants L to R Allie Nowak, Preya Patel and Carrington Wash pose with City of Farmington Mayor Sara Bowman and Post 346 Commander Marya Davis.

Contestant Carrington Wash interviewed 2 of our members to complete her essay to win the Post 346 Miss Farmington Cities Scholarship.









Along with Commander Marya, also attending the Miss Farmington Cites ceremony were Alan Huet and Roger Hane as the Post 346 Color Guard. Singing the National Anthem was Miss Farmington 2018 Megan Cromwell.



The crowning of Carrington Wash as Miss Farmington Cities 2022 by 5 previous title holders including L to R Emma Hahn 2019, Megan Cromwell 2018, Sydney Schrand 2015, Representative Samantha Steckloff, and Kelly Duca 2002.

If I waited until I had all my ducks in a row, I'd never get across the street. Sometimes you just have to gather up what you've got and make a run for it.



Although Mr. Simanek was not a member of our Post, he was a great friend to many of our members. You may remember he was a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, rode in the 2022 Memorial Day parade and had a wonderful time attending our open-house.

Robert Ernest Simanek

April 26, 1930 - August 1, 2022 He was a Detroit boy, the third of four brothers born to Florence and Edmund Simanek. He attended Mackenzie High School in Detroit. In August of 1951, Bob joined the United States Marine Corps and traveled to Korea. On Aug 17 1952, he was a PFC assigned to 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, Company F, 2nd



Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division. Thinking it was to be a fairly peaceful night at Outpost Irene during the Battle of Bunker Hill, he put a can of beer and a book in his pocket, shouldered his radio and weapon and proceeded to position. But his squad was ambushed and sought refuge. During the course of the action and after other acts of defense, Bob threw himself on an enemy hand grenade to protect the Marines with him and was gravely wounded. After recovering stateside for many months, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions by President Eisenhower on October 23, 1953.

Bob attended Michigan State University for three years and met Nancy, the love of his life. They married on June 23, 1956. Daughter Ann ("Sam") Clark was born in 1959. Bob and Nancy were married 64 years. Sadly, Nancy passed on July 4, 2020.

Bob graduated from Wayne State University and worked for GM, Federal Mogul, and the U.S. Small Business Association before retiring. He led a long, rich life after retirement, travelling back to South Korea, attending Presidential Inaugurations and Congressional Medal of Honor Society (CMOHS) events and raising funds for the CMOHS Foundation college scholarships.

In January of 2021, Bob received a call from General David H. Berger, the Commandant of the Marine Corps. General Berger informed him that a Naval ship would be named for him. The USS Robert E. Simanek (ESB-7), an expeditionary mobile sea base, is being built in San Diego, CA with an expected completion date of summer 2024. Bob was extremely honored and, not understanding that

it would be some time before the ship was completed, immediately arranged to have his suits pressed. He would have loved to be able to see his ship.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Robert_E._Simanek

Robert Simanek Cont.

Cremation has occurred with caring assistance from Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington. He will be laid to rest at Great Lakes National Cemetery. Please send donations in Bob's memory to Forgotten Harvest (15000 Eight Mile Rd, Oak Park, MI 48237), Cherryland Humane Society (1750 Ahlberg Rd, Traverse City, MI 49696), or Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (3860 N Long Lake Rd Ste D, Traverse City, MI 49684).

Post 346 Chaplain Andy Machcinski

My Fellow Legionnaires:

Sorry for not posting for the last few months, but God had dealt me a rough hand. He also found a way for me to prevail through it and come out the other side with a better understanding and appreciation for the life we have. I know my role in the Post is minor, but I take it seriously. Needing time to recover after you have a traumatic experience you get a better appreciation of what and who is important to every one of us.

This experience is a message from God to "fly right and get it together", I know his hand was involved in my recovery and I thank Him every day. Each of us should take a look in the mirror and see the person looking back at you and ask, am I "flying right and do I have it together"? No one needs a wakeup call as severe as mine and minor changes do mean a lot. Most of all, we all need to find a moment to reflect on our lives, find the good things and thank God for them. Say this prayer in thanks for what you have and will accomplish.

God, my Strength and Song, I come to You today asking for energy for my body and my mind. Please bless my body with the power and vitality I need to accomplish all that You have set before me to do, and grant that my mind can focus and think clearly and quickly. I thank You for supplying me with the strength and energy to do my work and bring glory to Your Name. Amen.

Your Chaplain, Andy

Do You Know...

The difference between **Memorial Day** (the last Monday in May), **Veteran's Day** (November 11) and **Armed Forces Day** (3rd Saturday in May)? Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who *died while serving* in the Armed Forces. Veteran's Day honors *living veterans* and also marks the anniversary of the end of World War I, formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. Armed Forces Day was created in 1949 to honor Americans *currently serving* in the military. This is also typically the weekend we offer poppies to the public.

18th District Installation of 2022-23 Officers @ Post 346



New 18th District Legion and SAL Officers being installed by the 40&8 Ritual Team.



New 18th District Auxiliary officers being installed by special guest, 2022-23 Department of Michigan Auxiliary President Marcy Jorae.

SAL Trunk or Treat

Saturday October 22 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Open your heart and your trunk to the kids of our community.

Want to participate with a car/truck or candy? Contact SAL Commander Eric Welter: SALsquadron346@gmail.com or call/text: 248-285-9813

- Expand for many - In addi connection

The PACT Act and your VA benefits

The PACT Act (full name: The Sergeant First Class [SFC] Heath Robinson Honoring our **P**romise to **A**ddress **C**omprehensive **T**oxics Act) is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps the VA provide generations of Veterans - and their survivors - with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-

your-va-benefits will help answer your questions about what the PACT Act means for you or your loved ones. You can also call the VA at 800-698-2411 (TTY: 711). You can file a claim for PACT Act-related disability compensation or apply for VA health care now.

The PACT Act:

- Establishes presumptions of service connection for additional respiratory illnesses and cancers related to burn pits or airborne hazards exposure for certain Veterans who served in the Gulf War and Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) (1990 to present).

- Expands the presumption of Agent Orange exposure to Veterans who served in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and other locations.

- Expands and extends eligibility for health care for many Veterans.

- In addition, VA will now presume service connection for certain diseases associated with participation in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll or the nuclear response near Palomares, Spain, or Thule, Greenland.

- Establishes presumptions of service connection for more than 20 conditions related to exposure to burn pits and certain other toxins.



Membership Eligibility



Legion membership eligibility. Veterans or active duty military who have served at least one day of active duty in the US Armed Forces since December 7, 1941 and have been honorably discharged or are still serving. Must present a DD-214 (DD-217, DD-256, or DD-257).

Auxiliary membership eligibility. 1) Relationship to veteran: Grandmother, mother, sister, daughter, granddaughter, male or female spouse, or self (for female veterans). Per IRS regulations, step-relatives are not eligible. The IRS also only allows two degrees of a blood line, so great granddaughters and beyond are not eligible. 2) Potential member must be related to a *living* veteran by one of the relationships stated **AND** veteran is a current member of the American Legion. **OR**, potential member is related to a *deceased* veteran who served at least one day of active service during eligible time periods (Apr. 6, 1917 to Nov. 11, 1918 and any time after Dec. 7, 1941) and was honorably discharged. Deceased veteran does not have to have been a member of the American Legion.

SAL membership eligibility. 1) All male descendants adopted sons, and stepsons. 2) Potential member must be related to a *living* veteran by one of the relationships stated **AND** veteran is a current member of the American Legion. **OR**, potential member is related to a *deceased* veteran who served at least one day of active service during eligible time periods (Apr. 6, 1917 to Nov. 11, 1918 and any time after Dec. 7, 1941) and was honorably discharged. Deceased veteran does not have to have been a member of the American Legion.

Membership applications are available NOW in the clubroom!



Show your support of our military & our veterans Only \$5 each, available in the clubroom. Sturdy and stylish for men and women! Post 346 merchandise makes great gifts!



Official Post 346 Bottle Koozie Only \$5 each, asst. colors, available in the clubroom



Blue Star & Gold Star Banners Show pride in your family members who are serving now or were KIA. \$5 each, in the clubroom. Banners are available with 1 to 5 Blue Stars (one per family member) or 1 Gold Star.



Banners measure 14" x 8". Also available from Carol Hopson.

Is it time to replace your old US flag? Don't forget about the Post's flag drop box located at the front of our parking lot. Ensure our US flags are properly disposed of with dignity, patriotism and honor when they reach the end of their serviceable career.



Please report your changes of name, address, phone or email; also member death notices to your LGN, AUX, or SAL membership chairperson. Thank you

Please remember...

The Bulletin is no longer being mailed to members via the US Postal Service. Copies are emailed to members who have an email address on file, are available for download from our website, plus a few hard copies are still available in the clubroom. If you have friends or relatives who are not tech-savvy, and they still wish to receive the Bulletin, please consider downloading and printing it for them. Thank you



Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.



	5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15					
4	5 Honor Labor! Labor Day	6 SAL meeting 7:00pm	7	8	9 Joker Poker in the clubroom	10
11 Patriots Day Ceremony Downtown 6:00 -7:30pm Grandparents Day	12 Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	13	14	15 Home Board <u>meeting 6:30pm</u> Exec. Committee meeting 7:00pm	16 Joker Poker in the clubroom POW/MIA <u>Recognition Day</u> American Legion Day	17 Constitution Day Citizenship Day
18 18 th Dist. meeting @ Post 346 2 pm Air Force Birthday	19 Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	20	21 Intl Day of Peace	22	23 Joker Poker in the clubroom Autumn begins	24
25 Gold Star Mother's Day	26 Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	27	28	29	30 Joker Poker in the clubroom	1 October

October Birth	dave O	tahar Annivar	arrios	Comir	ng up in Novemb	0.1	
October BirthdaysOctober Anniversaries05 Lauren Williams03 Dale & Diane Farrell06 Paul Brancheau03 Matt & Michelle Pitt07 Patricia Rodgers08 Matt & Michelle Pitt08 Rob Smart10 Bob & Sharon DeWitt08 Grechen Heldenbrand12 Tom & Christina James09 Myrtle Granger15 Dale & Laura Mauck10 Dick Joslyn19 Donal & Claudia Stanton10 Kenneth Monberg11 Dale Vecchio14 Robert Hanson28 Kim Jaske28 Rosemary Berger28 Rosemary Berger28 Hannah Durham31 Francis Skaisgir			Coming up in November 01 SAL meeting 03 LGN & AUX meeting 06 Daylight savings time Ends 08 Election Day 10 Auxiliary Birthday 10 Marine Corps Birthday 11 Veteran's Day 13 Sadie Hawkins Day 24 Thanksgiving 25 Black Friday		FUNE Monda in the 5:30 pr GOO GREA Members guests enjoy fre	FUNDRAISER! Monday evenings in the Clubroom 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm GOOD FOOD, GREAT PRICES! Members and their guests always enjoy free Mile in the clubroom	
anniversaries	r, birthdays and s will only be list pon request.	ed Oc	tobe	er 20)22 fo	r the Bulletin, p wait until the	olease don't
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedne	esday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	4 SAL meeting 7:00pm	5		6 Legion & Auxiliary meeting 7:30pm	7 Joker Poker in the clubroom	1 Warthog Euchre 8 MSU vs Ohio
9 Leif Erikson Day	10 Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15 Indigenous Peoples Day	11	12		13 Vavy Birthday	14 Joker Poker in the clubroom	15 Sweetest Day
16 Soss' Day	17 Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	18	19		20 Home Board <u>meeting 6:30pm</u> Exec. Committee meeting 7:00pm	21 Joker Poker in the clubroom Submission Deadline for Nov/Dec Bulletin	22 SAL Trunk or Treat 1 - 4pm
23	24 Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15 United Nations Day	25	26		27	28 Joker Poker in the clubroom	29 U of M vs MSU
30	31 Queen Drawing 7:15 Halloween	1 SAL meeting 7:00pm	2		3 Legion & Auxiliary meeting 7:30pm	4 Joker Poker in the clubroom	5



YOU HONORED US WITH YOUR SERVICE. Now let us honor you.



Join us for a complimentary meal and pre-planning briefing to learn about VA burial benefits available. For more information, contact Anthony.Lauri@DignityMemorial.com or 248-804-8493.

We're proud to partner with the Department of Michigan American Legion



Our sincere thanks to the Xemplar Club for their generous donations to the American Legion Boys State & Girls State programs of Michigan!



www.xemplarclub.org

Special Thanks to LaGrasso Bro. Produce for always helping to make Post 346 Dinner Events a delicious success!



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