



The #117 Connection

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

February 2008

Happy 2008 to the Auxiliary and Legion!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. And now the New Year beckons.

As we begin the calendar year, we welcome new members to our unit. Shannon Fleck, Dorothy Schultz, Tuesdee Schiel and Caitlyn Stillion (Jr. member). Please accept a warm welcome to Emil Jacob Unit #117. We look forward to seeing you.

At our December meeting, Second District President Diane Mraz spoke of her project, palliative care at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital. She passed around photos of the completed rooms. A donation was made to her project.

Also in December, three long-term members were recognized. **Gerry Mulrenin** joined the unit Sept. 9, 1946 and is a past president serving in 1962 and 1968. Though she lived in Florida for 11 years, she

kept her membership with Unit #117. Her daughter, Marilyn Minick, is also a member. **Mary Smith** joined the unit on Nov. 10, 1947 and served as unit president 1959, 1960, 1975 and 1976. She also served as Poppy chair for many years. Her daughter Mara is also a member.

Ruth Oates, who joined Nov. 14, 1946, was unable to attend the meeting. Each lady was presented with a pin and certificate. Thanks, Ladies, for your dedication to this organization.

At the January meeting we decided to send some packages to our troops in Iraq, as well as investigate the possibility of sending phone cards to them. We will bring items to the February meeting to put in the packages so they will be received by Easter.

Some suggestions for items are beef

Continued on page 3

Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
New Auxiliary publications	2
Meet Your Officers	3
Chocolate Chip cookies!	3
Good Cheer	4
Grants for veterans	4

Important Notes

- **Reminder: Dues are payable NOW for Legion and Auxiliary.**
- **At least 45 Legion and Auxiliary members now receive a monthly copy of The 117 Connection in their email inbox! To join them, contact Marsha Chartrand at marshajc@gmail.com**
- **Patsy Cline show April 12.**
- **Auxiliary dues notices from National include the incorrect Post Office Box number. It should be PO Box 731.**
- **Junior girls' dues are \$3; they do not receive a dues notice. Their dues should be mailed to ALA Unit 117, PO Box 731, Manchester, MI 48158**

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 the Legion and Sons:

A Patsy Cline show is scheduled for April 12 at the Legion. Watch for more information in future issues of The #117 Connection.

To keep mailing costs down for *The 117 Connection*, **let us 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>](mailto:marshajc@gmail.com) or sign up at a meeting. The newsletter is also posted at <http://alpost117.org>

From PR Chairman Larry Byrne: 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.

New Auxiliary publications to debut

In early 2008 the American Legion Auxiliary will debut two new publications. Our magazine, which made great strides in 2007, will become bigger and even better.

It will be renamed HomeFront and issued quarterly with the seasons. The intention is to be able to do longer, more engaging feature stories of members and values in action, with less news on internal operations.







This editorial and design reformat will allow the auxiliary to more freely and effectively recruit those outside the organization. We also hope to inspire less active members to become more involved as volunteers in the work of the Auxiliary.

The longstanding publication, National News, will continue as a newsletter. Its debut issue, the “best practices showcase” will be inserted into the first edition of HomeFront. It will focus exclusively on grassroots operational issues, how-tos and successes. The National News will be available on the Web site.



February 2008

<i>If your membership dues remain unpaid, please remit as soon as possible. Thank You.</i>					1	2 Groundhog Day 
3 Legion Breakfast 8 a.m. -noon Four Chaplains Sunday	4 Euchre night 7 p.m. 	5	6	7 Legion Meeting 7:30 p.m.	8 Insulin developed to treat diabetes, 1922	9
10	11 Euchre night 7 p.m.	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13 Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 p.m.	14 Taco Night 5-7 p.m. 	15 American Legion/Auxiliary Winter Meeting—Lansing	16
17	18 Euchre night 7 p.m. Presidents Day	19	20	21	22 Washington's Birthday	23 Iwo Jima Flag raised, 1945
24 Start of “Operation Desert Storm”	25	26	27	28 End of “Operation Desert Storm”	29 Leap Day	
Prayer for our Troops: “Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen.”						BOLD print denotes a #117 Legion or Auxiliary event

Did You Know?

The first chocolate chip cookie was invented in 1937 by Ruth Graves Wakefield (1905-1977) of Whitman, Mass., who ran the Toll House Restaurant.

The Toll House Restaurant site was once a real toll house built in 1709, where stagecoach passengers ate a meal while horses were changed and a toll was taken for use of the highway between Boston and New Bedford, a prosperous whaling town.

One of Ruth's favorite recipes was an old recipe for "Butter Drop Do" cookies that dated back to colonial times. The recipe called for the use of bakers' chocolate.

One day Ruth found herself without a needed ingredient. Having a bar of semisweet chocolate on hand, she chopped it into pieces and stirred the chunks of chocolate into the cookie dough. She expected that the chocolate would melt and spread throughout each cookie.

Instead, the chocolate bits held their shape and created a sensation. She called her new creation the Toll House Crunch Cookie. These cookies became very popular with guests at the inn., and soon her recipe was published in a Boston newspaper, as well as other papers in the New England area.

And the word of the chocolate chip cookie spread!

The Wakefields sold the restaurant in 1966. It burned down on New Year's Eve in 1984.

Source:

<http://clicks.aweber.com/z/ct/?vH1cJ3v1dSMnD4x12RNZna>

From the President ...Continued from page 1

jerky, Chex mix, dried fruit, energy bars, gum, hard candy, nuts, pudding cups, Kool-aid, Crystal Light, canned fruit and tuna (in pouches). Non food items include mailing envelopes, greeting cards they can send home, magazines, poker chips, batteries (AA, C, D, and 9-volt), moisturizing chap stick, Q-tips, Windex wipes, wet ones, hand cream, etc.

Second District meeting held at Adrian Post #97 on Jan. 13 was well attended. Manchester again won the award for most people in attendance. Department President Debbie Meskill attended and was presented with a check for her special project, Heroes to Hometown.

A motion passed that we send \$50 in gift certificates for the White Elephant Auction to be held at the Winter Meeting Feb. 15 in Lansing. Proceeds will benefit the Girls State program.

Our next meeting is Feb. 13, with Laura Woodruff and Rita Huber as hostesses and a report from Americanism Chairman, Rita Huber.

*Joyce Scott
Auxiliary President*

Meet your Auxiliary officers:

Judy Walz—Treasurer—was born Jan. 26 in Tecumseh and has lived in Manchester all her life. She became eligible for membership through her son Mark who started in ROTC and was active in the National Guard. Marge Scully encouraged her to join and she has been a member for six years. Our installation ceremony was very impressive to her.

Judy met her husband, Eddie, in high school and he was good friends with her brother. Besides that, he had a sharp convertible and she wanted to drive it. But in order to drive it, she had to go out with him, and now they have been married "forever." Judy and Eddie had five children, Brian (deceased) Laurie, who works at U of M. and lives in Manchester; Bradley (deceased); Mark lives in Mt. Pleasant and is manager of a bar and restaurant; and Patrick, who works at Ford Motor Co. in Saline and lives in Manchester. They have three grandchildren.

Judy retired from Manchester schools after serving as cook and kitchen manager at the Middle School. She's enjoying retirement very much. Her hobbies are sewing, Sewing and SEWING. It's her favorite way to spend a day. She has a special gift for this avocation. She also enjoys reading mystery stories.

Asked what would be the first thing she would do if she won the lottery, she said, "Pay off the kids debts and travel." She picked Ireland to travel to and check out family history.

A special and happy Christmas for Judy was the year they adopted their son, Mark. He was born on Thanksgiving Day and he joined their family on Dec. 4. However, Judy appreciates and is thankful for every Christmas.

Any new Year's Resolutions? Judy wants to organize her sewing room and upgrade her computer skills.

Lorraine Dunny, this year's Unit Secretary, was invited to join the Auxiliary by her sister, Shirley Roller. Lorraine says her favorite part of the auxiliary is the people she has met and works with.

She is eligible for membership through her husband John, who served in the Merchant Marines during WWII.

Lorraine and John met through his sister, Delores, and on July 3, 2008 they will have been married 60 years. The couple had three children. Greg lives in Chicago and is a retired Senior Vice President from Ameritech; Doug lives in Manchester and has a vitamin store in Howell. Brenda is deceased. They have five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Lorraine's only resolution for this New Year is to get John feeling better. She has no special plans for 2008, but would like to do some traveling.

If Lorraine won the big lottery, she says the first person she would tell would be John. She would help her kids, buy a new car for her grandchild and then buy a motor home to travel around the United States.

If she could go anywhere in the world, Lorraine would choose Hawaii.

When Lorraine has a free day, you will find her outside doing something or visiting with someone she hasn't seen in a while.

Coalition donates \$500,000 to American Legion

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes recently presented a check in the amount of \$500,000 to the American Legion so the nation's largest veterans organization can award grants to disabled veterans who have served in the Iraq or Afghanistan wars.

"These grants are just a small token of appreciation for the sacrifices made by so many of America's men and women in uniform," said Thomas J. Palma, general manager of the Coalition. "Our Coalition was able to raise a lot of money from caring people but we do not have the distribution network of the American Legion."

The funds will be divided into \$500 grants and awarded to veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq who are rated with disabilities of 30 percent or more.

The American Legion will assume all administrative costs of the distribution, meaning that 1,000 grants will be awarded—the entire amount of the Coalition's contribution.

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes is a non-profit organization that was created to provide a way for individuals, corporations, and others to help severely wounded and disabled Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans and their families rebuild their lives.

February is Americanism Month

There are many ways to promote Americanism. We must continue to teach and observe the proper salute to the Flag, advancement of Colors and Flag display. Teach and sing "The Star Spangled Banner" and show respect when someone sings our National Anthem.

Observe patriotic holidays and encourage schools to continue to display the American Flag in classrooms.

Can you think of more?

*Condolences are extended to the families
of Post members*

*Bob Little
and Don Stockwell.*

"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

Good Cheer

... to **Laura (Deacons) Woodruff** and **John Dunny**.

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

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For God and Country ...