



The #117 Connection

American Legion & Auxiliary, Emil Jacob Post and Unit #117

March 2008

It's time for spring ... from the Auxiliary

Spring is just around the corner (at least I think so). I see Detroit Tiger uniforms in the paper almost every day. With longer, brighter and sunnier days, the winter blahs will soon be gone. We will all be planning things to do and places to go outside.

Speaking of baseball, here's a little trivia: Did you know that Babe Ruth wore a cabbage leaf under his cap while playing baseball, and would change it every two innings. And another: Why do we sing "Take me out to the Ballgame," when we are already there?

A MILLION THANKS to all those members that gave so generously for the military boxes as well as monetary donations for postage. We packed eight boxes to be sent to Iraq. A special thanks to Heather

Walkowe and the 11th grade class at Blissfield High School for four nice boxes of goodies; and to Margaret Heckaman for donating the boxes to pack in. A SPECIAL million thanks to all who came over and helped me pack.

A big thank you also to those members who brought yarn to our last meeting. Geneva took home quite a few bags, which will be distributed to the ladies making slippers and lap robes. After completion, they will be taken to the Ann Arbor VA Hospital.

Marge Scully brought an article from the Detroit Free Press regarding Edgar Groome, who has returned from Iraq safe and sound with 141 fellow soldiers of the 182nd, after providing convoy security. His

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Unit #117 is again collecting Campbell Soup labels and Box Tops for Education. There is a box at the club room. For more information, call Marge Scully at 428-8491 or Joyce Scott at 517-536-0070 (not a long distance call from Manchester).

From Ron Mahan, Legion Commander:

The Legion is looking at several fund-raising options for the coming months. First and foremost is the Patsy Cline show scheduled for April 12. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for a social hour with the show beginning at 8 p.m. in the Legion Hall. All are welcome and it is hoped that this program will be one of many. For questions or to offer your help, please contact Lauren or Rita Huber at 428-8116 or HUBERLAUREN@AOL.COM.

The Legion is also looking at the possibility of sponsoring a comedy show at the hall and is looking for suggestions and help. Please let Ron Mahan know of your interest.

On the club side, Jim Walkowe is busy scheduling a fishing trip on a charter boat and there is also a bus headed to a Tiger game this summer. Sign up for these trips at the club room.

To keep mailing costs down for *The 117 Connection*, please let Ron Mahan know if you want a hard copy. To receive *The 117 Connection* via email, send your email address to Marsha Chartrand at marshajc@gmail.com or sign up at a meeting. The newsletter is also posted at <http://alpost117.org>.

-RM

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Important Notes

- **Happy Birthday to the American Legion, March 15-17.**
- **More than 45 Legion and Auxiliary members now receive a monthly copy of *The 117 Connection* in their email inbox! To join them, please email marshajc@gmail.com**
- **Mark your calendars for the Patsy Cline show April 12, sponsored by the American Legion.**
- **Auxiliary dues notices from National include the incorrect address. It should be PO Box 731, Manchester. Junior girls' dues are \$3; they do not receive a dues notice. Remit to the same address.**

St. Patrick's Day—March 17







St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in honor of the patron saint of Ireland. Many legends have grown about St. Patrick. One of them is that he used the shamrock to illustrate the idea of the Trinity. He planted the small plant with three leaves, which he said represented God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. The shamrock is now the national flower of Ireland and is combined with the thistle and rose on the British Coat of Arms.

Green is definitely the prevalent color of the day; luncheon soups can be dressed up with a tinge of parsley, chopped chives, or the lunch can be topped off with a bowl of mint ice cream or a cool mint tea—green, of course.

It is also the day for merrymaking and pinches for those whose names sound Irish and are not wearin' o' the green. Of course, green beer flows freely in some pubs. Whatever the time of day, it's the day for celebrating with the O'Briens, Callahans or Houli-hans!



March 2008

<i>If your membership is overdue, please remit as soon as possible. Thank You.</i>						1 <i>Peace Corps founded, 1961</i>
2 Legion Breakfast 8 a.m.-noon	3 Euchre night 7 p.m. 	4	5	6 Legion Meeting 7:30 p.m.	7	8
9 Daylight Savings Time Begins 2nd District meeting, Jackson	10 Euchre night 7 p.m.	11	12 Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 p.m. Girl Scouts, 1912	13 Taco Night 5-7 p.m. 	14	15 American Legion birthday, March 15-17, 1919
16 Palm Sunday 	17 Euchre night 7 p.m. <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19 <i>Start of "Operation Iraqi Freedom" 2003</i>	20 <i>First day of Spring</i> 	21 <i>Good Friday</i> 	22
23 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	24 Euchre night 7 p.m.	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Euchre night 7 p.m.					BOLD print denotes a #117 Legion or Auxiliary event

Special guests to attend March 12 Auxiliary Meeting

You may have seen a recent article in **The Ann Arbor News** about a program called "The Pride and Honor Flight Project," which has gained recognition throughout Southeast Michigan. Jack and Faye Wiseley created the program that last year took 222 veterans to Washington, D.C. to view the national World War II memorial. This year, they plan to take 225 more. There is no cost to the veterans for this trip.

Jack and Fay will attend the Auxiliary meeting on March 12 to talk about their program. Any World War II veterans reading this notice, who would like more information about the program, are welcome to stop by the Legion Hall at 7:30 p.m. on March 12, or call Joyce Scott for information.

From the Auxiliary ...Continued from page 1

wife and daughter came to our Dec. 2006 meeting and we presented them with Blue Star banners. Members of the unit went on more than 400 combat missions and drove more than 400,000 miles while in Iraq.

March 8 will be Bingo Saturday. This is a rewarding day if you have a little time to spare for our hospitalized veterans. If you can go, please call Geneva Walkowe and let her know. We will also be going in April.

Next meeting will be March 12 and our hostesses will be Shirley Roller and Hilda Arnold. The Community Service Committee will share their report.

April 9 regular meeting will be a "fun night," hosted by chairmen Geneva Walkowe and Phyllis Baker.

We look forward to seeing you at our meetings. As your president, I urge you to set aside that one evening a month to come to our meetings, share your ideas and give your support.

Active participation in Auxiliary activities is one of the most rewarding ways to enjoy your membership.

Joyce Scott, Auxiliary President

A moving tribute to veterans

A great seven-minute video featured on the American Legion Web site, and also on the popular site YouTube, was created by Post 298 in Battle Creek, Michigan, the Legion Riders. If you have access to high speed Internet (even at the Library), you will want to watch this video.

According to Post 298 Director, Tom Starkweather, the Legion Riders are actively supporting veterans throughout Michigan. This video is being used to help people understand what being a veteran is really all about and how they can help.

See it at :

http://www.legion.org/vision/currentevents/2008/02/legion_riders_of_post_298_batt.html or

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FMEqCosDII> -MJC

Dear John ...

Leonard Owczarzak of Brooklyn recently wrote this letter to the editor of the Brooklyn Exponent. The Editor's Note following indicates that a 'Dear John' letter described in Owczarzak's letter has been included in a book edited by best-selling New York author Anna Holmes, titled "Hell Hath No Fury," a book about women's letters from the end of the affair during World War II. Leonard has given permission to re-publish his letter in our Legion and Auxiliary newsletter.

Dear editor,

Shortly after being drafted, in April of 1943, I exchanged photos with my childhood sweetheart. I then left for basic training in California.

I proudly displayed Virginia's photo on my barracks locker and was subjected to continuous teasing about getting a 'Dear John' letter.

"Not my Virginia," I angrily replied.

In January of 1944, shortly after our third air raid by the Japanese in 24 hours, we all happily responded to mail call. I spotted Virginia's usual blue envelope and tore it open.

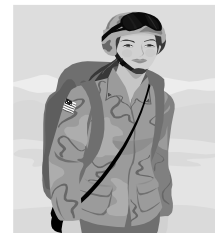
I was devastated. It turned out to be a 'Dear John' letter. I think my anger was helpful in shooting down a Japanese bomber during the next air raid.

Several months ago I cooperated with a New York author who was writing a book about 'Dear John' letters. She later informed me that 90 percent of the men who received them reported that life turned out better because of that emotional letter.

I know this was true for me. I've had 53 loving years with my wonderful wife.

Thank you, Virginia, for that 'Dear John' letter.

**Leonard Owczarzak
Brooklyn**



From PR Chairman Larry Byrne:

A reminder about America Supports You

Since its formation three years ago, the America Supports You program has welcomed over 300 organizations and 35 corporate partners to its team. America Supports You team members support the troops through letter writing, care packages, helping the wounded when they return home, assisting military families, sending an email, or making a kind gesture.

To learn more about how you can help, visit www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil.

Can we wave the flag too much?

Is it possible to wave the American flag too much—provided, of course, that you wave it with integrity?

Is it possible to study Lincoln or Shakespeare too much? Is it possible to read the Bible too much? The great, the good, the true, are inexhaustible for inspiration, example and strength. I believe that we are not waving our flag—not nearly enough.

It seems to me that we are developing a tendency to be timid or even apologetic about waving the Stars and Stripes. Walk up and down the streets on July 4 and count the flags. It is our nation's birthday; a sacred day in world history—the most important day for America. Why isn't the flag flying on every rooftop and from every home and building?

The flag is a symbol of our national unit. It is the spirit of our undying devotion to our country. It stands for the best that is in us ... for loyalty, character and faith in democracy.

Isn't our flag a synonym of the United States of America? When you look at the flag, can't you see the Alamo, Pearl Harbor, Wake Island, and Korea? Lest we forget, isn't the flag Flanders Field, Iwo Jima, Normandy, Babe Ruth and Davy Crockett?

“Sure, I wave the American flag. Do you know a better flag to wave? Sure, I love my country with all her faults. I'm not ashamed of that; never have been, never will be.

—John Wayne

The great events of our past and present are wrapped up in our flag. It is a symbol of this blessed nation; a giant in industry, education and commerce. Truly, God's gift to mankind.

This is just part of what the flag means to me. Can we wave it too much? I don't think so. *-JS*

You can win!

Tickets are available for the Department fund-raising raffle. This year, the price will be a beautiful 1/2 carat diamond pendant necklace in a simple gold setting, valued at \$1,495.

Tickets sell for \$2 each or six for \$10. The drawing will be held at the Department Convention on Saturday, June 21. You need not be present to win.

What woman wouldn't pay \$10 for six chances to win a \$1,500 necklace? What man wouldn't pay \$10 for six chances to be able to give his woman that necklace?

Someone will win ... why not you? Call or see Joyce Scott for details.

Good Cheer

... goes out to **Larry Byrne** this month.
Thanks for all you do, Larry!

American Legion & Auxiliary, Emil Jacob Post and Unit #117

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For God and Country ...