



The Groves-Walker Bulletin

American Legion Post 346 Farmington, Michigan

January/February 2024 - Vol. XIV Issue 3



Chartered July 10, 1923 - For God and Country



Meeting Nights

1st Tue of the month 6:30pm: **SAL**
1st Thu of the month 6:30pm: **Legion & Auxiliary**
2nd Thu of the month 6:30pm: **Legion Riders**
3rd Thu of the month 6:30pm: **Executive Committee**
And at 7:30pm: **Home Board**

Clubroom Hours

Monday - Friday: 4pm - 9pm
Sunday: 1pm - 4pm

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

Upcoming 18th District meetings:

Jan 21, 2024 2 pm: Stanley J Fons Post 374
2079 W 12 Mile Rd, Berkley, MI 48072
Feb 25, 2024 2 pm: Hill Gazette Post 143
96 Churchill Rd, Auburn Hills, MI 48321

Problems with HVAC or plumbing? Contact Commander Marya first! She has a special contact that may provide drastic savings for veterans and their families.

The Best Kept Secret for helping Vets!

The Michigan Veteran's Trust Fund has helped veterans, their spouses and dependents, of every wartime era overcome unexpected expenses ranging from utility bills to home repairs to mortgage assistance and get back on their feet financially.

To apply for emergency funds from the MVTF, veterans should fill out and submit an Emergency Assistance form here: <https://www.michigan.gov/mvaa/forms/emergency-assistance-form>.

Call MVTF: 1-800-MICH-VET or click for more info: <https://www.michigan.gov/mvaa/other-benefits-and-resources/panel-state/panel-content>

The MVTF can also help the many veterans who are struggling to manage their finances or overcome crippling debt. The goal is to help veterans gain financial stability. Veterans interested in the free financial counseling can call the Michigan Veterans Resource Service Center at 1-800-MICH-VET (642-4838).

Tickets available NOW in the clubroom for round 4C of the Queen of Hearts! \$1 each

Need not be present to win. More info and E-tickets (via PayPal or Venmo) at: 346Queen@gmail.com



Round 4A was won by Alan Huet!
The Queen was in envelope #11 with a jackpot of \$458

Round 4B was won by Alan Huet (again)!!
The Queen was in envelope #5 with a jackpot of \$156

Round 4C has already given away one **consolation prize of \$50!**

DATE-ENVELOPE-CARD	DATE-ENVELOPE-CARD
12/11 22 4 hearts	
12/18 20 7 spades	
01/08	

SAL DUES REMINDER:

Squadron 346 dues are \$30 (\$15 for those age 18 and under) for 2024. The membership year is from January 1 to December 31.

There was a misprint on the renewal notices sent out by the SAL State of MI HQ. They are asking you to send \$11 to renew your membership. THIS IS A MISPRINT. Squadron 346 dues are \$30 (\$15 for those age 18 and under). Please don't delay your renewal by sending the wrong amount. Please renew your membership now!

- Mail the dues notice sent from the state with your check in the amount of \$30 (\$15 for those age 18 and under), pay to the order of: SAL Squadron 346.
- Drop off your dues in person at the Post. The clubroom accepts cash, check or credit cards.

The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom. - Isaac Asimov



Jan/Feb 2024 vol. XIV issue 3. The Groves-Walker Bulletin is published 6 times per year. Post 346 membership as of 07/01/23: Legion 155, Auxiliary 93, SAL 90, Total 338

The opinions expressed herein are those of the editor and/or contributors and are not necessarily those of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of the American Legion. 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

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Anyone can submit an article for the next Bulletin, including photos (articles may be edited for length and/or content). **Articles may be submitted at any time, please don't wait for the deadline of Sunday Feb. 18 for the Mar/Apr 2024 issue of the Bulletin.**

Please report your changes of name, address, phone or email; also member deaths, to your LGN, AUX, or SAL membership chairperson, Commander or President.

[Request a copy of your DD-214 discharge paperwork by clicking here](#)



"Marathon" Dan Waldon and "Mustache" Mike D'Arcangelo ran in the Farmington Turkey Trot 5K Marathon on Nov. 18

Order free, at-home COVID tests from the government once again. Click here: [covidtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov). NO Insurance information required, only name and address. Free tests, free shipping with USPS.

Next time you visit the Post, be sure to check the board at the clubroom door to see if the Post or clubroom needs any daily supplies. Thank You!!

Swing hard in case you hit it.
- Bernie Williams



If you have not yet renewed your Legion, Auxiliary or SAL membership, please remember that it expired on Dec. 31, 2023.

There are lots of easy ways to renew!

- 1) Mail a check to the Post.
Attn: (LGN, AUX, SAL) membership.
Legion: \$50, please make check payable to: American Legion Post 346.
Auxiliary: \$40, Aux. Jr. \$12, please make check payable to: American Legion Aux. Unit 346.
SAL: \$30, SAL Jr. \$15, please make check payable to: Sons of the American Legion Squadron 346.
- 2) Come to the Post and drop off your dues in person anytime the clubroom is open. We accept cash, check or credit cards.
- 3) Come to the next meeting and give your dues to your membership chairperson in person.
- 4) Use the renewal form that was mailed to you from Department headquarters.

Your dues must be paid in full to receive the benefits of membership in our American Legion Post such as service of alcoholic beverages in the clubroom, a vote on Post issues, or a copy of the Bulletin emailed to you. Don't let the next issue of the Bulletin be your LAST issue, please make sure your 2024 dues are paid.

For Junior members: those born on or after January 1, 2006 are still Junior members for 2024. If born before January 1, 2006, these members are now considered adults and will be charged adult dues from Department HQ.

Because the Post's Memorial Brick Wall cannot logistically come with us to a new location, the bricks will be returned to the family and friends of our members. We are currently in the process of deconstructing the wall. Please email or text to let us know your brick(s) will be claimed.

Email to: GrovesWalkerPost346@gmail.com

We will make every effort to return all memorial bricks to the family and friends or our members.



Commander's Corner...

Post 346 Commander

Marya Davis



Happy New Year! It is time for our long delayed plans to be put into action. Everyone knows we have been shopping around a long time and there just wasn't any individual building for purchase right now that would suit our needs. So, we're going to save money by leasing for the next 3 to 5 years. We will also invest some of the money from the sale of the old building into CDs. Hopefully the market will open up a bit for us in the near future.

We are moving into the Farmington Plaza shopping center across the street from where we are now. **See the photos on page 7 for details.** And notice that amazingly huge parking lot! This is where we can plan lots of outdoor activities and fundraisers. We are relying on our Legion members to pick up the baton for ideas. Maybe we can host car or motorcycle shows? Pig roast? Big barbecues and Cornhole tournaments? Talk amongst yourselves and see what great ideas we can come up with so we can sock more money away and eventually purchase our own building.

Our path forward. We expect to have keys to the new space on January 15th. We will then have 60 days to finish our customization. We will be painting the ceiling and walls, building a second restroom, digging up part of the floor for some significant plumbing changes and building a bar. We also plan to refinish the flooring to a washable non-slip surface. Our buyer is allowing us to stay in our current building at no cost, other than utilities, until March 31st. In the meantime, I am continuing to negotiate the new lease. We need that signed as early as possible so we can get insurance before we start making physical changes.

Remember when I said our new place is about the size of our current clubroom? It is a little narrower but longer. We will be taking all of our club room tables and chairs with us. We will also take some of the white tables to use during outdoor events. And a few kitchen items such as the microwave, air fryer, and roasters. There will be no formal kitchen in the new place. We will be serving any meals just like we currently do for potluck dinners.

There is no established date for our big moving sale to the public. And as promised, Post members will have an opportunity to purchase items before we offer them to the public. We will look over the original sign-up sheet (of items for sale) and start working on that soon. There are a few exceptions, such as the wrought iron fencing and most likely the flagpoles. Those will be on Facebook marketplace very soon so if you are interested in them (or any large building materials), please contact me as soon as possible.

2024 is going to be a great year! I look forward to our new adventures!.

In Service,
Marya Davis, Commander



My 2 Cents...

Unit 346 President

Carol Hopson



Year-end gratitude round-up!

There are so many people to be thankful for at Post 346, without naming each one individually, I'd like to thank some of them. Let's start with the annual AUX mitten-tree. I believe we set a new record for donations (at least according to my memory) with almost 180 items going to the Farmington Goodfellows for distribution to local folks in need. This includes 22 winter hats, 28 pairs of gloves/mittens, 5 scarves, 2 earmuffs, 6 pairs of slippers and 115 pairs of socks!!

Every Monday I am very grateful to Tammy and Eric (plus all of our guest chefs this year) for providing, not only dinner but more opportunities for fun and comradery in the clubroom.

I am so grateful to all our Post officers (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders) who step up, take the oath of office and help to keep this place running. Among those, especially Marya and Eric, who have guided us through the process of selling our old building and purchasing a new one. Future thanks will go to all the members who have pledged to step up to help with construction on the new building. I would like to personally thank our Auxiliary officers, I love each and every one of you!

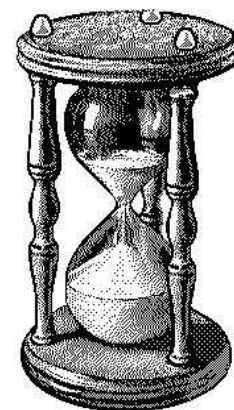
A thank you for ALL you do (and trust me, it's too much to be listed easily here) to our Post member of the year 2023, Legion/Riders member Rich Dickson.

And finally, I'd sincerely like to thank each and every member of our Post, not just for your donations, buying Queen of Hearts tickets, raffle basket or 50/50 tickets, and answering the call each time the Post or clubroom needs supplies; but also for your membership with the American Legion, Auxiliary and SAL. You make it possible to do what we do; helping our veterans, promoting patriotism, encouraging our youth and fostering strong community ties. Thank you.

No matter how much snow we need to shovel, wishing you a warm, safe and peaceful winter season.

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

LET'S ALL
MAKE IT
A HAPPY
NEW 2024!





Gary C. Partridge

March 18, 1947 - November 10, 2023

Gary leaves behind his wife Melinda. Gary and Melinda joined Post 346 in 2018 through Gary's service in the Marine Corps in Vietnam. Gary and Melinda left us in 2021 to move back home to Massachusetts to be closer to family.

Marilyn Smart

Mother of Rob Smart (Jan)

Shirley L. Laurin

May 4, 1936 - November 25, 2023

Age 87 of Farmington Hills. Shirley loved her upbringing in the Upper Peninsula in the small town of Gay, MI. She had many gifts and loved serving others. Holidays were strewn with beautifully wrapped gifts and meals fit for royalty that she spent hours in preparing for loved ones to enjoy a special day. She was diligent in loving & caring for her mother through many years of health challenges. She loved her work as an administrative assistant and was exceptional in all she did. She believed in working hard to accomplish what you need and make a difference. She also loved animals, especially kitties. She so enjoyed the precious furry friends through the years and cared for countless stray cats who found their way to her home. She also had a special place of honor for all those who serve our country. She had treasured memories as a little girl of WWII ending and everyone running into the street crying and hugging one another in joy. She continued to support organizations that provided for Veterans/Military. Her tender, generous, caring heart made more of an impact than she could ever have known. A life well lived and a beautiful legacy.

Shirley is the loving wife of Andy Machcinski; beloved mother of Cheri and Gary; cherished grandmother of two. Internment: Glen Eden Memorial Park, Livonia. Shirley's family requests that in lieu flowers, please make a memorial contribution in her name to Oakland County Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption. Read full obituary here: https://www.heeney-sundquist.com/obituary/shirley-laurin?fh_id=15661

January is National Blood Donor Month

Legion members everywhere are encouraged to give blood as part of the American Legion Blood Donor Program - a program that has existed since 1946 to help a life-saving cause that becomes even more important during the harsh winter months. If you decide to donate blood anywhere during the year, please inform our Commander or President so that your donation can be included in our Consolidated Post Report.



The Holidays are a special time at the Post!

A time to embrace your inner child...



And a time to give...



The Riders adopted a family for Christmas this year.

And so did the Auxiliary. Just look at the smiles on those little faces!



The Officers of Post 346 for 2023 – 2024

PRIVACY POLICY

We respect the privacy of our member's personal information, therefore we discourage the sharing of that information here on the public internet. Those who wish contact information for Post 346 Officers may call: 248-478-9174 or email to: GrovesWalkerPost346@gmail.com

Thank you



Veterans Day 11/11



Prayers on Veterans Day were led by our new Legion Chaplain John Swearingen. Chaplain Andy will soon be moving to Florida.

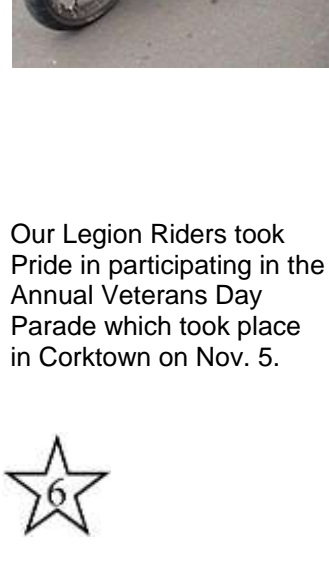


Post Member of the Year 2023 honors were presented to Legion/Riders member Rich Dickson by SAL Commander Eric Welter.



SAL Chili Cookoff Results: 1st Place, Kevin Griswold - 2nd Place, Eric Welter - 3rd Place, Mike Griswold. Entrants also included Shelly Rabe, Cas Ploski, and Ian Boyle.

Veterans Day Parade



Our Legion Riders took Pride in participating in the Annual Veterans Day Parade which took place in Corktown on Nov. 5.



Feb. 11 Superbowl Sunday
Door opens at 4:00 pm,
Game starts at 6:30 pm.
Potluck, bring your game day favs!



Riders Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser 12/10



The riders relax with a well-deserved cigar after a successful Spaghetti Dinner event. The Riders would like to thank their anonymous "Friend" who provided a Christmas gift of fine cigars to them.

Wreath Laying Ceremony 12/02



The Post had another successful and meaningful Holiday Wreath Laying Ceremony on 12/02. Attended by Post Officers, Honor Guard, Riders, Police, City Officials and others. Taps was played by SAL member Talily Koponen.



The Post's New Home will be located just across the street from our old building at the Farmington Plaza: 31618 Grand River Ave. Farmington, MI 48336-4234.



The south end of the Farmington Plaza.



Just north of the Metro T-Mobile store.



Tucked into the corner.



[Google map view](#). Please zoom in for clarity.

Post 346 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 any time after Dec. 7, 1941 **AND** have been honorably discharged or are still serving. Potential member must present a valid DD-214 (DD-217, DD-256, or DD-257) with membership application.

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 only allows two degrees of a blood line, so great granddaughters and beyond are not eligible. Potential member must present a valid DD-214 (DD-217, DD-256, or DD-257) of the related veteran with membership application.

2) a) 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.

b) **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.

Sons of the American Legion membership eligibility.

1) Relationship to veteran: All male descendants adopted sons, and stepsons. Potential member must present a valid DD-214 (DD-217, DD-256, or DD-257) of the related veteran with membership application.

2) a) 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.

b) **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.

We know how hard it is to know everything you need to take care of when a loved one passes away. Legion Service Officers can help a deceased veteran's family receive all the benefits they may be entitled to. Remember, and tell your loved ones:

- 1) Know where your DD-214 is.
- 2) Tell your funeral director the deceased was a veteran.
- 3) Contact your Post, and not only can you receive the help of a Service Officer but, the Post's Honor Guard can help with a military funeral service. Other benefits might include a free burial plot, headstone, survivor benefits, burial expenses, and an American flag to drape the casket.

Post 346 merchandise makes great gifts! Show your support of our military & veterans

Bracelets are \$5 each, available in the clubroom.
Stylish for men and women!



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



Post 346 Ball caps \$25 each,
one color, adjustable size,
available in the clubroom



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



If you would like to obtain hard
copy(s) of one (or more) of the
Past Commander or Past President
photos on display at the Post, they
are available for \$5 per 8x10 glossy.
Please ask in the clubroom or contact
Carol Hopson.



New T-shirts Now Available!

See samples in the clubroom,
long sleeves, asst. colors,
asst. sizes, \$25 each



January Birthdays

- 03 Dan Heffernan
- 04 Gary Brewer
- 09 Jarrett Lott
- 09 Jim O'Keefe
- 10 John Hoelscher
- 11 Olivia Griswold
- 13 Barbara Piotrowski
- 13 Judy Sackett
- 15 Robert McGowan
- 15 Ken Balcom
- 17 Susan Duquette
- 18 David Schwartz
- 20 Brian Jankowski
- 24 Marty Chinn

- 25 Laureen Gogowski
- 29 Elizabeth Dopkowski

January Anniversaries

- 01 Mike & Toni Hughes



We believe membership applications are something that every Post member should carry with him or her at all times. See membership eligibility requirements on page 7. Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion applications are ALWAYS available in the clubroom.

ADVERTISE IN THE BULLETIN!

For more info contact Carol at:
GrovesWalkerPost346@gmail.com

TABS FOR TOTS

Please save the aluminum (non-magnetic!) tabs from all your beverage and pull-tab containers. Drop off your tabs at the rear door. Funds benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities

Want to see your name above?

Please contact Carol at:
GrovesWalkerPost346@gmail.com

January 2024

Please make sure your 2024 dues are paid!


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 	1 Clubroom open at 4 pm (lan) NO Dinner at the Post NO Queen Drawing New Years Day	2 SAL meeting 6:30pm 	3	4 Legion & Auxiliary meetings 6:30pm 	5 Joker Poker in the clubroom	6
7	8 Dinner at the Post 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15 	9	10	11 Riders meeting 6:30pm 	12 Joker Poker in the clubroom	13
14 	15 Dinner at the Post 5:30 -7pm NO Queen drawing Martin Luther King Jr Day	16	17	18 Exec. Committee meeting 6:30pm Home Board meeting 7:30pm	19 Joker Poker in the clubroom	20
21	22 Dinner at the Post 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	23	24	25	26 Joker Poker in the clubroom 	27
28  US - Vietnam Ceasefire 1973 Coast Guard Birthday	29 Dinner at the Post 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	30	31	1 Legion & Auxiliary meetings 6:30pm  Freedom Day February	2 Joker Poker in the clubroom Groundhog Day	3 



<p>February Birthdays</p> <p>09 Ted Podsiadly 13 Bonita Flowery 13 Tammy Festian 14 Carol Thompson 14 Ken Reynolds 20 Dave Franzen 23 Curtis Steelman 24 Christina Gould 25 Aiyana Allen 29 Mike Williams</p>	<p>February Anniversaries 20 Gil & Mary Naylor</p> 	<p>Coming up in March</p> <p>05 SAL meeting Seabee's Birthday 13 MI K-9 Veteran's Day 07 Legion & AUX meetings 10 Daylight savings time begins 14 Riders meeting 15 American Legion Birthday (1919) 17 Saint Patrick's Day 20 First day of Spring 25 Natl Medal of Honor Day 29 Good Friday Vietnam Veterans Day 31 Easter</p>	<p>Dinner at the Post FUNDRAISER!</p> <p>Monday evenings in the Clubroom 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm GOOD FOOD, GREAT PRICES!</p> <hr/> <p>Members and their guests always enjoy free WIFI in the clubroom</p>
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Remember, birthdays and anniversaries will only be listed here upon request.

February 2023 **Groundhog Day!**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28</p>  <p>US - Vietnam Ceasefire 1973 Coast Guard Birthday</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Dinner at the Post 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Legion & Auxiliary meetings 6:30pm</p>  <p>Freedom Day</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Joker Poker in the clubroom</p> <p>Groundhog Day</p> 	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Dinner at the Post 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15</p>	<p>6</p> <p>SAL meeting 6:30pm</p> 	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Riders meeting 6:30pm</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>Joker Poker in the clubroom</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>Chinese New Year of the Dragon</p>
<p>11</p>  <p>Superbowl Sunday Clubroom opens at 4pm, game at 6:30</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Dinner at the Post 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15</p> <p>Lincoln's Birthday</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Fat Tuesday</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>Valentines Day Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Exec. Committee meeting 6:30pm Home Board meeting 7:30pm</p> <p>Susan B Anthony Day</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Joker Poker in the clubroom</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Submission Deadline for Mar/Apr Bulletin</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Dinner at the Post 5:30 -7pm NO Queen Drawing</p> <p>Presidents Day</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>Washington's Birthday</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Joker Poker in the clubroom</p> <p>Flag raised on Iwo Jima 1945</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Dinner at the Post 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15</p> 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>  <p>Leap Day</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Joker Poker in the clubroom</p> 	<p>2</p>



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

Dignity[®]
MEMORIAL

☘ LIFE WELL CELEBRATED[®] ☘

DignityMichigan.com

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



Compliments of

*Sons of the
American
Legion
Squadron
346*

*Farmington
Michigan*

salsquadron346@gmail.com

HEENEY SUNDQUIST

FUNERAL HOME
established 1850



*Proudly supporting
the Veterans of
Groves-Walker Post 346*

In Honor of
American Legion Life Member
Walter Sundquist
1926 - 2013

Mark Ziegler
President

248-474-5200

Farmington Road,
Just N of Grand River
Downtown Farmington

