



The Groves-Walker Bulletin

American Legion Post 346 Farmington, MI

May/June 2021 - Vol. XI Issue 5



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Chartered July 10, 1923 - For God and Country ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Meeting Nights

1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm: **SAL**
 1st Thur. of the month at 7:30pm: **Legion - Auxiliary**
 3rd Thur. of the month at 6:30pm: **Home Board**
 and at 7pm: **Executive Committee**

Clubroom Hours

Monday - Friday: 4pm - 8pm
 Closed weekends

Contact Info

Clubroom: 248-478-9174 Information: 248-939-4910
 Hall rentals: 248-285-9813
 LegionRental346@gmail.com
GrovesWalkerPost346@gmail.com
www.AmericanLegionPost346.org
[LIKE us on Facebook!](#)

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

Volunteer opportunities

Volunteers needed for: Help with researching possible grant opportunities ~ Finding buyers for 6 gravesites at Oakview cemetery in Royal Oak ~ Contact Marya if you can help.

Can you or someone you know create and manage a Twitter and/or Instagram account for the Post? We need to get our message with hashtags out to a wider public audience. Please ask around if a friend or family member is willing to help. Please contact Marya if you can help.

Keep an eye on your email for volunteer requests from the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL. Thank you!

Recycle, reuse, repurpose!

Has your place of business recently changed their letterhead? Or, heaven forbid, closed its doors? We will gratefully reuse their old letterhead stock and their old envelopes for Legion business. We have stickers to cover up their info! Scotch tape, paper clips, stamps and black sharpies are always appreciated donations also.

ALL MEETINGS AND EVENTS LISTED HERE ARE SUBJECT TO CURRENT COVID-19 POLICIES & RESTRICTIONS

Coronavirus financial aid and resources

- [Veterans COVID-19 Emergency Financial Relief](#)
- The [CARES Act \(Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security\)](#)
- A comprehensive list of State and U.S. Government coronavirus assistance resources - www.stabenow.senate.gov/coronavirus
- Michigan coronavirus information - www.michigan.gov/coronavirus
- Michigan coronavirus hotline - 888-535-6136
- Michigan aging & adult services - www.michigan.gov/osa or call 248-357-2255
- U.S. Government benefits finder - www.benefits.gov
- U.S. Government Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - www.cdc.gov

- Please don't forget about our Post's Poppy funds! Anonymous one-time grants, not loans, specifically earmarked for the financial needs of veterans and their families. If you could use a little help, feel free to contact Mike LaFave or Carol Hopson at: GrovesWalkerPost346@gmail.com



Flag Day is June 14th. This year's Flag Retirement Ceremony will be held on Monday **June 14, at 6:00pm** in the rear parking lot.

Poppy Days will be May 21, 22 & 23

Please sign up and receive supplies at the May meeting to offer poppies to the public by placing donation canisters at your place of business, favorite restaurants or shops, etc. We will NOT be offering poppies on the streets again this year.



Thank you,
 Legion Poppy chairman: Mike LaFave
 Auxiliary Poppy chairman: Carol Hopson



*Here comes
 Summer!*



May/June 2021 vol. XI issue 5. The Groves-Walker Bulletin is published 6 times per year. Post 346 membership for the year 2020: LGN 191, AUX 126, SAL 95 = 412

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Groves-Walker Bulletin Editor - Carol Hopson
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Any member 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 Monday June 21st for the July/August 2021 issue of the Bulletin.**

## Chaplain's Corner

Andy Machcinski

My Fellow Legion family members:

Peace....I am sure all of you have noticed in my writings that I use the word PEACE a lot. You may ask, "peace... what do you mean?", the kind of peace that you hear about in the Miss America contests, "world peace"? The answer is no, the peace I am referring to is internal, personal self-peace, and maybe a bit of "world peace" too.

The peace I wish and pray for all of you is the peace inside yourselves. If you can find that peace it is amazing how everybody around you will also seem to feel it and be more relaxed and accepting. Is it easy to find and enjoy this "peaceful feeling", no it is not! The pressures of life, family, job and our communication mediums are not conducive to creating an atmosphere where "peace" can be found.

How can I find this inner peace? My answer is through God. If you find the time each day to stop and say a prayer, think good things and just breathe and say "thank you God" you will find that "peaceful feeling. If you do it regularly, these moments will add up and you will find that you enjoy them and they enjoy you! I ask each of you to at least try this, it is no cost, refreshing and believe it or not we do have a lot to be thankful for, even if "world peace" still escapes us.

*Dear God,  
I ask for peace of mind. I pray that I can be calm,  
collected and tranquil today. That I can rest and relax in  
your presence. That I can let go of all anxious thoughts.  
That I can stop rushing and start praying. That I will let  
go of the negative and let God give me peace.  
Amen*

Regards, Your Chaplain,  
Andy



## Queen of Hearts Progressive Raffle

Drawings 7:15 pm Mondays

Now thru May 31, 2020

\$1 tickets on sale **NOW** in the club-room, self-serve at the back door & through PayPal, Venmo and Zelle to: [346Queen@gmail.com](mailto:346Queen@gmail.com)

Light dinner is available 5 - 7 pm. While supplies last. If no one finds the Queen of Hearts, the jackpot rolls over to the next week and ticket sales begin again. E-ticket sales stop at noon on Sun. to allow for processing time. On-site ticket sales stop at approx. 7:00 pm.



**Consolation prize of \$25** will be given to those who find a 3, 4 or 6 (of any suit) when their ticket is drawn.

Need not be present to win, must be 18 to play.  
MI license number C29768.

### This week's Jackpot will be at least - \$2500

Drawing 1: 01/18 - 44 - A diamonds - Art Mikkola  
Drawing 2: 01/25 - 19 - J diamonds - Gene Hatfield  
Drawing 3: 02/01 - 08 - Q diamonds - Bert David  
Drawing 4: 02/08 - 09 - **6 spades** - Dorothea Baxter  
Drawing 5: 02/15 - 35 - Q clubs - Al Huet  
Drawing 6: 02/22 - 34 - 10 clubs - Robin Bytner  
Drawing 7: 03/01 - 33 - J spades - Bert David  
Drawing 8: 03/08 - 16 - 7 spades - Katie O'Leary  
Drawing 9: 03/15 - 11 - Q spades - Leah Brancheau  
Drawing 10: 03/22 - 27 - **6 hearts** - Mike D'Arcangelo  
Drawing 11: 03/29 - 31 - 9 spades - Orie Milazzo  
Drawing 12: 04/05 - 25 - A spades - Art Mikkola  
Drawing 13: 04/12 - 28 - J hearts - John Wells  
Drawing 14: 04/19 - 30 - **3 diamonds** - Ted Kulisz  
Drawing 15: 04/26 - 20 - 8 diamonds - Gene Hatfield

Don't forget, elections for new 2021-22 Legion, Auxiliary & SAL Officers will be held during May meetings. Please try to attend these meetings, make your voice heard and your vote count!



**The clubroom maintains a COVID-19 contact tracing log. If you hear that one of our members (or visitors) has contracted COVID-19, please let Eric or Marya know. Although that person may not think they were at the Post within the potential incubation period, we have a responsibility to notify membership of possible exposure based on our contact tracing logs.**  
**Thank you**

## Commander's Corner...

### Post 346 Commander

Marya Davis



This column is dedicated to my dear friend, US Navy Captain Joe Walsh. His family contacted me a couple of weeks ago when Captain Joe was put into hospice. They asked me how to arrange for a Burial at Sea and so I first asked about his DD-214. They didn't even know what that was.

Veterans, do not do the same thing to your family. Are you assuming that because you are a veteran that everything will be paid for and arranged by Great Lakes National Cemetery? It will not! And there is actually a form to fill out for application for pre-need determination of eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery. One SAL member recently asked for the information to obtain a Service Medallion for his dad in a private cemetery. Those beautiful bronze medallions, or a personalized headstone or marker can be requested at no charge. I am going to file to request replacement military medals. You could also do that now, or your next of kin can request them later. You may think because you have a will that all of your wishes will be carried out, including your financial distributions. However, did you know that if you do not have a trust, your will is only a document used by the judge during probate to understand your wishes. Yes, that's correct. Your finances, your house and items you own still have to wait and go through the probate process. But with prior planning, your estate can be settled quickly.

Do you own your home free and clear? Did you know there are several different ways you can gift real estate to a family member? What about your final resting place and how you intend to be interred? Do not assume you and your spouse can get into the national cemetery side by side. Do not assume all burial expenses are covered, they are not! How much is a casket? Do you have \$2,000 to 5,000 set aside? What about your loved ones feeling potentially pressured to give you the best send-off, and they are talked into spending nearly \$10,000 just for the casket alone? There are some burial benefits available to veterans. However, there is a lot of information to sort through and forms to file. And financial planning is a necessity.

You are dead. Be kind to your surviving loved ones and spare them the extra stress and turmoil during their time of grief. Be sure important papers can be easily found. The same applies to non-veterans. *The Personal Planning Guide* is available and is applicable to everyone. Email me at commanderpost346@gmail.com to receive a PDF copy. That guide and the *Veterans Planning Guide* will be available at the May meetings.

*Disclaimer: I am not a lawyer and I am not a professional funeral planner. I chose to share my recent experience to help you understand the impact to family and implore you to start preplanning.*

In Service,  
Marya Davis, Commander



## My 2 Cents...

### Unit 346 President

Carol Hopson



Welcome to spring! Welcome to the season of fresh possibilities. New spring flowers blooming, the Farmers Market soon opening and overflowing with fresh vegetables and flowers, maybe lose that COVID 20 (pounds) we put on during the last year, a chance to get outside to be more active, and the possibility... dare we dream... that our lives might finally get back to something near normal again.

If you don't usually, please read Commander Marya's column this month. She speaks very passionately about an issue that should be of concern to all members. Being Auxiliary and SAL members, we are (typically) the spouses and/or children of veterans, and as such it typically falls to us to follow through with the final wishes of our loved ones at the time of their death. Hopefully we can be the catalyst for beginning the difficult conversations needed to prepare families early for end of life decisions. So much heartache, needless worry and yes, money can be saved when these choices are made as early as possible.

We will NOT be taking to the streets once again this year to offer poppies to the public. The Legion and Auxiliary will be sending out donation request letters, please respond generously. Remember poppy funds can be used ONLY for veteran welfare and not for the needs our Post building. If you would like to place a poppy donation canister at your place of business, favorite restaurants or shops, etc. please come to the May meeting or contact me for supplies.

See you in person at the next meeting! That's my 2 cents worth, I'm always eager to hear yours,  
Carol Hopson, President

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*Plans are moving forward for the sale of our old building and the purchase of a new home for our Post. If you have questions or concerns about this issue, please attend your next Legion, Auxiliary or SAL meeting or contact your Commander or President. You have elected your Executive Committee, your officers, to make the best decisions for the good of the Post and its membership. If you have concerns or questions about the future of Post 346 please come to your membership meetings and stay up-to-date by reading your Bulletin and emails from the Post. Members in good standing are also welcome to attend Executive Committee meetings to express their opinions*

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**If** you are considering a generous donation to help your Post during these difficult times, please make your check payable to: American Legion Post 346.

*Thank you*





Virgil E. Thill

March 5, 1927 - February 26, 2021

Leaves behind loving wife Lois, 4 children, 13 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. Virgil was a WWII Navy veteran who fought at the battle of Iwo Jima. Member of Groves-Walker American Legion Post 346 since 2007. Honored by Farmington as Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshall in 2017.

### From One Veteran to Another on Memorial Day

You may have served in combat  
or while preserving peace.

You may have retired out or  
you may have served for only a short time.

You may have been a draftee or a volunteer.

You may have served in the Corps, Army, Navy,  
Air Force, Coast Guard or the Merchant Marines,  
BUT YOU SERVED.

YOU DID YOUR JOB HONORABLY

and for that I am PROUD to call you "Brother."

You may have served during WWII, Korea, Vietnam,  
Persian Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan, or at home.

But you served, you did not run.

You have earned your DD 214 with those words  
"HONORABLY DISCHARGED"  
two of the most noble words in the world.

I am proud to know each  
and every one of you.

### May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

You would notice if your vision became blurry or you had a pain in one of your joints. But hearing loss generally comes on so gradually that most people don't even notice.

You regularly schedule appointments with your doctor for medical screenings, so why not hearing? About 36 million Americans have some degree of hearing loss and approx. 95% of hearing loss can be successfully treated. Exposure to excessive noise is one of the leading factors for hearing loss. You may have had damage done to your hearing during your time in the military or at your job.

Here are some steps you can take now to reduce added hearing loss in the future: If you work at a noisy job, check with your employer to make sure your hearing is protected in compliance with OSHA regulations. Limit the time you are exposed to loud noises anywhere and wear hearing protection. Turn down the volume on the TV, radio or stereo, and be cautious when wearing headphones or earbuds.

### Ever wonder where our membership lives?

Farmington Hills - 149  
Farmington - 54  
Livonia - 39  
Redford - 18  
Southfield - 16  
West Bloomfield - 14  
Northville - 12  
Other MI cities - 113  
Florida - 14

Georgia - 4  
California - 3  
Delaware - 2  
Arizona - 1  
Indiana - 1  
Maryland - 1  
New Mexico - 1  
Ohio - 1  
Tennessee - 1

The Legion and Auxiliary have 16 Honorary Life Members and 20 Paid Up For Life (PUFL) Members.

Of the 444 noted here, 357 members have paid their 2021 dues.

**Please renew your membership today!**



Congratulations to our  
2020-21 Post 346  
Member of the Year  
Eric Welter!

We believe that Eric  
has done more in the  
past year than anyone  
else to keep our Legion  
family happy, healthy  
and together by  
managing the clubroom  
and kitchen in every-  
one's best interests.



It is not in the stars to hold our destiny  
but in ourselves. - Shakespeare

## Local man who was awarded the Marine Corps Medal of Honor is getting a U.S. Navy ship named in his honor.



Marine Corps Private First Class Robert Ernest Simanek (now 90, from Farmington Hills), was just 22 years old in 1952 when he threw himself onto a grenade to absorb the blast when his squad was ambushed by Chinese troops in the Battle of Bunker Hill in August 1952 during the Korean War. He suffered wounds to his leg and hip, according to the U.S. Department of Defense. Despite being injured, Simanek and his men were still pinned down by enemy fighters, so he radioed a nearby tank and told it the enemy's location for defense. The men who were supposed to carry the injured Simanek down the hill were injured by a tank blast, so they couldn't carry him. Simanek then told them to go down the hill without him, "The idea that they couldn't carry me - it was no doubt the best thing to do for them to get going." Simanek crawled away until a rescue squad found him and choppered him out. He was treated on the USS Haven in Japan and then flown back to the states where he took a year to recover. He was officially discharged and retired on March 1, 1953.



On Oct. 27, 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower awarded Simanek the Marine Corps Medal of Honor at the White House. "One of the hardest things about the medal is you're really not allowed to forget about it," Simanek said.

In 2014 the U.S. Postal Service dedicated the Korean War Medal of Honor Forever stamps - paying tribute to 145 American veterans who received the nation's highest military honor for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty during the Korean War. Mr. Simanek was one of the recipients pictured with the stamps. Watch his story here:

<https://vimeo.com/channels/563027/76060166>

continued >>>

The ship, now known as the USS Robert E. Simanek (ESB-7) a Lewis B. Puller-class expeditionary mobile base for the U.S. Navy, is scheduled to be completed in 2024 and will perform a variety of missions, including helicopter launches, small boat launches, special ops and more. Secretary of the Navy Kenneth Braithwaite officially announced the name on January 15, 2021.

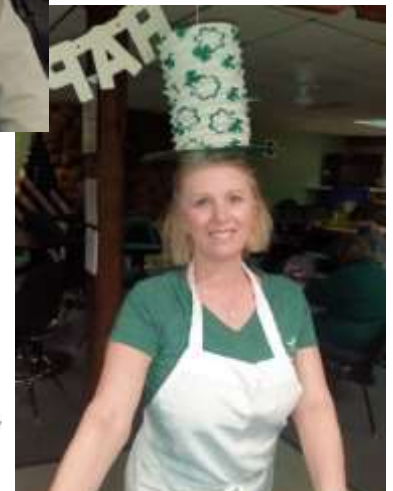
## Farmington Public Schools teacher who taught remotely in a tuxedo is also SAL

Teachers have had the tough task of engaging students either in-person or over a screen throughout the COVID pandemic. One of those was a math teacher, who wore a tuxedo and treated remote learning like a formal affair. He works to capture the attention of his students any way he can. Post 346 SAL member **Steve Koponen** is a teacher with Farmington Public Schools. Despite the challenges of COVID he has managed to make his most memorable year teaching even more memorable by his style of teaching.

Channel 4 Click on Detroit looked into a year in the life of teacher Steve Koponen. Engaging his students with such acts as wearing a tuxedo on the first day of remote classes, singing Happy Birthday accompanying himself with his accordion, and keeping our AUX Student Americanism program going. Steve, we are so proud of you and salute you for being a teacher who makes a difference! View the video here: <https://www.clickondetroit.com/news/local/2021/03/11/farmington-public-schools-teacher-who-taught-remotely-in-a-tuxedo-gets-vaccinated/>



Once again, Eric and Tammy did a great job putting together a small St. Patrick's Day get-together. Looks like Jamie Templin and Tammy Shaffer had a fun time!





## Things to remember when a veteran dies

We know how hard it is to remember everything you need to take care of when a loved one passes away, so here is a list that may be of great help to you and your family when the inevitable arrives.

- 1) Contact the funeral director of your choice to arrange for internment. Internment at Great Lakes National Cemetery is free to the veteran and spouse.
- 2) Contact the pastor of your choice to arrange for the services you desire.
- 3) Bring the funeral director a copy of the veteran's DD-214, Discharge Separation Notice, Veterans Administration claim number (if there is one), Social Security Number and life insurance policy.
- 4) The funeral director can apply for the amount allowable from the VA toward burial expenses and also the allowance from Social Security for burial. Some counties also provide a burial expense for veterans. Funeral directors can also apply for a flag to drape the casket.
- 5) If the veteran is a member of a veteran's organization (like the American Legion), they should be contacted for a ritual service, honor guard, casket bearers, etc. if needed and/or desired.
- 6) If the veteran had G (Government) insurance, contact the County Veterans Service Officer (or veteran's organization Service Officer) for assistance in completing the forms. If the veteran had commercial insurance, contact the agent of that company.
- 7) Obtain from the funeral director several extra copies of the veteran's death certificate for transfer of titles of ownership for autos, home, bank accounts, etc.
- 8) The County Veterans Service Officer (or veteran's organization Service Officer) will assist the spouse and children in obtaining any benefits to which they may be entitled such as, survivor's death benefits from the VA and headstone if the burial is in a private cemetery. Bring to the Service Officer the following information when applying for benefits:
  - a) Copy of the deceased veteran's service record and Honorable Discharge Certificate (DD-214).
  - b) Social Security numbers of the deceased veteran, spouse, and any dependent children.
  - c) G.I. insurance policies, if any.
  - d) Information as to marriage, birth certificates of children, and if any prior marriages existed, and information regarding when, where and how the marriage was dissolved.
  - e) VA claim number, if there is one.
  - f) Copy of death certificate of veteran.



Veterans - The smart thing to do is to compile as much of this information as possible in advance. Put two copies in safe places and advise your family as to their locations. If you keep one copy in a safe deposit box, keep the other at home (very few people pass away during business hours). Please keep a copy of this list with that information.

**It's easy to request** a copy of your military service records from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) online, or by mail. Includes DD 214 separation documents, personnel records, replacement medals, and/or medical records. Just go to:  
<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records> and follow the instructions. Same day service may be available for emergency requests (for example, medical procedures or funerals).

Generally there is no charge for basic military records provided to veterans, next-of-kin and authorized representatives from Federal records. If your request involves a service fee, you will be notified as soon as that determination is made. However, archival Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF) are subject to the NARA fee schedule that authorizes the Agency to collect fees from the public for copies of archival records. A routine OMPF of 5 pages or less: \$25 flat fee. A routine OMPF of 6 pages or more: \$70 flat fee (most OMPFs fall into this category).

Response time for records requested from the NPRC varies. While the NPRC works to respond to requests in a timely fashion, the Center receives approximately 4,000 - 5,000 requests per day. Response times are typically within 10 days about 92% of the time. However, requests that involve reconstruction efforts due to the 1973 fire, or older records which require extensive search efforts, may take 6 months or more to complete. We cannot stress enough how important it is to have a copy your DD-214 on file!

**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](mailto: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](http://DignityMichigan.com)

More information from Dignity Memorial for veterans:

[www.dignitymemorial.com/plan-funeral-cremation/veterans](http://www.dignitymemorial.com/plan-funeral-cremation/veterans) and

[www.dignitymemorial.com/plan-funeral-cremation/veterans/va-death-benefits](http://www.dignitymemorial.com/plan-funeral-cremation/veterans/va-death-benefits)





## The Legal Corner

By Raymond C. Barry, J.D.  
Attorney At Law

### Complications of Probating an Estate With Only a Copy of a Decedent's Will and How to Avoid Them.

This past year I experienced not one but two probate cases where the heirs or devisees could only find a copy of the decedent's will. In both cases we had a photocopy of the original will. While a copy of a will can be submitted to probate, it does complicate matters and requires more time and cost than does filing an original will.

In most cases, a decedent's will directs that their estate be probated **informally** meaning "unsupervised" by the probate court. Informal probate allows the personal representative (PR) also known as an executor, to process the decedent's estate efficiently and as cost effective as possible in the shortest amount of time. However, when presenting a copy of a decedent's will, one must file a **Petition** for Probate and/or Appointment of Personal Representative as opposed to an **Application** for Probate. The difference is that a **petition requires a hearing before the court**. The hearing, usually scheduled 4-6 weeks in the future, will establish that all parties agree this is the "will" of the decedent and they agree who should be personal representative. If they can't agree, then the court will decide who will be the PR.

This scheduled hearing on the petition is the first of the delays caused by filing a petition for probate. Contrast when filing the **original will** and **application** for probate. The personal representative is given Letters of Authority immediately when the application is filed. This allows the PR to begin immediately to get into the decedent's home, find records, financials, protect property, establish an estate bank account and notify creditors of the decedent's passing.

Court rules require that all interested persons must be given actual notice of the petition, notice of the hearing, and proof of service must be filed so the court knows all parties have been notified and have an opportunity to attend the hearing and voice their approval or disapproval of the petition.

Another complication arose in one of the cases when it was found the decedent had a safety deposit box at a major bank and there was no other person with authority to open the box. This required us to file a Petition and Order to Open Safe-Deposit Box to Locate Will or Burial Deed and required another filing fee. Getting the judge to sign the order was not a problem but the bank (did I mention I hate dealing with banks) has their own policies and procedures. You would think it should be a simple matter to go to the bank with a court order in hand and have them let you get in the safety deposit box and look for a will. But no, the bank said they had to send the

court order to their legal department at bank headquarters to be examined and approved by their lawyers (as if the bank lawyers could disapprove a court order). This delay took more than ten days before my client was allowed to get permission from the bank to open the box. And what did we find? The original will and prepaid burial deed!

After that, we had to file a safe box search certification signed by my client and two bank officers testifying as to what was found in the box. Note that the order to open the box only allows the petitioner to take a will and burial deed out. Anything else in the box stays there until the petitioner is appointed as the legal personal representative. Then, he or she has to make another trip to the bank to clean out the box.

Now let's deal with the real estate. In both my cases, because they were formal probate, the Letters of Authority came with a restriction: **"The Personal Representative shall not sell any real estate of the estate without further order of the court."**

In both my cases the decedent was the only person listed on the deed. There was no other document executed to transfer the property to another person. What were we to do? Yes, you guessed it: *file another petition*. This one for approval to sell real estate. Once again, we had to pay a filing fee, get a hearing scheduled out a month, give notice to all interested parties and have the hearing. However, prior to the hearing, we had to find a buyer, get a purchase agreement, get a professional appraisal, get the house/condo cleaned out, painted, etc. Then, when everything was submitted to the court prior to the hearing and approved after the hearing, we got the order to sell the property.

In one of the cases, the judge ordered appointment of a GAL (guardian ad litem), who is a lawyer, to investigate the sale of the property and make a recommendation to the court to approve or disapprove the sale. This cost the estate another \$750.00 to pay the GAL fee.

So, how do we un-complicate probate? If possible, let's avoid it if we can. Let's be clear, probate in itself, is not a horrible thing to go through. It can be time consuming, and frustrating if one attempts to go it alone without the assistance of legal counsel. But, it exists to provide a way to disperse a decedent's property to rightful heirs or devisees in the absence of planning. Also, it is not terribly expensive to probate an estate. However, it is more expensive than proper planning. With proper planning, money, real estate, personal property, can be transferred to others without the need for probate.

In the cases above, if the decedents had previously executed deeds to transfer real estate after their deaths, there would be no need to go to court. If the decedent's had another person named on the safety deposit box, there would be no need to go to court and deal with the bank red tape. If the decedents had listed a POD (payable on death) on their bank accounts, there would be no reason to go to court.

Most important, if the decedents had put their original wills where someone could find them, their estates could have been probated without formality and court hearings. This alone would have saved much time and cost.





## 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.

**Auxiliary membership eligibility.** 1) Relationship to veteran: Mother, daughter, sister, grandmother, granddaughter, male or female spouse, self (for female veterans).  
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!**

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



## This space RESERVED for You!

Have you ever considered advertising your business to your friends and neighbors in a local publication? The Bulletin can be seen by thousands of Legion, SAL and Auxiliary members, their families and friends bimonthly. Interested? Contact Carol Hopson at: GrovesWalkerPost346@gmail.com

**Don't own a business? Post a personal message or greeting here in the Bulletin (for a donation to the Post).**



Show your support of our military & our veterans

Only \$5 each, available in the clubroom.

NEW design featuring poppies now available.

**Post 346 merchandise makes great gifts!**



Official Post 346 Bottle Koozie

Only \$5 each, asst. colors,  
available in the clubroom



Post 346 License Plates  
Show pride in our Post!  
Only \$5 each, HD plastic,  
available in the clubroom

Blue Star Banners - Gold Star Banners

Show pride in your family members  
who are serving or were KIA.

\$6 each, in the clubroom.

Banners are available with 1 to 5

Blue Stars or 1 Gold Star.

Banners measure 14" x 8".

Also available from Carol Hopson.



## 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 and available for download from our website. If you have friends or relatives who are members but not tech-savvy, and they still wish to receive the Bulletin, please consider downloading and printing it for them. Thank you

*Please...*

**Report changes of name, address, or email;  
also member death notices to your Legion,  
Auxiliary or SAL membership chairman.**

*Thank You*

*What you get by achieving your goals  
is not as important as what you  
become by achieving your goals.*

*- Zig Ziglar*



### May Birthdays

03 Joseph (Cliff) Lauzon  
10 Gary Grant  
13 Donal Guetchow  
14 Pete Kashubara  
14 Robert DeWitt  
19 Laurie Holm  
21 Danielle Jankowski  
23 Cortney Brancheau  
23 Sandi Koponen  
23 Mary Naylor  
24 Don Gould  
27 Walter Andersook  
29 William Topper  
29 Al Schneider

### May Anniversaries

07 Martin & Judy Kozicki  
08 Mike & Gail Williams  
09 Don & Ann Gould  
18 Jim & Joyce Pearse  
22 Denny & Diana Lis  
24 Brian & Danielle Jankowski  
25 Mark & Beth Gentile



We believe membership applications are something that every Post member should carry in his or her wallet at all times. You never know when you may run into someone who might like to join our Post! Applications are ALWAYS available in the clubroom.

### ADVERTISE IN THE BULLETIN!

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

## May 2021

All events and meetings listed  
are subject to current  
COVID-19 restrictions

| Sunday                                                                                                   | Monday                                                                                                    | Tuesday                                                                                                                     | Wednesday                                                                                                       | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Friday                                                                                                                        | Saturday                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2                                                                                                        | 3<br>Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5 -7pm<br>Queen of Hearts drawing 7:15pm                               | 4<br><br>Cinco de Mayo<br>National EOD Day | 5<br>SAL meeting 6:30pm<br>    | 6<br>Legion & Auxiliary meetings 7:30pm<br> <br>Teachers Day<br>Nurses Day | 7                                                                                                                             | 1<br>May Day<br><br>VE-Day 1945 8                                                                                |
| 9<br><br>Mother's Day | 10<br>Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5 -7pm<br>Queen of Hearts drawing 7:15pm                              | 11                                                                                                                          | 12                                                                                                              | 13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 14                                                                                                                            | 15<br><br>Peace Officers Memorial Day<br>Armed Forces Day                                                        |
| 16                                                                                                       | 17<br>Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5 -7pm<br>Queen of Hearts drawing 7:15pm                              | 18                                                                                                                          | 19                                                                                                              | 20<br>Home Board meeting 6:30pm<br>Exec. Committee meeting 7:00pm                                                                                                                                                                               | 21<br>Post 346 Poppy Days 21, 22, 23<br> | 22<br><br>Natl Maritime Day |
| 23                                                                                                       | 24<br>Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5 -7pm<br>Queen of Hearts drawing 7:15pm                              | 25                                                                                                                          | 26<br><br>National Poppy Day | 27                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 28                                                                                                                            | 29                                                                                                               |
| 30                                                                                                       | 31<br><br>Memorial Day | 1<br><br>June                                                                                                               | 2<br>SAL meeting 6:30pm<br>  | 3<br>Legion meeting 7:30pm<br>                                                                                                                             | 4                                                                                                                             | 5                                                                                                                |



### June Birthdays

01 George (Skip) Nafe  
05 John Berling  
06 Harold Henderlong  
09 Jim Salling Sr.  
09 Steven Watts  
11 Jackie Dix  
11 Ray Okonski  
15 John Mirling  
16 Lorraine Christensen  
19 June Schwartz  
20 Carol Hopson  
20 Ann Saviniemi  
20 Jim Koponen  
24 Larry Gooden  
25 Colin Williams  
28 Art Mikkola

### June Anniversaries

08 John & Tammy Berling  
18 Robert & Tina Rossi  
26 Rob & Jan Smart  
29 Marty & Jen Chinn



### Coming up in July

01 Legion meeting  
04 Independence Day  
07 SAL meeting  
10 Post 346 Birthday (1923)  
20 Man sets foot on the moon for the first time 1969  
25 Parent's Day  
27 Korean War Armistice 1953



### **Dinner at the Post FUNDRAISER!**

**Monday evenings  
in the Clubroom  
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
GOOD FOOD,  
GREAT PRICES!**

**Members and their  
guests always  
enjoy free  WiFi  
in the clubroom**

Want to see your name above?  
Please contact Carol Hopson at:  
GrovesWalkerPost346@gmail.com

## June 2021

**All events and meetings listed  
are subject to current  
COVID-19 restrictions**

| Sunday                                                                                                                     | Monday                                                                                                                                                 | Tuesday                                                                                                     | Wednesday                                                                                                       | Thursday                                                                                                                           | Friday                                                                                                                  | Saturday |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 30                                                                                                                         | 31<br><br>Memorial Day                                                                                                                                 | 1                                                                                                           | 2<br>SAL meeting<br>6:30pm<br> | 3<br>Legion meeting<br>7:30pm<br>               | 4                                                                                                                       | 5        |
| 6<br><br>D-Day 1944                     | 7                                                                                                                                                      | 8<br><br>World Ocean Day | 9                                                                                                               | 10                                                                                                                                 | 11                                                                                                                      | 12       |
| 13                                                                                                                         | 14<br>Flag Day<br>ceremony 6pm<br><br>Flag Day<br>Army Birthday<br> | 15                                                                                                          | 16                                                                                                              | 17<br>Home Board<br>meeting 6:30pm<br>Exec. Committee<br>meeting 7:00pm                                                            | 18                                                                                                                      | 19       |
| 20<br><br>Summer begins<br>Father's Day | 21<br>Submission<br>Deadline for<br>July/Aug Bulletin                                                                                                  | 22                                                                                                          | 23                                                                                                              | 24                                                                                                                                 | 25<br><br>Korean War began<br>1950 | 26       |
| 27                                                                                                                         | 28                                                                                                                                                     | 29                                                                                                          | 30                                                                                                              | 1<br>Legion meeting<br>7:30pm<br><br><br>July | 2                                                                                                                       | 3        |





## Making Good in the Midwest by Gerald R. Lynch

Available at B&N and Amazon \$14.99  
Paperback, 150 pages, ISBN 978-1721604722

Post 346 member Jerry Lynch, who now lives in Bay City, published this collection of poems, stories and essays in 2018. Jerry addresses the unique character and outlook that make the Midwest and its people so distinctive and offers a fascinating and varied take on the lives of people "Making Good in the Midwest".

Jerry's thoughtful lyric poetry addresses issues of life's meaning and the passage of time. His stories, essays, and narrative poems take you on a literary journey from growing up on a farm near Bay City, to a reflection on the changing seasons of Michigan and many other points of interest along the way.

MAKING GOOD  
IN THE MIDWEST  
*poems, stories, and essays*



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## Best Wishes from

## Ray Okonski

Member of Post 346 since 2001

I Co. 309th Bn. 78th Div.

3 Battle Stars

WWII Purple Heart

Last battle was at the  
Ludendorff Bridge

Rhine River, Remagen Germany



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