

# Edward C. Headman American Legion Post 217

## “News & Views”

From the Biggest “Little” Post in Michigan and M.A.L.P.A. 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Newsletter Award Winner  
Newsletter Editors - Bob & Cari Ann Salamon (newsandviews217@gmail.com)  
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Sr. Vice Cmdr.  
Mike Huber

Jr. Vice Cmdr.  
TBA

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Pete Kalil

Historian  
Ed Gorecki

Chaplain  
Wayne (Bud) Shoup

Sgt. of Arms  
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Bob Mayrand

Service Officer  
Steve Mango

Past Commander  
Ed Gorecki

Exec. Comm.  
John Cook  
Martin Gore  
Norm Martin  
Frank Simon  
Doug Williams



Thank You National Commander, Denise H. Rohan and Department Commander, Brett Holt and First Lady, Bonnie Holt for your visit to Edward C. Headman American Legion Post 217.

The day was enjoyed by many members and visitors to our Post. It is with great honor to have them visit us. To be able to take the time out of their busy travel schedules, close to the Holiday season is unexpected and very much appreciated.

Thank you Senior Vice Commander, Mike Huber and Finance Officer, Pete Kalil for standing in for Commander, Bob Salamon. Also, thanks to all the members who helped make this visit a huge success. The National Commander was quite impressed with our level of professionalism, our friendliness and all the programs of the American Legion that we participate in. Job Well Done!!!



FROM THE COMMANDER

The year 2017 sure went by fast. We accomplished many things at the Post this year, from remodeling to new landscaping and sign out front, to providing all of the assistance to Veterans and our Community and Youth. Unfortunately the most important goal has not been met. We have failed to renew our membership 100%. We cannot fulfill our service to Veterans without your dues money. Maybe those who didn't pay don't understand the payment procedure. Dues notices go out July 1, 2017, and dues for 2018 must be paid by December 31, 2017. I have put notice in the last two editions of our Newsletter explaining this. I have humbly accepted the 'pats on the back' or the Thank you for what you do all year long, but to miss the 100% renewal of dues is a slap in the face to all of those who do the work to keep this post the "Best" in Michigan. Once again, I ask those who have not paid to please pay your dues. If you have a hardship that prevents you from paying, please contact me at 734-658-0408 and I will confidentially discuss this with you. Happy New Year to all of our American Legion Family.

Bob Salamon - Commander

SR. VICE COMMANDER

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I hope your Christmas and Holidays were blessed with family and friends!! As we go into a New Year we all make resolutions and look forward to a New Year. We make resolutions maybe to lose a few pounds, get out more for walks, clean up that storage room in the basement and so forth, all with good intentions, some we will accomplish and others, well.... we will get around to it!!!

While these are once a year resolutions, let's discuss things we should be acting on every day; some of our fellow Veteran's are having difficulties with health, bills, family, loneliness and much more.

We should, ourselves, commit to compassion, kindness, understanding and reach out to our Veteran's when in need of help. I myself have a passion to help our local Veteran's that are in need, which makes me so proud of our Post 217. We are such a giving Post.

This Christmas season, between the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, AL Riders a total of over \$5000 was given to local Veteran's Organizations and we adopted Local Veteran families for the Holidays!!! My challenge for the start of the New Year is for all of us to keep our Local Veteran's that are in need in our thoughts all year long with.... Compassion.... Kindness.... and Giving!! Happy New Year to each and every one of you!

Senior Vice - Mike Huber

Happy New Year! Thank you to all who supported the events we held this year to raise money, from the Post's sponsoring a half cent per mile in our 100,000 mile challenge, our Comedy Night and other fund raisers. We provided over \$4000 over the course of the year to families for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and our Boots on the Ground program in conjunction with the Michigan Veterans Foundation in downtown Detroit where approximately \$1500 dollars went to buy gloves, hats and of course boots for those homeless vets. We gave nearly \$2000 dollars to the newly founded Downriver for Vets to help them with purchasing what they need to provide services and support specific to our downriver community.

Speaking of our 100,000 mile challenge, we completed nearly 108,000 miles, an increase of over 6,000 miles from last year. In 2018, we intend to continue this program and will be seeking sponsorships for the Riders as a whole again, from our Post family, but if you would like to sponsor a Rider, that would be great as well. I was sponsored this past year by the Commander and his wife Cari, which earned a little more than \$100 toward our Veteran Outreach programs.

We have our Saddlebags of Cheer which last year raised nearly \$3500 for our programs that was a great start during our 2017 campaign. This year, we hope to raise more money, setting us up for 2018, with a great foundation to help our Boots on the Ground program and our continuing support for the Downriver for Vets organization.

Here's to wishing everyone a Happy New Year and hope 2018 finds you with all the warmth and joy.

"McFly" Martin Gore  
Director AL Riders



**Attention Veterans:**

If you need to file a claim with the Veterans Administration, the American Legion has a Veterans Service Officer to assist you, located at the Downriver Community Conference – John D. Dingell Building, 15100 Northline Road, Southgate, Michigan 48195. Effective March 1, 2017, hours are every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm in Room 100 (park in the west parking lot / enter through the Michigan Works Entrance). Bring a copy of your DD 214 paperwork, or for WWII Vets, bring a copy of your discharge paperwork. - 313-964-6640 - Ask for the Southgate Office.

Fellow Comrades:

Another year has passed; I truly hope and pray it was a pleasant experience for you.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ blessed our family with food health and many blessings. We thank Him for all He has done for us, sinners we are; even so, He still loves all of us. He died on the cross and on the third day was raised from the dead for our Redemption, praise God!

Pray for our active men and women who are serving their country now, and their families, for protection, also the MIAs and their families, to be brought home soon. Also, pray for the wounded that they may heal and return to those who love them.

We look forward to the New Year! The challenges and promises that come with it, the promise that He will never leave us nor forsake us is a comforting thought.

I love all of you, more important than that, the lord Jesus Christ loves you even more to post life everlasting. Keep Him in mind this coming year; worship Him in a church of your choice.

Happy New Year and Valentine's Day!

For God and Country,  
Chaplain - Wayne "Bud" Shoup



Hello Legion Family,

I hope everyone had a great Christmas. A new year is upon us and hopefully a better one for all of us. Thanks to your support when we have fund raisers, we helped three families and two single veterans. We also helped 53 veterans with groceries for a month. We purchased 50 gifts for the veterans who are residents at the V.A. hospital in Detroit to give their family members for Christmas.

I went to the Thanksgiving dinner at Post 200 in Taylor with the veterans from John Dingell V.A. hospital in Detroit. I volunteered a little bit. It was a pleasure to meet the first female National Commander Denise Rohan and other Dignitaries from Department. After the dinner we hosted them at our post. Department Commander Brett Holt gave me his commander pin right off his shirt. I was humbled at his generosity. A good time was had by everyone.

Watch for post on Facebook or in Post lounge for upcoming dates on dinners or raffles. I know we will be having our annual Valentine Raffle 2/14. We are going to do a soup and chili cook off again in February.

Thanks to those who donated the socks, hats and food for the veterans and the homeless. We are still in great need for the food pantry. We take donations all year for them. It was fun shopping for Santa for the kids Christmas party. I hope everyone has a safe and prosperous new year.

For God and Country,  
Darlene Walker, President



**16<sup>th</sup> District Americanism Banquet**  
**February 3<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm \$17.00 per person**  
**American Legion "Stiff" Post**  
**See Ed Gorecki for Tickets**

**2018 DUES ARE NOW PASSED DUE**

**PLEASE SUBMIT PAYMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

**REMEMBER, IF YOU RING THE BELL TO ENTER THE POST, YOU MUST SHOW YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD TO THE BARMAID.**

**SHE IS FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ORDERS, NOT TRYING TO INCONVENIENCE YOU**



## Post 217 Memories

With the upcoming 100 year Anniversary of the American Legion, we will try to bring you some significant memories of Edward C. Headman Post 217.

I received a letter from Mr. Arthur F. Pepkie, member of A.L. Post 10 in Kissimmee, Florida.

This story starts with two brothers, (Earl Pepkie and Clarence Pepkae), joining the Army to go to war in 1917. They each changed a letter in their last name; in case something happened to them.

I believe they took their basic training at Fort Custer, Battle Creek, Michigan, and boarded a train for the east coast and then on to Europe.

The train stopped in Elmira, New York, for a break and some young girls met the train. A girl named Helen gave my dad Earl her address and asked him to write to her and tell her how he is doing.

On the train, my uncle asked my dad if he was going to write Helen. My dad said "No, I've got a girl at home (my future mother). My uncle asked for the address and wrote to Helen.

When they came back from the war, my uncle wrote to Helen, went down to Elmira, and married her. They lived in Elmira. Later on our family would load up the old car with us kids and a lot of extra tires and headed there to visit. My uncle and dad would visit the American Legion Post in Elmira to have a beer.

One time someone at the table asked my dad where he was from. He said, "Wyandotte, Michigan, Edward C. Headman Post 217, American Legion." A fellow at the table said "that sounds familiar. I believe I played taps for him at his funeral in Europe." This gentleman's name was Ed Scalla, he played taps for Edward C. Headman.

My dad invited Ed to come over to Wyandotte to visit the Post. Ed brought his bugle and presented it to the Post. To this day it still hangs on the wall at Edward C. Headman Post 217. I am proud to say I was there at the presentation.

Thank you Arthur Pepkie for sharing this memory.

Members wishing to write about your memories of Edward C. Headman Post 217, please submit to [newsandviews217@gmail.com](mailto:newsandviews217@gmail.com) or leave a copy at Post 217 Attn: Commander Bob Salamon.



## JANUARY

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday                               | Wednesday                                    | Thursday                 | Friday | Saturday   |
|--------|--------|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------|--|
|        | 1      | 2 <i>Honor Guard Rifle Club 10 am</i> | 3 <i>Legion Exec Comm Mtg 6 pm</i>           | 4                        | 5      | 6  |
| 7      | 8      | 9 <b>Legion Riders Mtg. 7pm</b>       | 10 <b>Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm</b>             | 11 <b>S.A.L. Mtg 7pm</b> | 12     | 13 Watkins Day 11:30 until Sold out<br> |
| 14     | 15     | 16                                    | 17 <b>Legion General Membership Mtg. 7pm</b> | 18                       | 19     | 20 Karaoke w/ Special Ed 7pm - Midnight  |
| 21     | 22     | 23                                    | 24   | 25                       | 26     | 27   |
| 28     | 29     | 30                                    | 31   |                          |        |  |

## FEBRUARY

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday                               | Wednesday   | Thursday                | Friday | Saturday   |
|--------|--------|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--------|--|
|        |        |                                       |   | 1                       | 2      | 3 Americanism Banquet @ Stitt Post   |
| 4      | 5      | 6 <i>Honor Guard Rifle Club 10 am</i> | 7 <i>Legion Exec Comm Mtg 6 pm</i>                    | 8 <b>S.A.L. Mtg 7pm</b> | 9      | 10 Watkins Day 11:30 until Sold out<br> |
| 11     | 12     | 13 <b>Legion Riders Mtg. 7pm</b>      | 14 <b>Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm</b><br><br>Ash Wednesday | 15                      | 16     | 17   |
| 18     | 19     | 20                                    | 21 <b>Legion General Membership Mtg. 7pm</b>          | 22                      | 23     | 24   |
| 25     | 26     | 27                                    | 28  |                         |        |  |

## TABS FOR TOTS

We are again going to list all donors to the Tabs for Tots program bi-monthly. If you donate tabs, please sign list located by the Tab Drop Box on the landing going upstairs. Please print legibly. Proceeds for Tabs for Tots goes toward pediatric items at Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital.

Michael Prato

Jerry Thomas

Mike Gyolai

Stacy & Linda Ciemnicki

Captain Dave Terry

Rob Gury - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

Rich & Linda Swetz

Eileen Houser

Al Starzec

Bill Payne

## TAPS

The Wyandotte Veterans Honor Guard performed 166 funerals in 2017. Anyone wanting information on becoming a member of the Wyandotte Veterans Honor Guard - please call 734-341-3307.



## Lottery Calendar Raffle

Our Post has been doing an outstanding job buying and selling the VFW Lottery Calendar tickets. For every ticket we sell, we receive \$3.00. Last year we received over \$6,000 in profit from these sales. This is FREE money to our Post. Please help us by buying or selling these tickets. They are available from behind the bar or see the Chairman Bob Salamon.

**Booster Club Members** - Thank you all for your donations.

In Memoriam of Louis F. Ciagalaq

Daniel Orta

Richard & Joanne Fronczak

Richard Henderson

In Memoriam of Vern Moffet

Patricia Moffett

James Bommarito

Colleen Billings

In Memoriam of Bob Reichelderfer

Bob Krolikowski Family

Ramond Pacheco

Richard Pacheco

In Memoriam of Jack Sutherby

Tom Talluto

Fred & Tom Milewski

Mark & Lorri Milewski

There isn't a dollar price per line. Whatever you wish to donate to help defray the cost of the newsletter is appreciated.

### Booster Club Form

Our Booster Club members are very special people. They help us continue to publish this newsletter. If you would like to join the Booster Club, please complete the form and provide your donation. We will add your name to the list that will be published in each issue.

PLEASE fill out this form, make your check or money order payable to the American Legion Post 217 and send it to:

American Legion Post 217  
ATTN: News Editor  
2817 Van Alstyne Blvd.  
Wyandotte, MI 48192

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Post 217 Change Information Form

Member of: Legion \_\_\_\_ Aux \_\_\_\_ SAL \_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name is spelled incorrectly please change the spelling to:  
\_\_\_\_\_

I am reporting the death of a member

Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out any pertinent information and return to the appropriate Membership Committee: (ie.. Legion, Auxiliary or Sons of American Legion)

American Legion Post 217  
2817 Van Alstyne  
Wyandotte, MI 48192



PLEASE MARK THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

|                                   |                            |                      |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| SERVICE OFFICER HOURS             | FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH | 5:00 PM TO 8:00 P.M. |
|                                   | THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH | 1:00 PM TO 4:00 P.M. |
| POST EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING      | 1 <sup>ST</sup> WEDNESDAY  | @ 6:00 P.M.          |
| AUXILIARY UNIT MEMBERSHIP MEETING | 2 <sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAY  | @ 7:00 P.M.          |
| POST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING   | 3 <sup>RD</sup> WEDNESDAY  | @ 7:00 P.M.          |
| SAL MEETING                       | 2 <sup>ND</sup> THURSDAY   | @ 7:00 P.M.          |
| RIFLE CLUB MEETING                | 1 <sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY    | @ 10:00 A.M.         |
| LEGION RIDERS MEETING             | 2 <sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY    | @ 7:00 P.M.          |

Steve Mango, our Service Officer, will be out of town enjoying the sunny weather. If by chance you need any help with Service Officer business, please do not hesitate to call him. He will do all he can to provide you the help and direction. He can be reached at 734-626-3552.



Time Sensitive Material - Please Expedite Delivery To:

Non-Profit Org.  
PRESORTED  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 97  
Wyandotte, MI

The American Legion  
Edward C. Headman Post 217  
2817 Van Alstyne Blvd.  
Wyandotte, MI 48192  
Phone: 734-282-2698