THE AMERICAN LEGION

Campbell-Richmond Post #63 - Clarkston, Michigan

Proudly Serving America and our Community

THE AMERICAN LEGION 1919 100 Years 2019 VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA

Editor: Dean Lambouris **April - May 2019** ***post63newsletter@comcast.net***

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IVMHA

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Campbell-Richmond American Legion Post 63
8047 Ortonville Road, Clarkston MI 48348
(248) 625-9912

Doberman "Devil Dogs" of the U.S.M.C.

The U.S. Marine Corps has reason to be proud of its K-9 Dog Corps, the "Devil Dogs" six dogs, four of them Dobermans, were cited for their work in the South Pacific. These dogs "Hit the Beach" with the Marines.

In the 1940's when Doberman Pinschers became war dogs - *"Devil Dogs"* - they were a new breed to most people in the United States. Dr. William W. Putney, Marine Corps Veterinarian and Captain, had never seen a Doberman when he graduated from veterinary school, nor had most of his colleagues. Wherever the Marine Devil Dogs went, they attracted the curious attention of people who had heard about the sleek and powerful breed but never had seen them. On Guam, the people who lived through the Japanese occupation remember the Devil Dogs as "The Dobermans" or "Ah, The Dobermans" because they remember how valuable they were in the liberation of their island home.

The Marines landed on Bougainville, the largest island in the Solomons on November 1, 1943. The 24 canine members of the First Marine Dog Platoon was sent ashore just one hour after the first Marines hit the beach, under heavy mortar and rifle fire and were dispatched to various companies according to prearranged plans.

The First Marine Dog Platoon consisted of 48 enlisted men working in pairs as handlers for the 21 Dobermans and three Shepherds, plus six enlisted instructors and headquarters personnel. It was under the command of First Lieutenant Clyde A. Henderson, a Cleveland high school teacher, who had been a Doberman fancier and amateur trainer for a decade before the war.

The Devil Dogs were met with mixed reactions by the fighting Marines. The use of dogs in combat was on trial, The First Marine Dog Platoon was an experimental unit without precedent. But the use of dogs in combat would prove invaluable. To prove this only a few of the feats of the dogs need be cited.

Because of the Dobie's keen sense of smell, hearing and natural protection instincts they could detect enemies several hundred yards away. In one instance, the dogs detected the presence of Japanese troops one half mile away.

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Commanders' Corner

Commander Kim Lambouris

Spring is in the air and the weather is getting better. April and May are busy months for the Post and one of our biggest fundraisers are in May. The Member of the Year Ceremony will be Friday, April 12, 2019 at 6:00 pm. It's always a difficult decision choosing our "Member of the Year". Come to the ceremony, have a nice dinner, and honor our outstanding members for 2018-2019. There will be Karaoke in the clubroom on April 20, 2019 at 6:30 pm and May 18, 2019 at 6:30 pm with Adjutant Dale Elkins hosting. Come on out and have a great time singing your favorite tunes! Also, on April 20, 2019 at 9:30 am is Highway Clean-up. Headstone Cleaning at Great Lakes National Cemetery is Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 9:30 am. Poppy Days will be May 10-11 at Bueche's in Ortonville and on May 16, 17, and 18 in downtown Clarkston and the Clarkston Kroger. We need many volunteers! Without Poppy Funds, we are unable to help veterans at the same level as we have been doing historically. We'll have a sign-up sheet will be in the clubroom soon. The Memorial Day Parade will by May 27, 2019 at 10:00 am and starts at Depot Park and ends in Lakeview Cemetery, we'll need marchers. If you plan to march please be at the post at 9:00 am. There will be a Cookout after with hamburgers and hotdogs, please bring sides and desserts. There will be a sign-up sheet in the clubroom at the beginning of May. If you are interested in marching and you do not have a uniform contact Don Carter ASAP at 248-563-2043.

In looking at the future of the post, we need to understand why the American Legion started 100 years ago in France. What was true for them in 1919 is just as true now as to our purpose towards veterans and their families. The United States Congress gave us the opportunity and the purpose. In our Preamble, we all pledge at every meeting; *"To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness. This is the most important ideal expressed in our preamble. We can hail The American Legion today as an unparalleled force in the United States for social betterment. American Legion concepts and its ideal of devotion to mutual helpfulness warmed the entire social climate of America. Today America is extending its helpful hands all over the world through our assistance programs of foreign aid. This all came about because the veterans of WWI came home enriched with wonderful ties of friendship and gave those ties meaning by consecrating them to the ideal of mutual helpfulness"* (The American Legion Officers Guide 2015). We need to continue honoring those ideals by working together, volunteering and assisting veterans and their families that are in need by having events that are good for the community and the legion. We joined this organization to assist and help honorable veterans of the United State Military who volunteered to make the ultimate sacrifice—to offer their lives for the protection of our country and freedoms.

- Kim Lambouris
Commander

Commanders' Corner

Service Officer Jerry Grzywinski

Boys State

American Legion 2019 Boys State is open for any High School Junior. If you know of anyone who needs more information on attending this one week event at Grand Valley State College in June.

Please contact me at 248-494-2821
Jerry Grzywinski
Post 63 - Boys State Chair

VSO

Veterans or families of veterans in need of support. This is what the American Legion is about. Anyone who is looking for help for veteran benefits or help, please call me or any officer of our post or have them call directly.

- Jerry Grzywinski
jerryg48348@yahoo.com

S.A.L. Commander Jim Battishill

I hope everyone is enjoying spring and soon the weather will actually warm up. Don't forget member of the year Ceremony will be held Friday April 12th 6:00 pm. Congratulations to Bob Long our SAL member of the year. Please to try and attend or meeting April 8th as this is when we do the nominating for our executive offices. Also I would like to send a special thank you out to our Vietnam Vets as this April 30 is the anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War 1975.

- Jim Battishill, S.A.L. Commander
Jbattishil@aol.com

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 63

From The Auxiliary President

Spring greetings to you all!

There's a lot going on in our Auxiliary world so read on!
POPPY DAYS are coming, there will be sign-up sheets in the clubroom. Opportunities in Ortonville May 10 & 11th. Distribute in Clarkston May 17,18,19. Our Poppy fund is below $2,500 for the first time in a long time, our average donation per Veteran is between $500-$1,000. Help us support Veterans by distributing Poppies!
We're making a delivery to the Michigan Veterans Foundation on Friday, April 19th. Contact Amy or Sue if you'd like to help.

APRIL MEETING Our next meeting has been moved to April 16 at 7pm, Girls State Interviews will take place at 6pm, before the meeting. Scholarship applications are available now, amount awarded is to be determined at May meeting, applications due before May 14th. Applications from Amy L.

SPRING FLING, May 4th, "The Z Band" live from 7pm-11pm, only $10 per ticket, includes entertainment and appetizers! Get your tickets in the clubroom. Any profit once the band is paid is being donated toward Rita Fisher's medical expenses. Dress to impress!

MEMBER OF THE YEAR – Nominated by Sue Batishill "I would like Rita Fisher nominated. This is for all her work on the rummage sale, poppy sales and the dance she started in May. She's an asset to our auxiliary." Nominated/seconded by Amy Laboissonniere; *"Rita signs up to help with every project and event. If she can't be there physically, she'll make a donation, send food, send Wayne, or help promote it in advance. Last year, she chaired our Rummage Sale, a labor intensive event and she always helps to distribute Poppies. This year she brought new life to our Spring Fling idea, securing a live band at a great price to bring some fun to our Legion home. For years she has served on our Auxiliary Executive Board, and for years, she has been a solid pillar of our Unit #63 Auxiliary."*

We are seeking an entire slate of new officers! Ready to throw your hat in the ring? We are voting at the May meeting - don't miss your big chance to make a difference!

Phew, that's a lot going on and then we start over! Please let me know if you have questions or need any paperwork. Email is preferable, I do check every week day or call, but that's the hardest way to reach me! :)

Amy Laboissonniere
- *President Unit 63 Auxiliary*
adtdsb@gmail.com

American Legion #63 is seeking candidates for

2019 Boys State and Girls State

held in June. If you know of any student in their *JUNIOR YEAR* of High School only (11th Grade), who would like to participate, please contact us for details. We would like to support as many candidates as possible!

MICHIGAN BOYS STATE

www.michiganlegion.org/boys-state

June 16-22, 2019

Grand Valley State University

Boys State Chair

Jerry Grzywinski

Cell 248-494-2821

jerryg48348@yahoo.com

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS STATE

www.michalaux.org/girls-state/

June 16-22, 2019

Michigan State University

Girls State Chair

Amy Laboissonniere

Cell 248-892-1203

adtdsb@gmail.com

Spring Fling

SATURDAY, MAY 4
7PM-11PM
$10 PER PERSON

LIVE BAND, APPETIZERS, FUN!
COME OUT AND DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY
WITH "THE Z BAND"

AMERICAN LEGION
8047 ORTONVILLE RD
CLARKSTON, MI

BUY YOUR TICKETS
IN ADVANCE IN THE CLUBROOM
248-625-9912

This event is presented by
American Legion Auxiliary Unit #63.
All profits are being donated toward
the medical expenses for Rita Fisher.

APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	Apr 1	2	3 7pm Legion Member 8p ng	4 6:30pm shuffleboard	5	6
7	8 7pm SAL Meeting	9 7pm Aux. Meeting	10 Funeral Luncheon	11 6:30pm shuffleboard	12 6pm MOY Ceremony	13
14	15 FOP	16	17 7pm E-Board Meetin	18 6:30pm shuffleboard	19	20 9:30am Highway C 6:30pm Karaoke Club
21	22	23	24	25	26 Shuffleboard Bang	27 9 am to 3:30 pm C GL Nat. Headstone
28 1pm Flaming Pistons 2pm Club Hall Renta	29	30	May 1 7pm Legion Member	2	3	4 Dance Spring Fling 9am Flag Retirement 10am Flag Retiremer

DETATCH AND STICK TO YOUR FRIDGE!

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 1pm Flaming Pistons 2pm Club Hall Renta	29	30	May 1 7pm Legion Member	2	3	4 Dance Spring Fling 9am Flag Retirement 10am Flag Retiremer
5	6 Pack Meeting	7	8	9	10 Poppy Days - Bueches, Ortonville	11
12	13 7pm SAL Meeting	14 7pm Aux. Meeting	15 7pm E-Board Meetin	16 Poppy Days, Clarkston	17	18 Karaoke Clubroom Wedding/Afternoo 8am Jeeps and Java
19	20 FOP	21	22	23	24	25
26 1pm Flaming Pistons 2pm Club Hall Renta	27	28	29	30	31	Jun 1

DETATCH AND STICK TO YOUR FRIDGE!

No unit protected by the Devil Dogs were ever ambushed by the Japanese nor was there ever a case of Japanese infiltration. It wasn't until the third day of fighting, D plus 2 day, that the Japanese began firing at the dogs, Caesar, who carried the first war dog message of the war, was hit twice.

During the battles, the dogs led infantry points on advances, explored caves, pill boxes, dugouts, and scouted fortified positions. They did sentry duty with military police at crossroads day and night. They occupied foxholes in forward outposts at night.

They and their handlers were officially credited with leading three hundred and fifty patrols during the mop up phases of the battles. The handlers accounted for over three hundred enemy slain. Only one handler was killed on patrol. A Doberman named "Andy" saved a Marine tank Platoon by locating Japanese gun nests.

"Andy" with handler Private John B. Mahoney. Bougainville — Soloman Islands 1943.

The most outstanding incident of the First Marine Dog Platoon's record on Bougainville came on November 14, with "Andy" and his handlers as the principals. Andy was the Doberman who had led the Raiders inland on the first day: he was popularly referred to as "Gentleman Jim" because of his aristocratic demeanor and aloofness with the other dogs.

A Marine force up front ran into stiff Japanese resistance that day of the action. Andy's two handlers, Privates Robert E. Lansley and John B. Mahoney, volunteered to take their Dobermans and seek out the enemy strong points.

They had complete faith in Andy's ability to spot whatever was out there. The three moved beyond the lines into the heavy foliage. Andy was about 25 yards out front, when he stopped short; and looked to the left and right, the way he always alerted. The two soldiers crept up along a little trail behind Andy and saw two machine gun nests, one of each side of the trail. The two handlers started shooting, Lansley threw two grenades and when it was all over, eight Japanese soldiers were neutralized. The wiping out of the machine gun nests by Andy and the two handlers permitted that entire sector of the line to move forward.

"Rex", a two-year-old Doberman scout dog forewarned his group of Marines of the presence of Japanese soldiers during the night. They were ready and waiting when the attack came at dawn and successfully repelled it. Rex was handled by PFC William N. Hendrickson and PFC Charles Foist.

Another scout dog, a four year old Doberman named "Otto" while working ahead of a reconnaissance patrol, warned the Marines of a Japanese machine gun position located 100 yards away. This gave the Marines time to disperse and take cover before the machine gun opened fire. The two handlers were PVT Martin R. Troup and PFC Henry L. Demault.

During the Guam campaign, 14 dogs were killed in action and ten more died from exhaustion, tropical maladies, heat stroke, accidents, and anemia from hookworm. All were buried on Guam, at what was to become the first War Dog Memorial years later. In August 1945, the Marines began to close the War Dog Training School and to disband the War Dog Platoons. After retraining some of the Dobies were sent home to their original owners, some went home with their Marine handlers and sadly a number of these hero K-9 soldiers were put down because they were no longer wanted or needed.

The Devil Dogs served with valor in our history, but unfortunately, their stories have been overlooked and their sacrifices have been all but forgotten.

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8047 Ortonville Road
Clarkston MI 48348

To:

E-Mail is the preferred method of delivery.

Contact Dean Lambouris at: post63newsletter@comcast.net

401k Rollover Advice and IRA Investment Management

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