



The #117 Connection

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

December 2007

December plans include potluck and District president's visit

The Veteran's Day program turned out very well. We have heard a lot of positive comments from those who stayed around to hear Bob Heft, flag designer, tell about his experience of designing the 50-star flag.

On Monday, when he visited all three schools, he was very well received. The principals at each school were presented with an autographed flag. These were paid for and donated by an auxiliary member in the name of the auxiliary. Thank you very much to this member.

Lunch at the Hungry Wolf was fun. Bob has some real experiences to share. Thank you to Chuck Steele, Gary Shear and Mike Scully for their help in making the day a success by showing how to fold our flag and what each fold means. Thanks also to the other Legion and Auxiliary members who joined us at the schools and for lunch; a big

thanks for your support.

At the Nov. 14 meeting we voted to adopt a veteran through a local veterans group. Rita Huber reported that we have 24 area servicemen and women to whom we will send cards and money. We also voted to send a donation to the annual Viet Nam Vets Christmas party at the VA Hospital, as well as the hospital's coffee fund.

The Dec. 12 regular meeting will start at 6 p.m. with a potluck dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. Our Junior Auxiliary is invited to attend. District President Diane Mraz, will attend and will tell us about her special project this year—Palliative Care at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor. She is most interested in fixing up the hospital rooms themselves, so they have a more homelike feeling.

The stay in the hospital is such a stressful

Continued on page 3

From the Legion and Sons:

Sons of the Legion Texas Hold 'Em tournaments continue through this month, and possibly beyond. Check your calendar on page 2 and see dates in the sidebar at right. Your continued support of Legion breakfasts is also appreciated!

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> or sign up at a meeting. The newsletter is also posted at <http://alpost117.org>

This month, second Vice-Commander Chuck Steele is interviewed in the "Meet Your Officers" feature of the newsletter. Be sure to check that out on page 3.

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.

Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
Free CD for our troops	2
Meet Your Officers	3
Poem: <i>The Old Soldier</i>	3
Good Cheer	4
VA&R Report	4

Important Notes

- **Reminder: Dues are payable NOW for Legion and Auxiliary.**
- *At least 45 members are now receiving a monthly copy of The 117 Connection in their email inbox! To join them, contact Marsha Chartrand at marshajc@gmail.com*
- *The next Texas Hold'Em tournament will be held Dec. 8.*
- *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*

Artists create CD to say “thank you” to our troops







Just in time for the holidays, 13 major recording artists have created a musical “Thank you” for the troops. “CD for the Troops” will be available to download at no cost from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Web site, www.aafes.com, for anyone with a valid military ID.

“We’re thankful to all the artists who have agreed to lend their name and talent to this special CD,” said Allison Barber, deputy assistant secretary of defense for internal communications and community liaison. “To have a CD produced for the troops and dedicated in special honor to our active-duty military members and veterans is just another demonstration of the support so many people in our nation have for the troops.”

John Ondrasik, the singer-songwriter who performs under the stage name “Five for Fighting,” was intimately involved with making sure this project happened. While he hopes the downloadable version of “CD for the Troops” will be available on the AAFES Web site through April, tangible versions also will find their way to the troops. Troops in theater, military hospital and Fisher Houses will get a share of 200,000 hard CDs, he said.



December 2007

	REMINDER: Dec. 12 Auxiliary meeting. Social 6 p.m.; potluck 6:30 p.m. Please bring items to be taken to Ann Arbor VA Hospital for lady Vets. Any questions, please call Joyce Scott at 517-536-0070, 734-320-0356 or Geneva Walkowe at 734-428-8120.					1
2 Legion Breakfast 8 a.m. -noon	3 Euchre night 7 p.m. 	4	5 <i>Hanukkah</i> 	6 Legion Meeting 7:30 p.m.	7 <i>Pearl Harbor Day, 1941</i>	8 Texas Hold'em 
9	10 Euchre night 7 p.m.	11	12 Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 p.m.	13 Taco Night 5-7 p.m. 	14	15
16	17 Euchre night 7 p.m.	18	19	20 <i>Panama— Operation Just Cause, 1989</i>	21 <i>First Day of Winter</i>	22
23	24	25 <i>Christmas</i> 	26	27	28	29 Membership Dues are due before Dec. 31.
30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>			BOLD print denotes a #117 Legion or Auxiliary event		

'The Old Soldier'

By Fred R. Ring, Westland, Michigan

He may live next door or just down the road.
You may notice his steps are a little slow.

He doesn't tell where he's been.
What he saw or did, where or when.

The gray in his hair helps to tell his age.
But not the battles he saw as they raged.

You won't know about the flashbacks.
The bad dreams of battles, gun powder and flack.

The fire fights with flares and tracer bullets lighting up the
night.

Then checking to see how many were OK after the fight.

You don't see him in a cold sweat shivering in a bed that's
soaking wet.

His eyes wide open and set.

He may not scream or yell.
But in his mind he's going through hell.

But when he hears the anthem start to play,
He stands tall and straight with a lump in his throat that you
won't see because it's just his way.

He tries not to think of these things.
Still he wonders when the universe commander calls his
name will he have earned a pair of golden wings.

It's the old soldier that lives within.
He will always come back again and again.

When you see him walking with a slow stride.
Just remember you can't see what's going on inside.

*Originally printed in Nov.-Dec. 2007 issue of "Solidarity" maga-
zine, published by the United Auto Workers. Submitted by Webb
Seegert*

From the President ...Continued from page 1

time for these veterans that we hope giving the rooms a warmer feeling will help alleviate some of that stress. Our unit will support this project with a donation. Please try to join us!

Hostesses for the meeting are Judy Walz, Marge Scully and Marilyn Minick.

As we join together with family and friends at this wonderful time of year, remember those who are unable to be with their families this year because they are fighting to make sure we have the freedom to celebrate. Embrace their families into yours and help them get through the Christmas season.

We are an American Legion family and it is the best family—besides our own personal family—that we can be in.

I want to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a joyful and prosperous New Year.

*Joyce Scott
Auxiliary President*

Meet a Legion officer:

Second Vice Commander Chuck Steele was drafted into the Army during the Korean Conflict. When asked his most memorable part of the Army, Chuck said, "The Company football team. When we played against the officers, our team won."

He also went through leadership school which brought him a higher rank; one of the things he learned there was public speaking skills. He still does a very nice job when asked to make a presentation. His favorite phrase from this experience was, "Stand up and be seen; Speak up and be heard; and Shut up and sit down." Wouldn't it be great if all speakers had attended this school?

Chuck joined our post at the encouragement of his brother Eddie (who paid Chuck's dues the first year.) Both of their parents had been members of the Emil Jacob Post and Unit so Chuck had a good idea of what the Legion was all about. He has served as Post commander five times and has been active in all aspects of the Legion.

He met his wife, Elaine, in the Manchester schools. They have been married 54 years and have three sons. Don, retired from Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department, lives at Strawberry Lake; Ron, who works at Hardwoods of Michigan in Clinton; and Jon, who works at Ford and lives in Manchester. All three are SAL members.

If he could go anywhere in the world, Chuck would like to visit Germany and France. He lost an uncle just 24 hours before the Armistice was signed, and he'd like to visit that grave site.

If he won the lottery, he would first pay off all their kids' debts and then church and organizations would get a piece as well. After that he would like to set up some scholarships.

His favorite way to spend a free day would be go to the casino or go for a ride. He also enjoys reading all kinds of books—fact or fiction, it doesn't matter.

And an Auxiliary officer:

Executive Committee member Geneva Walkowe was born Jan. 12 in Chelsea. She has been a member of Emil Jacob Unit #117 for 27 years at the encouragement of Vivian Midlemiss.

She is eligible through her husband Jim, who served in the Army during the Korean Conflict. They met while she was working at Stivers; Jim came in with a group of guys after a softball game. Their first date was at church on Christmas Eve. They have five daughters: Kelly, a hairdresser; Jayne, who works at U-M; Natalie, a dental assistant; Heather, a teacher in Blissfield; and Carol, an x-ray technologist in Chelsea and Dundee.

In addition to serving on the executive committee, she is chairman for the VA&R program. Geneva is a past president of the Unit.

If she won the lottery, she would scurry off to the nearest Jaguar dealer and buy a new car.

She enjoys reading all kinds of books, and her favorite way to spend a free day would be to work in the garden and/or read.

Her most memorable Christmas? Her first year married, she and Jim went out and bought a huge tree that took up the whole living room. There was hardly any room to walk around!

A favorite Auxiliary memory was when the Unit gave a long-time member a surprise shower for a second marriage—she had never had a shower before and enjoyed it very much.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation *by Geneva Walkowe*

The Veterans Affairs and Rehab is a very important committee.

The American Legion Auxiliary preamble states, "The Auxiliary participates in and contributes to the aims and purposes of the American Legion."

I believe our Auxiliary is particularly good at doing this. We participate in many Legion projects including the VA gift shop held every November. We purchase gifts for men, women and children along with the other Auxiliary units in our district. We go to the VA and help veterans pick out beautiful gifts for their families and they are gift wrapped and mailed at no cost to the veteran.

We are also involved with Bingo parties for the veterans. We usually go in March and approximately 20-25 veterans play. All receive a prize. We also take crackers, juice, fruit and cookies.

In 2006 we gave the VA more than 223 pairs of slippers and 12 lap robes made by our members. This year so far we

have sent 201 pairs of slippers and 25 lap robes. We also send money for phone cards for the veterans on Fathers Day. We do not overlook the female veterans, either—this year and next year we are doing special projects for them.

We filled bags with needed items for homeless victims. Our Unit had the most filled bags in the district.

We donate heart pillows to the VA Hospital, which are used after surgery. When the patient coughs, they use these pillows to help alleviate the pain.

We also donate to the Viet Nam Veterans Christmas party each year. This is a huge event and they depend on donations to help with the costs.

There are more projects the VA&R committee does along with the entire unit throughout the year. We are privileged to be able to help and support our veterans.

Committee members: Geneva Walkowe, Phyllis Baker, Joyce Stein and Helen Rigg.

Good Cheer

Josephine Maisano has been hospitalized

We hope that **Joanne Clark** is coming along well following her knee surgery

Shirley Lowery had knee surgery and has returned to Pennsylvania.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Joyce Stein on the loss of her husband, Dick, and to her family on the loss of their Dad.

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

PO Box 731
Manchester, MI 48158
Phone: 734-428-8500



For God and Country ...