



The #117 Connection

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

May 2008

Auxiliary News from Joyce Scott, President

At the April 9 Auxiliary meeting, hostesses Phyllis Baker and Geneva Walkowe kept to our theme, "Fun Night." Games, prizes, music and great refreshments made the night a great success. I once heard the phrase, "Smile ... you'll look 50 years younger." From where I was standing we had some mighty fine looking young ladies. Keep smiling!

Beth Daubner will be Miss Poppy this year. The American Legion Auxiliary Poppy program, the oldest and most widely recognized Auxiliary program, will take place in Manchester on May 16. The Post will distribute poppies on May 17. (See article by Marge Scully on page 2).

Helen Popkey received the gas card.

We will donate to each of the school libraries, the public library and the After-Prom party.

Geneva Walkowe, VA&R Chair, asked for volunteers to go to the Bingo Party at the VA hospital. Five ladies will attend. \$100 was approved for canteen books as well as \$25 for Father's Day cards.

It was approved to have Rita Huber check into and set up a company to professionally clean the kitchen. This has been taken care of and we will try to have it done by Memorial Day.

Watch for the American Legion Auxiliary Service Years Insurance Plan—a plan that provides a daily hospital benefit, daily

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From Ron Mahan, Legion Commander:

There was a nice turnout for the Patsy Cline show and everyone had a good time. Thank you to Lauren and Rita Huber for all the arrangements, to all who helped set up and clean up, and to all who attended this successful event.

Legion elections were held at the May 1 meeting.

Commander: Ron Mahan; First Vice: Duane Beuerle; Second Vice: Chuck Steele; Finance Officer: Jay Clouse; Adjutant: Gary Weidmayer; Chaplain: Charles Schiel; Historian: Eddie Steele; Service Officer: Gary Shear; Public Relations: Jim Holland; Sergeant-At-Arms: Jerry Miller.

The next Legion meeting will be held June 5. The meeting is at 7 p.m. with dinner to follow.

A sign up sheet for volunteers to receive poppy donations is available at the club room.

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**
- **Mark your calendars for Memorial Day, May 26. Ceremonies start at 10:30 a.m. at Norvell Cemetery; followed by the Manchester parade at 1 p.m., beginning on the Main Street Bridge. Potluck dinner at the post immediately after ceremonies at Oak Grove Cemetery.**

Poppy Days—May 16 & 17

Poppy time is fast approaching. Friday, May 16 is the day for the Auxiliary to offer poppies and the post will do so on Saturday, May 17. If you have some time to offer, please call Marge Scully at 428-8291 or leave a message at 428-8500 (Legion House). Your donations are always welcome and can be mailed to the Auxiliary at Box 731.



Miss Poppy is **Beth Daubner**, granddaughter of George & Liz Daubner and Jim & Geneva Walkowe.

Poppy posters were made by fourth graders at Klager Elementary School, and judged at the April Auxiliary meeting. Winners were First Place-Ally Crouch; Second Place-Eve Lebert and Third Place-Angelica Posey. Each winner will receive \$5.

The Junior Auxiliary girls are planning to do a "Poppy Window" at United Bank so make sure you take a look. Again, your help and donations are needed to make our poppy days successful. ALL funds collected are used exclusively for rehabilitation of veterans and to assist their families.
-by Marge Scully

Memorial Day—May 26

At the unofficial beginning of summer, let us never lose focus of what Memorial Day means. It is not about beaches, picnics or auto races. It is a day to remember.






There are many ways to remember our fallen heroes. The traditional way is with flowers and flags for their graves. But if you asked our heroes before they died how they would like to be honored, most would probably say, "take care of my family."

That's why retired General Hal Moore tells us in "We Were Soldiers," that the last words of many dying soldiers is "Tell my wife I love her."

Legionnaires, veterans, auxiliary members and friends of veterans, let us remember our fallen heroes—not just on Memorial Day but every day.

Their families remember every day—the empty seat at the dinner table, smaller gathering on holidays and the voices only a distant memory in one's mind. Their sacrifice was important; their sacrifice was noble; and their sacrifice was permanent.

May 2008

<i>If it moves, salute it; if it doesn't move, pick it up; and if you can't pick it up, paint it. (Anonymous 1940s saying)</i>				1 Legion Meeting 7:30 p.m.	2	3
4 Legion Breakfast 8 a.m.-noon	5 Euchre night 7 p.m. 	6	7	8 Taco Night 5-7 p.m. 	9	10
11 Mother's Day 	12 Euchre night 7 p.m.	13	14 Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 p.m.	15	16 Auxiliary Poppy Day 	17 Post Poppy Day <i>Armed Forces Day</i>
18 2nd District meeting at Post 117, Past Pres/ Commanders dinner and Memorial Service	19 Euchre night 7 p.m.	20	21	22	23	24
25 	26 Memorial Day Observed	27	28	29	30	31

Auxiliary's headquarters to move

The American Legion Auxiliary's National headquarters will relocate to its new location at 8945 N. Meridian Street in Indianapolis on Friday, May 30.

The new phone number is scheduled to be activate upon the move, but please note that there may be interrupted service on that day.

They expect to be fully operational Monday, June 2.

From the Auxiliary ...Continued from page 1

recuperation benefit, outpatient benefit, and accidental death benefit. It sounds like a pretty good package and will be arriving in the mail very soon.

The next Auxiliary meeting will be held May 14 with Elaine Steele and Marilyn Minick as hostesses. Officers will be elected that night.

Joyce Scott, Auxiliary President

Mail for service members

The Moms of Military organization in Orange County, California will mail letters from individuals to service members from Orange County serving in Iraq and other overseas location. In turn, those service members will distribute letters to their buddies who may not be receiving mail from home.

You may write your letter to a service member of a specific branch and place in an envelope marked for that branch. Place the letter in a larger envelope and mail to

Moms of Military
18637 Yorba Linda Blvd.
Yorba Linda CA 92887

The military services still do not accept mail addressed to "Any Service Member." Mail means a lot to these soldiers. If any Legion or Auxiliary member has a few extra minutes and would like to write a note to our active military, I would be happy to take care of it. This is a very inexpensive way to participate and support our troops.

-Joyce Scott

Video of the month

A 3-1/2 minute video features reasons to join the American Legion (and Auxiliary) and shows how Legionnaires care for veterans in the community can be seen at :

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YG3VhD6GPzU>

This video describes how the Legion community in Wichita, Kansas, is helping a wounded veteran through the "Heroes to Hometowns" transition program for severely injured service members returning home. "Heroes to Hometowns" establishes a support network and coordinates resources for severely injured service members as they return home.

-MJC

Offensive art exhibit: Care to trample on Old Glory?

A university student's controversial art exhibit left out one important variable: resistance from a determined Legionnaire.

Susan Crane, a 40-year-old education major at the University of Maine at Farmington, displayed a series of U.S. Flags last week on the floor of a student-center hallway.

"My purpose was to figure out how people felt about the flag and (I) gave them a choice to walk around it," she said.

Enter Vietnam War veteran Charles Bennett. The American Legion commander of Maine's District 4 tried to remove the flags from the floor, but university officials threatened to arrest him. Bennett held his ground as he stood in front of the flags, discouraging many students from stepping on them. Even so, some students chose to walk or stand upon Old Glory.

"I am protecting them," Bennett said of the flags. "I am stopping people from walking on them. It is against the law to put the flag on the floors."

While the U.S. Flag Code does not carry criminal penalties, flag-desecration laws were overturned by the Supreme Court's dubious Texas v. Johnson decision in 1989. The American Legion and the Citizens Flag Alliance have been working tirelessly ever since to pass a flag-protection amendment that would give Congress the authority to protect the U.S. Flag from desecration. The measure fell only one vote short of the needed two-thirds majority in 2006, the last time the Senate voted on it.

Currently, the proposed flag amendment sits in the U.S. House of Representatives, where Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., is the sponsor of H.J. Resolution 12, which is supported by The American Legion.

Back in Farmington, the offensive "art" exhibit has been removed before its intended deadline, not because of bad taste but because a local fire official deemed the display a safety hazard.

-from the American Legion Online Newsletter



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.

Cell phones for soldiers

It's simple and FREE. Every phone you donate will help increase the amount of talk time we're able to provide to our troops.

You can help the charity even more by applying your own postage. If you pay for the postage, more money can be put toward calling cards for our troops.

Donated cell phones are sold to a company that recycles them. The money received from recycling cell phones is used to purchase calling cards that are sent to troops in need.

Minimize weight and save on postage by mailing the cell phone only. Batteries, chargers, and accessories are not required, but gladly accepted.

The cell phones for soldiers program was started in April 2004 by 13-year-old Brittany Bergquist and her 12-year-old brother Robbie of Norwell, Mass., with \$21 of their own money. Since then, the registered 501C3 non-profit organi-

zation has raised almost \$1 million in donations and distributed more than 400,000 prepaid calling cards to soldiers serving overseas.

Robbie and Brittany's goal is to help our soldiers serving overseas to call home. They hope to provide as many soldiers as possible with prepaid calling cards. Through generous donations and the recycling of used cell phones, Robbie and Brittany have already distributed thousands of calling cards to soldiers around the globe.

Featured Sponsor, AT&T, has donated more than \$500,000 worth of prepaid phone cards to Cell Phones For Soldiers and is now offering all 1,800 company owned wireless store locations across the country as drop-off sites to help recycle used cell phones for the program, through July 2008.

Anyone who has a cell phone to donate, can contact Joyce Scott. There is a drop-off spot in Dexter.

*Condolences are extended to the family of
Auxiliary member
Mary Diver
The Auxiliary charter will be formally draped
at the May Meeting*

Good Cheer

Auxiliary member Heidi Young, who recently had back surgery; and Auxiliary member Elaine Steele who had shoulder surgery.

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

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For God and Country ...