



# The #117 Connection

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

June 2008

## Auxiliary News from Joyce Scott, President

I would like to start this newsletter by saying, if you can read this, thank a teacher; and since it's in English—thank a soldier.

The Auxiliary meeting on May 14 was election of officers. President, Geneva Walkowe; first vice president, Rita Huber; second vice president, Joyce Stein; Secretary, Phyllis Baker; Treasurer, Joyce Scott; Ex. Committee, Denise Dresch, Helen Popkey and Elaine Steele; Historian, Della Widmayer; Chaplain, Elizabeth Beuerle; and Sgt. At Arms, Judy Walz. Congratulations to all of you and best of luck for a great year.

It was decided to have a booth at the Community Business Expo to be held next

to the Farmers Market from 3-7 p.m. June 5. It sounds like a really great chance to let people know what the Legion and Auxiliary do. Marilyn Minick, Shirley Roller, Joyce Stein and Joyce Scott will be working. Stop by and say "hi" to your fellow members.

The next meeting will be installation of officers on June 11 with a potluck beginning at 6:30 p.m. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

Geneva Walkowe reported that the Bingo party on April 29 was a real success with 31 veterans attending.

Delegates for the Department Convention will be Joyce Scott and Shirley Roller.

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## From Ron Mahan, Legion Commander:

Thank you to all who participated in the Memorial Day parade and events. There was a great turnout from the Legion, Sons, Auxiliary and VFW in the parade and a great turnout along the parade route as well. Thank you to Rich Jones for conducting the ceremonies.

Legion elections were held at the May 1 meeting, and next week's meeting on June 5 will begin at 7 p.m. with installation of officers and a dinner to follow.

The Legion is looking at trying to plan some kind of summer fund-raiser. Please give me a call if you have any suggestions that will help us raise money for the Post.

Remember to fly the flag this summer: Flags and poles are available from the post at a reasonable cost. Call Chuck Steele at 428-8984 to get your new flag!

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. The newsletter is also posted at <http://alpost117.org>.

-RM

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### Important Notes

- **Past President's Dues for the Auxiliary are payable to Rita Huber.**
- **More than 50 Legion, Auxiliary and Sons members now receive a monthly copy of *The 117 Connection* in their email inbox! To join them, please email [marshajc@gmail.com](mailto:marshajc@gmail.com)**
- **Installation of officers on Thursday, June 5 for Legion. Meeting begins at 7 p.m. with dinner following.**
- **Installation of officers for Auxiliary will be held on Wednesday, June 11. Please bring a dish to pass and table service.**

# Flag Day—Don't forget to fly your flags on June 14!

On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson declared June 14 Flag Day—a day all Americans would be encouraged to fly and pay homage to our “Stars and Stripes.” Today, our flag is recognized as the symbol of a nation that not only honors man’s continuing struggle for freedom, but also as a country with a unique system of government.

Old Glory from its hiding place. He carried the flag to the capitol building and raised it above the state capital. Shortly before his death, the old sea captain placed a small bundle in the arms of his daughter.

He said, “Mary Jane, this is my ship’s flag, Old Glory. It has been my constant companion and I love it as a mother loves her child. Cherish it as I have cherished it.” The flag remained as a precious heirloom in the Driver family until 1922. It was then sent to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., where it is carefully preserved under glass.

National Commander, Marty Conatser, encourages all U.S. Citizens to pause and recite the Pledge of Allegiance at 7 p.m. EDT on June 14.

The idea of an annual Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance originated in 1980 at the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House in Baltimore. Since then, the concept has swept across the country in a grassroots movement supported by a broad spectrum of individuals, organizations and businesses. Resolution 328 passed at the 1994 National Convention, supports the Pause for the Pledge Initiative.








Our flag is often referred to as “Old Glory.” The name, “Old Glory” was first applied to the U.S. Flag by a young sea captain who lived in Salem, Mass. On his 21st birthday, March 17, 1824, Capt. William Driver was presented with a beautiful flag by his mother and a group of Salem girls.

Driver was delighted with the gift and named the flag “Old Glory.” Old Glory accompanied the captain on his many sea voyages. In 1837 he quit sailing and settled in Nashville. On patriotic days he displayed Old Glory proudly from a rope extending from his house to a tree across the street.

After Tennessee seceded from the Union in 1861, Captain Driver hid Old Glory, sewing it inside a comforter. When soldiers entered Nashville on Feb. 25, 1862, Driver removed

## June 2008

1 <b>Legion Breakfast</b> 8 a.m.-noon	2 <b>Euchre night</b> 7 p.m.	3	4	5 <b>Legion Meeting</b> 7:30 p.m.	6 <i>D-Day, 1944</i>	7
8	9 <b>Euchre night</b> 7 p.m. 	10	11 <b>Auxiliary Meeting 6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Potluck</b>	12 <b>Taco Night</b> 5-7 p.m. 	13	14 <i>Flag Day</i> 
15 Father's Day 	16 <b>Euchre night</b> 7 p.m.	17	18	19	20-21 <i>Department Convention, June 19-22, Grand Rapids</i>	
22 <i>GI Bill of Rights signed 1944</i>	23 <b>Euchre night</b> 7 p.m.	24	25 <i>Korean War started, 1950</i>	26	27	28
29	30 <b>Euchre night</b> 7 p.m.					

## Blood drive a success

On Monday, May 19, a blood drive was held at the hall. Legionnaire Bob PUNCHES hit a real milestone having donated 20 GALLONS of blood. Think of the many lives that Bob has touched and saved over the years!

Bob's daughter Cindy and wife Mae surprised him with a decorated cake to share with other donors (68 in all).

Thank you to workers Denise Dresch, Linda Harvey, Shirley Roller and Evie Seegert.

*From the Auxiliary ...Continued from page 1*

Convention dates are June 19-22 and will be held at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids.

Polly Brokaw reported that she needs help for the Alumni Banquet to be held June 21 at the hall. If you have time to help, call Polly at 734-428-8119.

Rev. Kwiatek at Emanuel United Church of Christ did a wonderful Sunday service dedicated to the veterans. His sermon was, "We have to stand for something or we will fall for anything." A special presentation of a small flag was done for the children during the service as well. "Happy Birthday" was sung to Eddie Steele during coffee hour.

As this will be my last article as President, I would like to say thank you to the other unit officers for their hard work and diligent efforts throughout this year and for their extreme amount of cooperation. I appreciate all the work the members have been doing for Emil Jacob Unit, as well. **Working together** makes everyone's job easier.

*Joyce Scott, President*

## What is a Veteran?

A Veteran—whether active duty, retired, national guard, or reserve—is someone who, at one point in life, wrote a blank check payable to "The United States of America," for an amount of "up to and including my life." That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.

## Video of the month

The current video on the Legion Web site shows the GI Bill Rally held April 29 in Washington. It can be seen at :

<http://www.legion.org/veterans>

The video takes a while to upload, even on a high-speed connection, but it is well worth watching. Several veterans comment about their difficulties in getting a college degree, using currently inadequate GI Bill educational benefits. The veterans gathered at the nation's capital to encourage support for expanded school benefits under new legislation (S.22) introduced by Senator James Webb, D-Va.

*-MJC*

## Can you match the people?

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Polly Brokaw      | A. Quite an accomplished piano player   |
| 2. Elizabeth Beuerle | B. Cheerleader at Manchester High School  |
| 3. Joyce Scott       | C. Greatest Christmas present was an accordion  |
| 4. Della Widmayer    | D. Loves to dance and has been dancing since a small child. Dad called square dances.   |
| 5. Chuck Steele      | E. Absolute terror of the street as a small child.  |
| 6. Lorraine Dunny    | F. Wanted to be a ballerina   |
| 7. Marge Scully      | G. Plays a guitar and rides a motorcycle.   |
| 8. Geneva Walkowe    | H. Had a date with one person, saw someone else, went home and came back to town—and went out with that "someone else" on the same night. |
| 9. Judy Walz         | I. Loves dancing, played guitar and piano. Accompanied Dad and brother for dances.  |
| 10. Joyce Stein      | J. Would like a free day of no commitments, no household chores, just a day to do whatever.   |

*Email the answers to Joyce Scott at [jscott9891@att.net](mailto:jscott9891@att.net), or call 517-536-0070, 734-323-8311 or mail them to 9393 Rexford Road, Jackson, MI 49201 by June 12, 2008. A prize will be awarded to the first all-correct one received. Contest is open to all members.*



## District Meeting

The district meeting held on May 18 at our Post was very nice. The Memorial Service went well and Webb Seegert participated and did an excellent job, as always.

The auxiliary held their meeting at the Manchester United Methodist Church. Election, as well as installation, was held. Loretta Gestwite from Onsted is the incoming district president. All committees gave an annual report and any awards or special recognition. Our unit received special recognition for our Americanism annual report.

After the meeting everyone met back at the hall for lunch. There was also a past district commanders/district presidents meeting. Lunch was very good, as usual.

Thanks to Polly and her helpers!

## Meet Morgan Dresch

Hello, my name is Morgan Dresch. I have enjoyed my time with the Junior Auxiliary and would like to tell you a little about myself. I am 10 years old and in fifth grade. I attend Manchester Middle School. Mrs. Barnard and Mrs. Karapas are my teachers and my favorite subject is language arts.

My favorite sport is soccer. This winter I played on an indoor soccer team and currently play with the Manchester United travel team. If I am not playing soccer, I love being with my friends.

My family likes to travel. My favorite vacations have been to Mexico and the Dominican Republic. For spring break this year I was lucky enough to go on a cruise with my Aunt Heidi.

After college, I would like to be an actress or a kindergarten teacher.

Thank you.

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*Welcome, new Auxiliary member Amelia Woods, joining under her grandfather, a Korean War veteran.*

*Congratulations to Auxiliary member Regina Liedel, recently installed as 6th District President for the VFW Auxiliary.*

## Girls State

The Auxiliary will be sending two girls to Girls State coming up in June.

Michele Walters and Raven Webster, both juniors at Manchester High School, are the delegates preparing to participate in this event.

They will learn about responsible citizenship and the mechanisms of their city, county, and state government. America's future leaders are developed at Girls State and Girls Nation.

Eventually, we might see one of these young ladies come and straighten out the State of Michigan!

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## Good Cheer

*Sending good wishes from the Post and Auxiliary to Larry Byrne, who has surgery scheduled for June 4.*

*Our thoughts will also be with Kim and the family as they care for Larry following his surgery.*

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

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For God and Country ...