THE AMERICAN LEGION

Campbell-Richmond Post #63 - Clarkston, Michigan

Proudly Serving America and our Community

February-March 2019

Newsletter: Dean Lambouris — post63newsletter@comcast.net

Post Officers

Legion

Commander: Kim Lambouris
1st Vice: Steve Willett
2nd Vice: William Lambouris
Adjutant: Dale Elkins
Finance Officer: Don Davis
Sgt. At Arms: Don Carter
Service Ofcr: Jerry Grzywinski
Chaplain: Tom Rumzek
Trustee: Wayne Fisher
Trustee: Jerry Grzywinski

S.A.L.

Commander: Jim Battishill
1st Vice: Brian York
2nd Vice: Bob Long
Adjutant: Charlie Zimmer
Finance Officer: John Ousnamer
Sgt. At Arms: George Vihonsky
Historian: Charlie Zimmerman
Chaplain: Art Wargo

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President: Amy Laboissonniere
1st Vice: Sue James
2nd Vice: Cher Jones
Secretary: Cher Jones
Treasurer: Sue Battishill
Sgt. At Arms: Deanna Perysian
Chaplain: Paula Collier
Membership: Judy McCutcheon

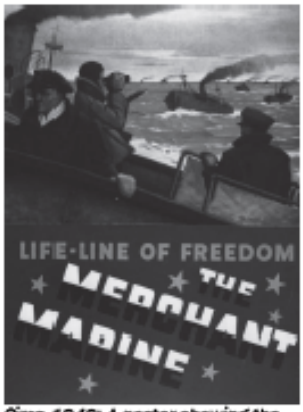
IVMHA

President: Don Carter

Clubroom Chair: Wayne Fisher
Hall Rental Chair: Paula Collier

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

The U.S. Merchant Marine



Circa 1942: A poster showing the role of the Merchant Marines in bringing supplies to soldiers abroad and generating morale among the services.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Few people realize qualified United States Merchant Mariners during WW-II are recognized by the Department of Defense through acts of Congress as veterans and are eligible for membership in the VFW, American Legion and other VSO's and entitled to all V.A. benefits. Many refer to them as "The Lost Service".)

The merchant marine is collectively those commercial, non-naval ships that carry cargo or passengers or provide maritime services, and the civilian crewmen and officers who sail those ships.

During World War II the ships and men of the United States merchant marine transported across the oceans of the world the vast quantities of war material, supplies, equipment and troops needed to fight and win that war. The men of the U.S. merchant marine were civilian volunteers who nonetheless died proportionally in numbers that rivaled or exceeded any branch of the uniformed military. Like the U.S. Navy Armed Guard with whom they sailed, the unsung men of the U.S. merchant marine made possible the Allied victory in World War II.

Prior to the beginning of World War II there were about 55,000 civilian sailors employed in the U.S. merchant marine. This number increased to as many as 250,000 men who served in the U.S. merchant marine by the end of the war. A pre-war merchant fleet of 1,340 cargo ships and tankers expanded to at least 4,221 U.S. merchant ships by the end of World War II.

Various estimates state that a total of at least 5,662 to more than 8,300 merchant seamen and officers died or went missing during World War II, as many as 12,000 were wounded, and more than 600 became prisoners of war. Some sources place the number of merchant mariners killed in excess of 9,000, including those who eventually died from wartime injuries. However, because the merchant marine was not (and is not) a single discrete organization, because it did not have a centralized record-keeping system, and because it did not have any official historians, researchers or archives, the records of the numbers of merchant mariners killed, wounded, missing and taken prisoner vary considerably; a final, exact accounting of all casualties may never be known.

Depending upon the numbers one accepts, the proportional casualty rate for the U.S. merchant marine may have either exceeded that of any of the uniformed military services, or was only slightly less than that of the United States Marine Corps.

.....CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Commanders' Corner

Commander Kim Lambouris

"We the members of Campbell-Richmond Post 63 share a common bond and a responsibility as former/active members of the United States Military. We provide programs to support a strong national security; provide for the care of veterans and their families; mentor youth; and promote patriotism and honor."

Happy 2019 Everyone! It's a new year with lots of things going on over the next few months. The Code of Conduct is posted in the Clubroom and I want to thank the Code of Conduct Committee for their hard work getting this accomplished. The 2nd phase of the committee starts in February.

The Wild Game Dinner on February 9, 2019 has sold out, what an accomplishment! Thanks to all that accomplished that feat!!! There was a Chili Cook-Off/Corn Hole Competition on 1/19/19 to raise money for a packing party and it was quite a success with raising over $230.00. Information about when the next packing party will be forth coming from our Auxiliary President. Our Oratorical Contestant Benjamin will be going to the District competition on February 6, 2019 at Post #143 Auburn Hills at 7 pm. There is a Red Cross Blood Drive on February 28, 2019 from 1 pm to 7 pm in the hall. To sign-up to donate go to www.redcrossblood.org sponsor code: "amerlegion" for an appointment. In March we'll have St. Patrick's Day Party on the 17th in the clubroom. Details and flyer will be emailed in February.

I want to welcome some new members to our post. Some are new to the American Legion and some are transfers from other posts. Welcome all of you to Post 63!

James Anderson	**Richard Austreng**	**Matthew Hogan**	**Burke Hyde**
Steven Percival	**Jerome Robak**	**Glant West**	**Nicole Ligocki**
Alisa Lyon	**Gordon Ross**	**Thomas Hyatt**	**Douglas Kay**

***** The Legionnaires February 6, 2019 membership meeting will be moved to February 13, 2019 at 7 pm due to scheduling conflicts. *****

I look forward to seeing everyone over the next couple of months. As always if you have any questions call or text me at (248) 910-6769 or email me at klambo2@comcast.net.

- Kim Lambouris
Commander

Commanders' Corner

1st Vice Commander Steve Willett

As the new 1st vice and being in charge of membership it has been a learning curve. I found out what not to do a few times, so I apologize for any inconvenience that I my have caused and hope next year goes more smoothly.

Have a great New Year!

- Steve Willett, 1st Vice Commander
stevewillett56@yahoo.com

Service Officer Jerry Grzywinski

If anyone knows of any veteran or veterans family in need of information or help, please forward to them my information or contact any post 63 officer.

Happy New Year!

- Jerry Grzywinski, Service Officer
jerryg48348@yahoo.com

S.A.L. Commander Jim Battishill

Well we are already a month into the New Year, hope everyone has a good one. Don't forget to get your dues into Brian York so your name doesn't end up on the Club room cooler. The Wild Game Dinner is fast approaching (Feb. 9th). Tickets are SOLD OUT!

Stay warm and safe through out the coming months.

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

Greetings!

We have a few snow birds and we all hope they are enjoying the warm weather! We look forward to your return! A few things coming up to keep an eye out for!

We are collecting items for the Michigan Veteran's Foundation in Detroit. Drop off your gently used pillows, blankets, sheets and men's clothes, or make a donation to the Poppy fund earmarked for Homeless Vets! We'll be taking a load to Detroit on February 18th!

Come out Saturday, February 23rd for a great night of entertainment. Brian Bosman will be here singing tunes and making us laugh, only $10.00 per ticket and dinner is only $5.00!!

GIRLS STATE - do you know any girl (or boy) currently in the 11th grade of high school? Help us send them to Girls State (or Boys State)! Interviews will be held for Girls State on Tuesday, March 12th at 6pm. Please have anyone interested email me for the forms and details! adtdsb@gmail.com Detailed information about the program can be found at www.michalaux.com

Welcome New Members **Kate Tomas** and **Judy Light**!

Special thanks to member Deanna Perysian for taking on our pecan sales and donating $320 to our Girls State Fund.

Keep your calendar clear on Saturday, May 4th and come join us for a dress-up dance. Tickets and more information will be available after our February 5th meeting!

Wishing you all the best - "The Prez"

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

Chili Cook-Off

Chili Cook-Off winners 1st place-3rd L-R: Art Wargo, Greg Fisher and Kim Lambouris

Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams

December 22nd at 8pm, Post #63 was represented by Commander Kim Lambouris along with S.A.L. member Doniven Dunaway and Auxiliary member Kiana Okamura for *"Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams"* at Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital. This event gives emotional support to sick children who found themselves hospitalized during the Christmas Holiday.

Please visit https://tinyurl.com/y9b8setu to see a video of this extraordinarily touching event.

Oratorical Contest

About the Oratorical Contest

"A Constitutional Speech Contest"

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. The program has featured numerous politicians and prominent contestants over the years, including former president candidate Alan Keyes and CNN anchor Lou Dobbs.

Benjamin Hodston (L) Oratorical Contest Winner for Post 63, Judge Steve Lyon (C), Judge Alisa Lyon (R), and Kim Lambouris.

Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over $138,000 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets an $18,000 scholarship. Second place takes home $16,000, and third gets $14,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a $1,500 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional $1,500 scholarship. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

High school students under age 20 are eligible. Competition begins at the post level and advances to a state competition. Legion department representatives certify one winner per state to the national contest, where department winners compete against each other in two speaking rounds. The contest caps off with a final round that decides the three top finishers.

Speaking subjects must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. Speeches are eight to 10 minutes long; three- to five-minute speeches on an assigned topic also are part of the contest.

For more information:
oratorical@legion.org

The American Legion Post #63 would like to extend a special THANK YOU to the following people and organizations for selflessly donating to our Wild Game Dinner.

Don Carter
Gordon Ross
Donnie Hunt
Dave Lowe
Cher Jones
Eric Laboissonniere
Amy Laboissonniere
Lance Salsgiver
Kathleen Cicarella
Troy Salsgiver
Michelle Schuler-Gaul—Keller Williams
The Fed—Clarkston
Rudy's Market and Catering
Essence on Main
Kimberly Pasquantonio—Mary Kay

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 1pm Flaming Pistons 2pm Club Hall Renta	28	29 6:30pm Oratorical Co	30	31 6:30pm shuffleboard	Feb 1	2 Cub Scout Blue & G
3 SUPERBOWL	4	5	6 8pm IVMHA Meeting	7 6:30pm shuffleboard	8 3:30pm Set-up Hall V	9 Wild Game
10	11 7pm SAL Meeting	12 7pm Aux. Meeting	13 7pm Legion Member	14 6:30pm shuffleboard	15	16 Rental
17	18 FOP	19	20 7pm E-Board Meetin	21 FTroop Meeting 6:30pm shuffleboard	22	23 Comedy Show
24 1pm Flaming Pistons 2pm Club Hall Renta	25	26	27	28 1pm Blood Drive 6:30pm shuffleboard	Mar 1	2

DETATCH AND STICK TO YOUR FRIDGE!

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
24 1pm Flaming Pistons 2pm Club Hall Renta	25	26	27	28 1 6 rd	Mar 1	2
3	4	5	6 7pm Legion Member	7 6:30pm shuffleboard	8	9
10	11 7pm SAL Meeting	12 7pm Aux. Meeting	13	14 6:30pm shuffleboard	15	16
17 St. Patricks Day Pa	18 FOP	19 Pinewood Derby W	20 7pm E-Board Meetin	21 6:30pm shuffleboard	22 Pinewood Derby Ra	23
24 1pm Flaming Pistons 2pm Club Hall Renta	25	26	27	28 FTroop Meeting 6:30pm shuffleboard	29	30
31	Apr 1	2	3 7pm Legion Member 8pm IVMHA Meeting	4 6:30pm shuffleboard	5	6

DETATCH AND STICK TO YOUR FRIDGE!

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Whatever the actual numbers, however, the critical fact remains that many thousands of civilian merchant mariners bravely served the United States during World War II, and thousands of those sailors died in combat, without receiving the honor, recognition and respect of similar sacrifices made by the uniformed military services.

According to the War Shipping Administration, a total of 1,554 merchant ships were sunk during World War II due to war-related conditions, including 733 ships of over 1,000 gross tons. Hundreds of other ships were damaged, many beyond repair. The ships lost included those that were victims of torpedoes, bombs, mines, kamikaze attack or other combat actions, as well as those lost due to other maritime accidents (fires, explosions, groundings, collisions, overwhelmed by weather or sea) that were often caused or exacerbated by wartime conditions. Some foreign-flag ships, especially those having U.S. Navy Armed Guard detachments, are included in these totals. Other sources place losses in excess of 1,700 merchant ships.

Aerial view of burning convoy ship SS Pennsylvania Sun after being struck by a torpedo in the North Atlantic, July 15, 1942.

Even before World War II began for the United States, the U.S. merchant marine had already experienced the deadly impact of war. As early as November 1940, the U.S. merchant ship SS CITY OF RAYVILLE sank after either being torpedoed or striking a mine off the coast of Australia, with the loss of one crewman. In May 1941 an unarmed merchant ship, SS ROBIN MOORE, sank off the west coast of Africa after being torpedoed by a German submarine. In all 17 U.S. merchant vessels were sunk, and many others were damaged, detained or threatened, before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. More than 200 merchant mariners died in these prewar attacks.

Nor did the dangers of war end with the surrender of the Axis powers. No fewer than 87 U.S. merchant ships were sunk or damaged between September 2, 1945, the date of the formal Japanese surrender aboard USS MISSOURI , and 1950, in most cases by striking mines. Of these 87 ships at least 42 sank or were damaged beyond repair. As late as August 8, 1950, SS AMERICAN PLANTER was damaged upon striking a mine in the northeast Atlantic. An unknown number of U.S. merchant seamen died in these various postwar mishaps.

Despite their honorable, vital and heroic service in wartime, the men of the U.S. merchant marine were not accorded veteran status until decades following the end of World War II. Only in 1988 were merchant mariners who served in World War II officially recognized as veterans, and then only after a long court battle and after having been turned down repeatedly in earlier attempts to gain veteran status.

The men of the U.S. Maritime Service, the organization that trained the men of the merchant marine, never received veteran status.

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To:

E-Mail is the preferred method of delivery.

Contact Dean Lambouris at: post63newsletter@comcast.net

401k Rollover Advice and IRA Investment Management

To Schedule an Appointment at our Office
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