



# THE GRAF-O'HARA MESSENGER

3230 S. WAGNER ROAD PO BOX 2509, ANN ARBOR, MI 48106  
(Between Ann Arbor and Saline)  
Meetings – 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Each Month at 8:00PM

## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

### Auxiliary President's Message

I am very proud to have been elected again to the position of Auxiliary President. I feel very fortunate to have such a hard working and helpful group of ladies to help me, without them nothing could be done. They are always ready to help at a moments notice.

We are going to have our annual Christmas Party in December for the children and grandchildren of the Post members. Kay Davis is already hard at work on this project and she does a wonderful job (see the article for details).

At this time Ralph and I would like to thank all the Post and Auxiliary members for all the help you have given us during this time since our home burned. You have been a wonderful extended caring family. – President Marilyn West

### *WWII & Korean War Veterans Picnic 2007*



### Commander's Message

The Fall color season is upon us again. It is this time of year that our Post grounds are very colorful with the leaves painted their vibrant colors.

Fall also brings us to our next Past Commander – Past President dinner. On Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> cocktail hour will begin at 5 pm and dinner will be served at 6 pm. All members and a guest are invited to attend for free. This event honors all past Commanders and Presidents. But we must have a headcount for the caterer, we ask that you please RSVP to the Post by October 14<sup>th</sup> by calling Milton Davis at (734) 428-7874. Please leave your name, number of people attending and phone number. Thank you.

I hope you check out the other events we have coming up, and are able to attend them also.



We lost one of the longest standing members and most active member over the past 30 or so years, Comrade Fred Bentz. The person the drive into our

Post is named after. Fred passed away on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Fred was such a compassionate, caring and kind man. I was honored to speak at his funeral representing our Post. Fred was our Post Chaplain and Poppy Sales chairman for decades. He had more volunteer hours at the Ann Arbor VA than all the rest of our Post members put together, which was around 19,000 hours. For many years he, Betty Flanders and others had a band that performed all around the area at different functions. He will truly be missed at our Post. The influence he had on our Post will go on for many years. We were fortunate to receive two of his oil paintings, which are being framed and will be hanging at our post soon.

Our Second annual WWII and Korean War Veterans picnic was another nice success. I believe all who attended really enjoyed themselves. Murl Eastman with his jokes and magic were the

hit of the afternoon again. Thank you, Murl. And a big thank you to all who



helped make that day a nice success. The auxiliary, led by Marilyn West, did another great job for us. The museum set up was a popular part of the event too. Thanks Milton and all your helpers. We just had a good time honoring our senior members. Hope you all can make our 2008 picnic.

Our Post is making a special effort to recruit our more recent younger Veterans. Jr. Vice Commander Margaret Gersh has volunteered to take on this effort. The younger Veterans are the future of our Post and it is imperative that we get them on board with us and keep our Post moving forward. I know that around the state and the country VFW Posts are closing due to lack of

membership. We do not want that to happen to our Post. When Margaret makes a call for help to put on an event, or whatever, we need to jump in there and support her recruiting effort. – Commander Kinzinger

### ***Support Our Troops Packing***

Every two months before our monthly membership meeting we will pack Care packages to mail to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. We will start packing at 6pm and will be done by 7:15. Each time we will pack about 25 packages. The mailing cost is about \$16.00 per package.

I have put on my calendar the following dates for our future packings. Please add them to your calendar too. December 10<sup>th</sup>, February 11, 2008 and April 14, 2008.

If you would like to bring something to add to the items we purchase, that would be great. As suggestions, homemade cookies are at the top of the list. Then most any individual snack foods like peanuts, granola bars, sunflower seeds and crackers. Comfort items and stationery are good items too, like toothpaste, toothbrushes, pens, writing paper and envelopes. Other items that are good include recent sports and outdoor magazines, paperback books and Frisbees.

If you would, please bring a personal note to put in one of the packages. Those mean a lot to the troops. So, come on out and Support Our Troops. Then enjoy some snacks and Post members can then attend our monthly membership meeting.

If you are unable to attend, but would like to show your support for our troops, you can make a gift out to ‘VFW 423 – Support Our Troops’ and bring it to a meeting or mail it to the Post address. Thank you. – Commander Kinzinger

### ***CPR Training***

Before a recent meeting we received training on operating our newly purchased defibulator. Several members were shown the automatic verbal commands the unit gives to operate the unit. This is now located inside our VFW Post for potential use.

In conjunction with the purchase and training on the defibulator, we have set up a CPR session at our post

for 2 pm on Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Members of the Saline Fire Department will be providing the training. For many of us it will be a recertification. So, put this on your calendar if you are interested. This is open to members, spouses and family members. – Commander Kinzinger

### ***Iraq, Afghanistan and Persian Gulf Veterans “Welcome” Cook-Out***

Come to relax, swap stories, sit by the fire, enjoy food and drink, and meet other area veterans. On Friday, **26 October 2007**, VFW Post 423 will be hosting a Cook-Out intended to welcome new members, as well as bring less active members out to the Post.

The grill will be fired up at **6:00 pm**. The event is open to all current VFW members, VFW eligible veterans and spouses / guests. If you know someone who might be interested in joining our Post, membership information will be available. Please ask them to bring a copy of their DD-214. The first year of membership is FREE.

For more information, please view the website at [www.vfw423.org](http://www.vfw423.org) - Jr. Vice Gersh

### ***Post BBQ Cook Out***

Nov. 4th 1 p.m. Our post will be having a barbecue rib cook out for post members and their family. Please call Milton or Kay Davis (734) 428-7874 if you are going to attend, so we get a head count for ribs. The post will provide all the fix-ins and refreshments. We hope you can attend, come out and have some great ribs cooked by Master BBQ Cook Fred Wigley. This a chance is see the post grounds and see old friends and make new ones. Come out, enjoy and support your post.

Quartermaster Davis

### ***Post Children’s Christmas Party***

Dec. 9, 2007 1-4 p.m. Santa will arrive at 2 p.m. This Christmas Party is for the children and grandchildren of post members and the children of local active duty military personnel. The post will provide a gift for each child.

*If you are going attend you must call Kay Davis at (734) 428-7874 and tell her the child’s name, age and gender, so each child will have a gift. Please call by Dec. 1st. The post will provide refreshments and a main dish for lunch, please bring a dish to pass.*

- Quartermaster Davis

### ***Post Museum Report***

I would like to say thank you to all post members who visited the post Memorial Day weekend and supported the museum. Thanks and see you next year, mark your calendar.— Quartermaster Davis

### ***Calendar Dates (see articles)***

October 8<sup>th</sup>, membership meeting 8pm

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm, CPR training at the Post

October 26<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm, cookout for potential new members

November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1 pm BBQ Cook Out

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm VA bingo party

November 12<sup>th</sup>, membership meeting 8 pm

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1-4 pm, Post Christmas Party for the youngsters

December 10<sup>th</sup>, Troops packing party, 6 pm at the Post

December 10<sup>th</sup>, membership meeting 8 pm



GRAF-O'HARA VFW Post 423  
P.O. Box 2509  
Ann Arbor, MI 48106



Murl And His Magic



Michaele Reeves



Party Not Over Until The Clean-Up Is Complete

The VFW Post is located at 3230 S. Wagner Road, between Ann Arbor and Saline, three miles south of Varsity Ford on Wagner Road. See you there!