

A special supplement to the Perrysburg Messenger & Rossford Record Journals  
Welch Publishing Co. • perrysburg.com

July 2019

# Red, White & Blue

*Celebrating 100 years  
of the American Legion!*

*Honoring:*

*Perrysburg American Legion Post 28*

*Rossford American Legion Post 533*

1919

2019



A special supplement to the Perrysburg Messenger & Rossford Record Journals  
Welch Publishing Co. • perrysburg.com

July 2019

# Red, White & Blue

*Celebrating 100 years  
of the American Legion!*

*Honoring:*

*Perrysburg American Legion Post 28*

*Rossford American Legion Post 533*

1919

2019





**SKOTYNSKY**  
FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC

**Your Wealth  
Your Life  
Our FOCUS.  
LIFE WELL PLANNED**

*“Think Local First”*

**RAYMOND JAMES®**

**213 Louisiana Ave. • Perrysburg, OH 43551**

**419-873-1400**

**[www.Skotynsky.com](http://www.Skotynsky.com)**



Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC.  
Investment advisory services offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc.  
Skotynsky Financial Group, LLC is not a registered broker/dealer and is independent of Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.

# Perrysburg American Legion Post 28 marks 100 years

By Richard Baranowski

The American Legion was founded in the early months of 1919, and individual posts began organizing soon after. Many of the country's local American Legion Posts will be celebrating their centennial this year, including Perrysburg's Legion Post. Their application date was July 10, 1919, and that's the day their post number, 28, was assigned.

## A Little History

The United States entered World War I April 6, 1917. Four million people from civilian life would eventually find themselves in the military, and 2 million of them would go overseas.

After the Armistice was signed November 11, 1918, they all returned home to real life.

How to integrate these men and women back into society? There would be special needs for many, and it went far beyond each soldier's \$60 chit and a suit of new clothes upon release.

Returning soldiers would encounter many problems, including physical and emotional health, financial, employment, to name a few.

They also held insurance and other benefits which many were not aware of. These war veterans needed an advocate, and the American Legion would play that role and expand to others as the organization found its feet.

Fundamentally, the purpose of the Legion was to promote democracy, patriotism and Americanism and acknowledge the responsibilities of citizenship. They soon became a key civic group in their respective communities.

Other wars had spawned military societies, notably the Civil War's Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and Perrysburg had its chapter, although by 1919 the members had dwindled to single digits.

The "Great War" group would be its successor and carry on community endeavors started by the older outfit and begin new ones.

The American Legion had introductory caucuses in Paris and St. Louis in early 1919. Four line officers discussed their expectations for life after the Army. They were Theodore Roosevelt Jr., Major Eric Fisher Wood, Lt. Colonel William Donovan and Lt. Colonel George White.

Their ideas gained traction when General John Pershing asked to see Roosevelt because he was disturbed about morale problems among his troops. All these men were stuck in Europe and wanted to get home, and the army couldn't do it fast enough.

The former President was a shrewd fellow. He thought he could use this as a springboard to make a veteran's organization come true so he suggested a "Morale Conference." Under the guise of this meeting, held in February 1919, he formed a GAR version of the World War.

The Paris caucus took place in March 1919. An organization name was established. It would be called the American Legion.

On March 28, the army newspaper *Stars and Stripes* carried the first piece of publicity under the American Legion, announcing its formation.

A meeting in St. Louis on May 8 was held. A constitution was developed along with a state convention system. A chairman was elected and delegates chosen.

The first Post, Pershing Post No. 1 in Washington, D.C. was established, although national headquarters would be in New York City at first. Today the headquarters are in Indianapolis.

At the New York caucus in June 1919, the subject of eligibility was presented. It was suggested forming an auxiliary organization for mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of Legionnaires.

Taking a lesson from the GAR, auxiliary

members (women) had greatly aided that organization. They were good at organizing festivals, sales, food and clothing drives and other money-making projects. In years to come, they would play a large role in the American Legion and Perrysburg Post 28. There would be several local ladies' groups, the Star Service Legion, Blue and Gold Star Mothers, and most prominent, the Legion Auxiliary.

## Perrysburg Establishes Post

Perrysburg Post submitted their application July 7, 1919, and received the charter back stamped July 10, 1919.

The Legion was in business. They needed a minimum of 15 members. Perrysburg had 26 charter members. They were: Eugene Amos, Price Hall, Charley Marriott, Gus Schlect, Floyd Thornton, Lester Britten, Robert Johnson, Louis Marti, Carl Simmons, Marion Thurlby, Ralph Brokaw, Charlie Kopp, Schuyler Proscott, Christian Spilker, Erwin Ward, Louis Ehrber, William Leydorf, Paul Pheley, Lawrence Stewart, Harvey Weidner, George Greenhalgh, Harold Munger, Arthur Reape, Edgar Thomas, James Wisner and Olin Spibey.

Lawrence Stewart, a charter member, said in an interview years later that the original charter was signed by only 17 men because of some personality conflicts. "A little while later, the charter disappeared, and when it was returned, all 26 men had signed it."

These 26 charter members and other members (there were approximately 180 Perrysburg WWI veterans eligible) held their first meeting Monday, July 28, 1919.

John E. Priddy of Findlay, district organizer of the American Legion, gave a short talk in the village's civic room. He complimented the men on their promptness and enthusiasm by getting into the game early and securing so low a number as "28" for their post. Quite a prize for the tiny village of Perrysburg.

Bill King, several times Legion Commander, said that the Post's low number was sort of a status symbol and the group was always deferred to at district and state conferences. "We were always asked to speak first," he said.

At this first meeting in 1919, Robert Johnson was chosen as chairman, Harold Munger, vice-chairman, and Louis Marti, secretary. A constitution committee was formed with Paul Pheley, Eugene Amon, Merlin Bowers, Erwin Ward and Frank Inman.

Legion officers had to be elected and at the next meeting in September, Colonel George Greenhalgh was named Perrysburg's first post commander.

Vice-commander was Robert Johnson, adjutant, Louis Marti, finance officer, Erwin Ward, chaplain, Carleton Finkbeiner. There also were some minor posts chosen as well as executive committee members.

It might be mentioned that rank was blind in the Legion system. A man's station in the service had no bearing on his place in the Legion.

Perrysburg Post 28 went to work. Projects were planned and causes decided.

Probably the most important in those days



Frederick Schaller



Schaller Memorial Building

was the endowment fund, which assisted disabled veterans and orphans of veterans. The Legion also worked on securing compensation for injured soldiers.

In the meantime, the money-making activities to fund these institutional projects as well as local projects had to be created and organized.

There were plays, a musical series at the Town Hall and band concerts. There were dinners, a street festival, baseball and boxing.

In their spare time, the Legion regularly conducted various programs for the Boy Scouts and built a community skating rink. The Legion began transitioning into Decoration (Memorial) Day parade planning and coordination, slowly replacing the ever-shrinking GAR members. One of the great traditions of Perrysburg Post 28, they still manage the parade today.

At this time, there were 150 members. Dues were \$2 per year. The Legion first met at 111 West Second Street, above the old fire station. In 1924 they moved to the basement of the Masonic building in the first block of Louisiana. They began to get serious about a new building, and a plan was afoot.

In 1921, longtime local resident, Frederick Schaller, a Civil War veteran, created a trust in the amount of \$9,000 to build a memorial for the soldiers, sailors, and marines of Perrysburg and Perrysburg Township.

"I would like to have the money held in trust until plans have been developed to build it," he said.

Mr. Schaller died in 1923. Though a bond issue failed for a larger building in 1928, through citizen, civic and business subscription another \$12,000 was raised, and Schaller Memorial was built.

It was located on donated city property, which had originally been given to the village in 1875 by Willard Way. It was dedicated May 30, 1931. Perrysburg would be half the town it is without these two major benefactors, just two out of many.

The Schaller not only became the home of Perrysburg Post 28; it also became Perrysburg's community center. This building has been (and still is) used by everyone under the sun, such as civic, fraternal, for-profit and non-profit groups, private parties and wedding receptions galore. Mr. Schaller's name lives on. He most likely never imagined the many uses engendered by his dream.

## Perrysburg American Legion Post 28 Marches On

For many years, the American Legion's Americanism program has served as a clearinghouse for Federal Flag Code-based etiquette regarding the display and care of the

Stars and Stripes.

As mentioned, the American flag is key to many of the Post's community activities. They provide flags to such local organizations as the YMCA and Perrysburg Commons.

For years the Legion has given flag-etiquette demonstrations and disposal instruction to schools and various scouting groups.

On Flag Day, with scouts and schoolchildren assisting, the Legion conducts a flag burning ceremony at the Post to properly dispose of old unusable flags.

One tradition is the color guard raising the flag before all Perrysburg High School football games.

Every Memorial Day the Legion places small flags on all veterans' graves, 2,000 in all. And the Legion keeps the flags flying along Main Street, "my favorite job," Bill King says.

As of 2019 there are about 2 million members in the American Legion, about 1 million fewer than during peak post-World War II days.

At present there are 13,000 Posts, although the number changes as old ones close and new ones begin. Perrysburg Post 28 is still going strong and currently has 137 members.

Gary Nordahl is the current commander, and Don Toland holds the distinction as Perrysburg Post's longest serving active member, now in his 65th year.

Bob Romaker, a Marine veteran of the Battle of Iwo Jima, has been a member of the American Legion since 1946, when he joined the Custar Post, later transferring to the Perrysburg Post in 1963 after he moved here. "Harry Wilson, a WWI veteran was commander, that's how long ago it was," he joked. Mr. Romaker has held a variety of offices, including commander in 1978.

"Being in service, I wanted to be part of the group," he explained about his first joining after WWII. "There was camaraderie and a real band of brotherhood, among all servicemen—but marines the most," he added, laughing. "But overall, I thought being part of the Legion was sort of a continuing patriotic duty to serve the community."

Larry Brooks, Perrysburg Post member and Vietnam veteran, remarked about the anniversary. "It's been a long time, 100 years, a good thing. And longer I hope. We just have to make sure to get others to take over."

The Perrysburg American Legion Post 28 has seen many changes in the last 100 years, but it has remained an integral part of Perrysburg and continues to contribute its resources to the people and those principles that were established so long ago.

Happy 100th birthday Perrysburg American Legion Post 28!

## American Legion Post 533

# At the heart of community life in Rossford

The Rossford American Legion Post 533 received their charter on November 25, 1921.

The first meeting place of the Legion was the Ford Club building, which continued until 1948 when the present building at 145 Bergin Street was purchased.

The charter members and first officers were Henry Werner, commander; Guy Hill, vice commander; Donal Sage, adjutant; William Maddock, librarian; O.C. Reynolds, chaplain; Herbert Brown, finance officer; Louis Stonzcek, sergeant-at-arms, and Edwin C. Bowers, publicity.

Their mission was stated in the preamble to the constitution of the national American Legion:

“For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; To maintain law and order; To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars; To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; To make right the master of might; To promote peace and good will on earth; To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.”

To help realize these objectives, the aim of the Legion was directed at youngsters of the community.

Membership grew through the years, and in 1946, nearly 200 new members, who were World War II veterans, were initiated during a ceremony in the Polish Club.

The Legion has been well respected for numerous contributions to the Rossford community in the past 98 years.

Many generations have fond memories of Poppy Days, V-J Day picnics at Crane’s Woods, ball games, dances, feather parties, basketball teams, bowling and pinochle tournaments, golf leagues and Christmas parties for children.

The Legion also took on service projects such as sending Christmas presents to soldiers in service, raising money for war memorials and sponsoring



The American Legion Post 533 building at 145 Bergin Street was purchased in 1948.



At the Legion’s 50th anniversary—of the original members, four are in this photo: Herbert Brown, Peter Luyet, Stanley Nowak and John Wallace. Sitting from left are: Francis Curry, Herbert Brown, John Wallace, Frank Krings, Tom Wayton, Peter Luyet. Back row from left: unknown, O.C. Reynolds, unknown, Henry Werner—the first post commander, Neal Achter, Jeff Springer, Julius Smiarowski, unknown.

Buckeye Boys State and Girls State student participants.

Through the years, they have annually coordinated the city’s Memorial Day parade and ceremony, and marched in the Armistice Day parade in Toledo with other local Legion posts.

The post also was responsible in the mid-1960s for reviving Teen Town, a program for Rossford High School youth, in cooperation with the school district. The chaperoned program—later known as the Dog House—featured music, bands and dancing on Satur-

day evenings throughout the school year.

### *American Legion Auxiliary*

The American Legion Auxiliary has been an integral part of the Legion for many years.

On March 16, 1925, the members of Post 533 met with their mothers, wives and sisters to organize an auxiliary.

Temporary president Helen Wallace and temporary secretary Mabel Haworth were elected at that meeting.

See **ROSSFORD LEGION**, page 5 



Newly-elected Legion officers in 1972: Sam Pennese, Joe Anderson, John Names, Ray Bicanovsky, Adolphe Mierzewski, Joe Durco, Joe Minarcin.

# American Legion Post 533

## At the heart of community life in Rossford

◆Continued from page 4

Twenty-one ladies paid \$1 each in dues and took a pledge of “Loyalty to our work, God and country.” Members were to come from Rossford and Ross Township with meetings in the Legion room at the Ford Club.

In the following month, the ladies met and learned how to make poppies for the Poppy Day celebration. Mrs. Richard Cairns was appointed as Poppy Day chair. The event raised more than \$100, which was used for local disabled soldiers and their families.

Other officers in 1925 were Lillian Baldwin, vice president; Laura Zobler, treasurer; Mabel Haworth, chaplain; Leona Gallagher, sergeant-at-arms.



American Legion members march in Rossford’s annual memorial day parade during the 1950s.

### *Current American Legion Officers*

In 2019, the Post 533 officers are: Richard DeVaul, commander; Joseph Minarcin, first vice commander; Richard DeVaul, adjutant-finance officer; David Weaks, chaplain; Dennis J. Foy Sr., service officer.

Sons of the American Legion officers are: Kevin Weaks, commander; Dennis Blair, vice commander; Terry Wagner, adjutant.

Post 533 Auxiliary officers are: Mary Jo Anderson, president; Kathy James, vice president; Patti Anderson, secretary and treasurer; Kathy Middlebrooks, chaplain.

The Legion has led fund-raising efforts for many community projects. In the 1960s, Legion members Frank Newson, Andy Bobash, Buzz Bochazenko and Danny Knorek Jr. are pictured at right.

*Photos and information  
courtesy of  
Rossford Public Library  
local history department*



For decades, the American Legion has organized the annual Memorial Day parade. Pictured at the May 2019 ceremony is Post 533 Commander Richard DeVaul, at podium, along with fellow Legion members, Veterans of Foreign Wars officers and local community leaders.

## Edward Jones celebrates the American Legion.



**Justin R Knierim, AAMS®**  
Financial Advisor

849 Dixie Highway  
Rossford, OH 43460  
419-666-1910

**Edward Jones®**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC

MKT-5894I-A

## The 1930s: Boys State and Women's Auxiliary established



Memorial Day parade 1934. Color Guard, from left, Commander Ray Bayer, unknown, Edgar Thomas, Harvey Weidner and unknown.

Congratulations to our local **American Legions!** *100 years!*

**C&L Sanitation, Inc.**

Northwest Ohio's largest supplier of portable restrooms

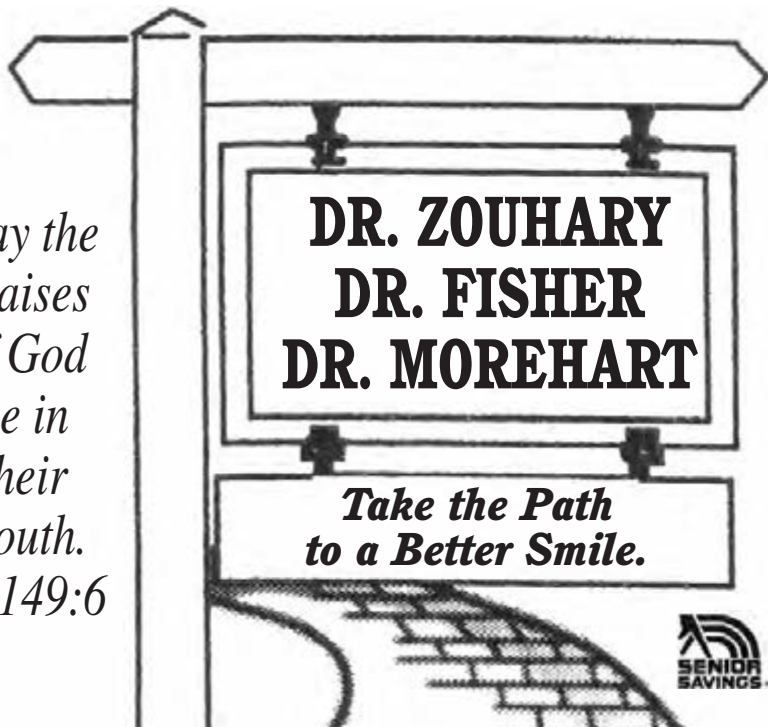
- Portable Restrooms • Restroom Trailers • Septic Tank Cleaning
- Portable Sinks • Portable Showers • Luxury Accommodations

(419)874-4653 • www.clswarents.com

C & L SANITATION, INC.

*Proud to care for our local veterans and honor their service!*

*May the praises of God be in their mouth.*  
Ps 149:6



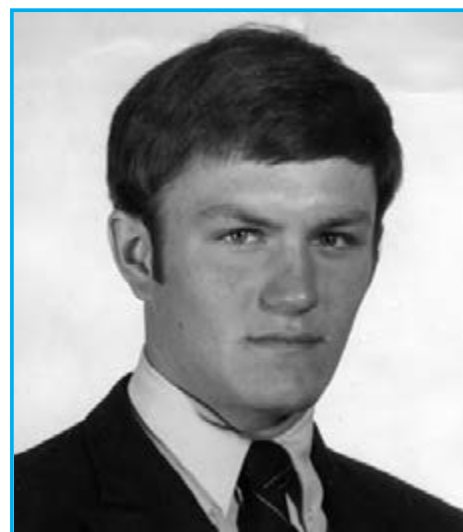
**New Patients Welcomed & Appreciated**

**419-666-3327**

849 Dixie Highway • Rossford, Ohio  
www.zfdentists.com

VISA

MASTERCARD



Hal Munger, Boys State 1971, was the second individual from Perrysburg Legion Post to be named to the Boys State Hall of Fame. Mr. Munger is a well-known area architect.

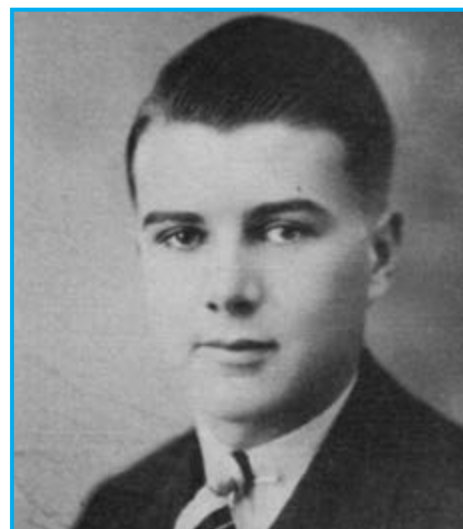
By 1931, the American Legion had 80 members. Dues were \$3.50.

After the building opened, dancing, which must have been quite popular then, seemed to be a frequent diversion.

There was a George Washington Day dance, a St. Patrick's Day dance, a Halloween dance and weekly square dances in between.

Perrysburg never had a venue like this before, and it was constantly in use.

In 1934, the Legion dedicated a bronze tablet at Riverside Park, listing the 181 names of Perrysburg Village and Township veterans



In 1936, Freddie Jacobs was the first Perrysburg High School student to be chosen by the American Legion Post 28 to attend Boys State.

who fought in World War I.

The 1930s also saw the establishment of the Buckeye Boys State program in Perrysburg. Sponsored and financed by the American Legion with the aid of state and civic organizations, Buckeye Boys State was the Legion's large-scale civics lesson, created to teach youngsters the practice of self-governance.

Delegates were chosen from Perrysburg High School, a junior with a good scholastic record, leadership ability and good citizenship. During week-long summer workshops, the boys learned how to set up a city, county and state government. Later, girls would be included in this program.

In 1936, Frederick Jacobs, a PHS junior, was selected to attend because of his scholastic, athletic and all-around school activity—he was a pretty fair saxophone player, too. He would be the first delegate to represent American Legion Post 28 at Buckeye Boys State in Columbus, where the contingent met that year.

There also was a Buckeye Girls State, founded in 1947. The Perrysburg Legion Auxiliary supervised this program. The first girl to attend from Perrysburg was Nancy Ford in 1952.

Perrysburg American Legion Post 28 has sent dozens of local students to Boys and Girls State over the years and continues the tradition to this day.

They are proud to have two local alumni in the Buckeye Boys State Hall of Fame.

Glenn Maddy PHS 1942, was inducted in 2001 and Hal Munger, PHS 1973 in 2007. This award is given later in life to individuals for outstanding work in their chosen profession.

The four students chosen for 2019 Girls and Boys State are Jena Kojuren, Daniella Morello, Olivia Thomas and Drew Paul.



In 1952, Legion Post 28 selected Nancy Ford, the first female from Perrysburg High School to attend Girls State.

# The 1940s: GI Bill and peak growth



The American Legion District No. 1 of the State of Ohio was held in Perrysburg in 1947, with a large parade taking place November 2.



1941 American Legion Baseball Team

World War II started in 1941. Soon thereafter, the Legion constructed a local honor roll board, which stood in front of Way Library and listed the names of young men and women from Perrysburg and the Township who went into the armed forces.

Extra wings were added to the board as the war progressed; it eventually held 800 names. The village carried its share of the war burden as the population at the time was a mere 3,400.

During the war, Perrysburg Post 28 met every two weeks with 10 or 15 members present.

Minutes reveal a steady effort to raise money to buy defense bonds, along with other donations to such groups as the Perrysburg High School Band, the Boy Scouts and to send a delegate to Boys State each year.

Don Canfield would get a projector from the school and show war newsreels—and the 1944 World Series, although it was three months old.

Often Auxiliary members would join the group after the meetings for a social gathering

In 1944 the American Legion helped create the Serviceman's Readjustment Act, commonly known as the GI Bill.

It provided a range of benefits for service members. Indeed, 18 million veterans would receive some form of education or training and 11 million would buy houses, farms, or businesses using VA low-interest loans.

Although Veterans Bureau Hospitals had been established after World War I, the GI Bill stimulated the construction and expansion of more new hospitals. It is commonly thought

that the GI Bill strengthened the U.S.

As early as 1944, Perrysburg Post was looking ahead to help returning veterans secure work, or getting them information on schooling.

They also helped soldiers arriving home to find places to live, as Perrysburg was experiencing a severe housing shortage.

The Legion also was anxious to sign up these veterans because they knew more members equaled a more successful Post.

By the middle of 1946, the American Legion experienced its peak year of growth. Overall, there were 3 million members, about 70 percent were WWII veterans. (There are 2 million today.)

With this expansion came new Auxiliary Units, greater in size, numbering 1 million by 1947. By that same year, Perrysburg Legion Post 28 boomed to 270 members. Typically, about 60 or more members would attend a meeting.

In 1947, the Legion began sponsoring a \$150 scholarship for one worthy high school senior. Individuals were chosen from a special Americanism and Government exam score.

Perrysburg High School student, Alan Henderson was the first recipient. This scholarship, awarded in odd-numbered years, would be a Legion custom for many years.

Another important project during the late 1940s was the campaign to fight rheumatic heart disease. A national effort by the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary to fund health research for this killer disease saved thousands of lives.



**American Legion Post 28**

*For God and Country*

Post Meetings are held  
the Second Monday  
of each Month  
9 a.m.  
Schaller Memorial  
Building



Enriching the lives of our older adults and their families throughout Wood County!  
305 North Main Street  
Bowling Green, OH 43402  
www.wccoa.net  
(419) 353-5661 or (800) 367-4935  
Perrysburg • North Baltimore  
Northeast • Wood County • Rossford  
Pemberville • Wayne • Grand Rapids



**The Wood County Committee on Aging  
Salutes  
The American Legion on  
100 Years of Service!**



**Experience MORE from the most experienced**  
Hospice of Northwest Ohio salutes the American Legion for 100 years of service and patriotism. Those same values are why we feature our We Honor Veterans program - caring for the special needs of our military veterans during life's final months.

**HOSPICE<sup>SM</sup>**  
OF NORTHWEST OHIO  
hospicenwo.org 419.661.4001

©2019 Hospice of Northwest Ohio

*Pledge of Allegiance*

**"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."**



**American Legion Post 28**  
invites the community to celebrate its

# 100th Birthday!

Friday, July 12  
6 to 8 p.m.

7 p.m. Guest Speaker, Richard Baranowski

Schaller Memorial Building  
130 West Indiana Avenue

Hot dogs and soft drinks!

Post 28 would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for its support for the past 100 years!



## The 1950s: Community projects aplenty

If there was a gilded age for Perrysburg American Legion Post 28, the 1950s would be in the running.

Membership was at peak levels, and an impressive variety of programs and activities animated the Post for citizen-soldiers to serve both the community and the nation.

One of the more notable projects of this period was "Tide of Toys," a nationwide drive to send toys to children in Europe.

In June 1952, the 1st District Legion Convention was held in Perrysburg. It was so large they met in the high school auditorium. Villagers were entertained with a large parade.

A Legion band and bowling team was organized. There were Legion-sponsored village carnivals held by the swimming pool and later in a blocked-off section of West Indiana in front of the Schaller.

For several years, there was a Halloween party and parade. American Legion Junior Baseball played most summers.

In 1957, the American Legion officially began sponsoring the Blood Bank, a local endeavor to collect blood for the Red Cross.

It was co-chaired by Howard Sweet—a service officer for the Legion for years and a dedicated volunteer. He died in 1994 at age 96 and was Perrysburg's last WWI veteran. "Uncle Sam was good to me, so now I'm helping him," he once said.

During the late 1950s, the Legion began sponsoring a Perrysburg High School essay contest. Essays contained historical, patriotic and science-based themes such as "America the



Longtime Perrysburg Legion member and post officer Howard Sweet in 1918 and 1991.

He died at the age of 96 in 1994—Perrysburg's last WWI veteran.

Beautiful: How Long without Clean Water?" There were state, county and local category winners, and cash prizes were awarded.

Traditional activities continued each year, including the Memorial Day parade, Veterans Day dinners and Thanksgiving feather parties.

There were numerous dinners, suppers, card parties and dances, all raising money for various causes.

## 1960s: Scholarships and bingo



Perrysburg High School 1961 American Legion Essay contest finalists. Seated, from left, Jim Stebel, Linda Wearly, Sally Gravett, Mary Sutter and Charles Deckman. Back row, from left, Legion members William Alwood, Herb Stemen, Leroy Frankforter, Harry Wilson and Ernie Craven.

One notable Legion service project during the decade was the annual selection of a student for the Don Canfield scholarship, named for a prominent village doctor. It was a \$200 award to a graduate of each high school class to be applied for college tuition.

The Legion also managed an American and Child Welfare fund, to help local needy families.

As they have always done, the Legion obtained pensions for veterans and helped get cemetery markers for graves and flags for the widows. The blood bank program continued.

In 1961, the Legion renamed the Kayetts—a girl's twirling and marching group formed three years earlier by the Mother's Club—to the American Legion Perry Bells Post No. 28.

They were a mainstay in the Memorial Day parade for many years and performed at other functions as well. The Perry Belles were retired in 1976.

John Parrish, Korean War veteran, remem-

bered joining the Post in 1965.

"Keith Muir was Commander," he said. "He went around to every veteran's house in Perrysburg trying to get them to sign up. He came to my house so many times I gave him the \$5 dues just to get rid of him."

Mr. Parrish was drafted as adjutant at the first meeting he attended and later was commander himself a record nine times. Mr. Parrish also was the Memorial Day parade master for many years. The 1960s also saw the Post again holding annual feather parties, Veterans dinners and Memorial Day parades, as well as the Boys and Girls State program.

Square dancing seemed to be the rage, and there also was bingo.

"We'd get a lot of people out for that," said longtime Legion member Joe Stockner. "Bingo made a lot of money for the Post."

Bill King wound up the decade as commander with the Legion carrying 235 members.

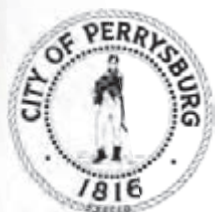
# Celebrating 100 years!

*Happy Birthday  
American Legion!*

*Thank you to  
American Legion  
Post # 28!*

*We honor you,  
our hometown heroes,  
for your bravery  
and sacrifice to  
protect our freedom.*

*- The City of Perrysburg*



# Commanders of Perrysburg American Legion Post 28

- 1920–Harold Munger
- 1921–Robert Johnson
- 1922–Edmund Schuster
- 1923–Robert Hartshorn
- 1924–James Troyer
- 1925–J.H. Harvey
- 1927–Harry Wilson
- 1928–Lawrence Stewart
- 1929–Don Canfield
- 1930–Edgar Thomas
- 1931, 1937–Edwin Ward
- 1932–Edgar Huffman
- 1933–Howard Sweet
- 1934–Ray Bayer
- 1935–Charles Kopp
- 1936–Dee Muir
- 1938–Art Morgan
- 1939–Floyd Redman
- 1940–Ed Meyer
- 1941–Harvey Weidner
- 1942–Don Canfield
- 1943-44–Harry Wilson
- 1945–Robert Barber
- 1946–Ernest Craven
- 1947–Fred O’Leary
- 1948–Dave Wambo
- 1949–Stanley Hoffman
- 1950–Robert Heslup
- 1951–William Alwood
- 1952–Richard Britten
- 1953, 1970–Earl Kopp
- 1954–Glenn Reither
- 1956–Albert Liebherr
- 1957–Harry Wilson
- 1958–Arthur Dunlap
- 1959–James Daniel
- 1960–Edward Hess



Past Commanders—standing from left, Chris Spilker, Dick Britten, Charlie Kopp, Ernie Craven, Herb Stemen, Bob Hartshorn and Ray Bayer. Seated, from left, Bill Alwood, Dee Muir, Lawrence Stewart, Harvey Weidner, Fred O’Leary and Harry Wilson.

*Photo taken in 1963*

- 1961-62-63–Herbert Stemen
- 1964–Don Toland
- 1965-66–Keith Muir
- 1967-68-69, 1971, 1974-75, 1981–William King
- 1972-73–Lloyd Mandell
- 1976-77, 1980–Phil Heath
- 1978–Robert Romaker

- 1979–Marvin Snyder
- 1982-83–Jack Sweede
- 1984, 85, 86, 87–Duane Reither
- 1988-89, 1990, 1995, 1999, 2001-02-03-04–John Parrish
- 1991–John Barber
- 1992, 1994, 1996–Ashley Gunn
- 1992-93–Harry Bugbee

- 1997-98–David Seiler
- 2000–Earl Orendorff
- 2005–Anthony Morea
- 2005-06, 2010-11-12-13– Craig Gauger
- 2007-08-09–Jack Shaffer
- 2014-15-16-17-18–Gary Nordahl

*Thank you for your service!*



**Lawrence Schramm**

U.S. Army  
WWII



**Albert Schramm**

U.S. Army  
WWI

Longtime residents and longtime members of the  
American Legion Perrysburg Post 28.

## Congratulations Post 28!

Thank you for your service and support of our community!  
from Paula (Schramm) Haas and Family

## Flag Days

**Q. When should the flag be displayed?**

A. The flag *may* be displayed on all days when the weather permits. Specific days, however, on which display of the flag may be most generally expected are:

New Year’s Day . . . . . January 1	Labor Day . . . . . Variable
Inauguration Day . . . . . January 20	Patriot Day . . . . . September 11
Lincoln’s Birthday . . . . . February 12	Constitution Day . . . . . September 17
Washington’s Birth . . . . . February 22	Columbus Day . . . . . October 12
Army Day . . . . . April 6	Navy Day . . . . . October 27
Loyalty Day . . . . . May 1	Election Day . . . . . Variable
Mother’s Day . . . . . Variable	Veterans Day . . . . . November 11
Armed Forces Day . . . . . Variable	Thanksgiving Day . . . . . Variable
Memorial Day . . . . . May 30	Pearl Harbor Day . . . . . December 7
Flag Day . . . . . June 14	Christmas Day . . . . . December 25
Independence Day . . . . . July 4	

and on such other days as proclaimed by the President.

We provide many types of massage for relaxation,  
injury treatment or just pampering yourself!

Offering  
Veteran & Military  
discounts

Specialty massages include:  
Hot Stone, Therapeutic, Prenatal,  
Couple, Reflexology, Aromatherapy  
Also: Reiki, Cupping & Foot Detox



## Bless

Our Troops & Veterans

Massage Therapy & Reflexology Center  
 214 Louisiana Avenue • Downtown Perrysburg  
(419) 873-SOLE (7653)  
 Book online at:  
[BODYANDSOLEMASSAGETHERAPY.COM](http://BODYANDSOLEMASSAGETHERAPY.COM)

BODY & SOLE  
 Gift certificates available

# *Thank you American Legion Post 28!*



Perrysburg American Legion Post 28 members, May 2019.

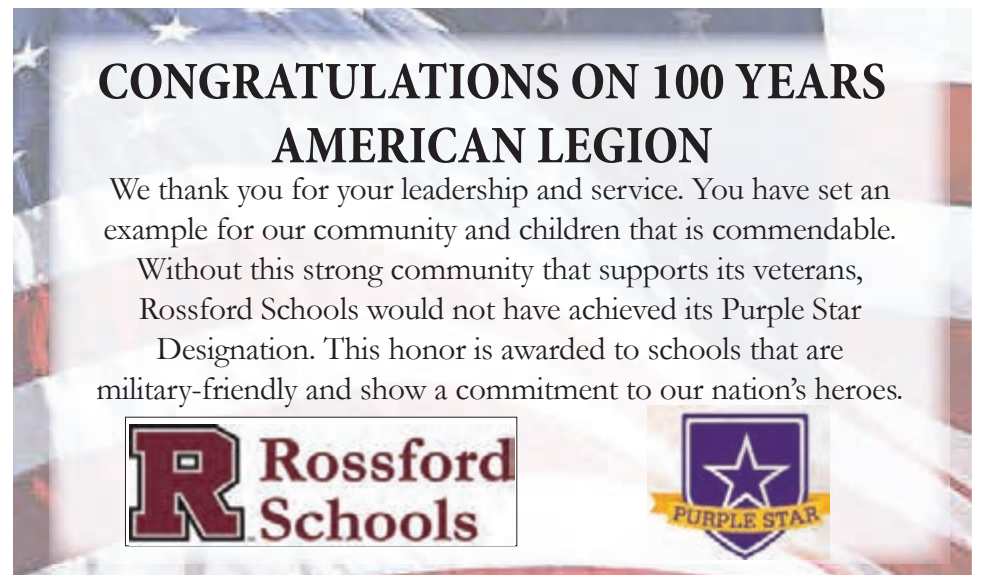
Standing, from left, Commander Gary Nordahl, Bob Peeler, Juan Artiaga, Roger Shoffner, Gene Mishka, Craig Gauger and Art Sobczak. Seated, from left, Bob Romaker, Larry Brooks, Gaven Smith, Doug Pratt and Joe Stockner.



Way Library  
*Congratulates*  
**The American Legion**  
on reaching the  
century mark!





We are ever grateful for your untiring service and advocacy for our veterans and our patriotic values!



**CONGRATULATIONS ON 100 YEARS  
AMERICAN LEGION**

We thank you for your leadership and service. You have set an example for our community and children that is commendable. Without this strong community that supports its veterans, Rossford Schools would not have achieved its Purple Star Designation. This honor is awarded to schools that are military-friendly and show a commitment to our nation's heroes.



## Flag Etiquette

There is considerable misunderstanding among the general public as to the proper manner of rendering courtesy and respect to the United States flag.

On December 22, 1942, Congress approved Public Law 829, commonly known as the "Flag Law," which codifies and emphasizes existing rules of flag etiquette. These interpretations are based on provisions of this law. Here are some questions and answers.

**Q. Is it proper to fly the flag of the United States of America outdoors all night long?**

A. No, not for individuals. Although there is no requirement that a night and day display be authorized by law, Section 2a of the Flag Code indicates as follows: "It is the *universal* custom to display the flag *only* from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, the flag may be displayed at night upon special occasions when it is desired to produce a patriotic effect."

**Q. When the flag is not flown from a staff, how should it be displayed?**

A. It should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out, or so suspended that its folds fall free as though the flag were staffed. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall or in a window, the union should be uppermost and to the left of the observer in the street.

**Q. What is proper respect to the flag during the ceremony of hoisting or lowering it, or when the flag is passing in a parade or in a review?**

A. Those present in uniform should give the military salute (men and women). When not in uniform, a man should remove his hat with his right hand, hold it over his left shoulder, his hand being over his heart. A woman salutes by placing her right hand over her heart.

**Q. In advancing and retiring colors, how should the flag of the United States and other flags or banners be crossed at the front of the room?**

A. At no time should any flag or banner pass in front of the flag of the United States. "Front" meaning nearest or next to the audience.

**Q. Is it proper to display another flag or pennant above the flag of the United States?**

A. No.

**Q. When should the flag be flown at half-mast?**

A. On Memorial Day (May 30) when it flies at half-mast from sunrise until noon, then it is raised to full staff until sunset. The determination as to when and for whom the flag is displayed at half-staff on State property is generally established by local custom, but may be the subject of state law, local ordinance, or other regulation.

**Q. How may worn-out or unserviceable flags be destroyed?**

A. The flag should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning, and in private without ceremony. According to an approved custom, the Union is first cut from the flag; and then the two pieces, which no longer form a flag, are cremated.

## 1970s: Bicentennial parade was a highlight



From left, Legion members Harry Wilson, John Parrish and Bill King with U.S. Congressman Del Latta.

Entering the 1970's, the Post continued its traditional events, such as Boys and Girls State and the Perrysburg High School scholarship award.

Something new was the sponsorship of a girls softball team with uniforms and equipment provided by the Post.

As needed, the Legion would routinely donate flags to every classroom, church and scouting group. A new Color Guard was organized under the auspices of Colin Plumb.

There were Children's Christmas parties several years as well as a weekly fun night most Tuesdays, with raffles, drawings, bingo and door prizes. The proceeds went to such groups as the Community Chest, Veterans Claim, and Epilepsy Campaign.

There were 198 members in 1975. Legion annual dues were \$10.

1976 was Bicentennial year. There was a huge parade June 30 with 120 units. It coincided with about the hardest rain to ever fall on Perrysburg, but the parade went on.

The Legion was much involved in the planning, as the 1st vice commander, Carl Schnei-

der, was the Post's delegate to the Mayor's Bicentennial committee. Mr. Schneider, a Vietnam veteran, organized the event and served as parade announcer.

A Legion scrapbook from 1977, meticulously assembled by historian Bill Christman, gives a glimpse of organizational doings.

Glenn Reither was a delegate at the 1st District Conference. Howard Sweet coordinated the Memorial Day parade.

In July, the 59th annual convention of the American Legion of Ohio was held in Toledo. New officers were elected, and the parade was held in downtown Toledo.

Perrysburg Post members spoke at various scout meetings throughout the year, and when the Wayne Post disbanded, the Perrysburg Post encouraged those members to join their group.

Later in the 1970s, the Legion began donating to the Kip Boullis scholarship fund, named after the Perrysburg policeman who, in 1976, drowned trying to save several people who overturned their boat in the river.

Many Legion members served on the Kip Boullis committee.

## 1980s and 1990s: Raising money for the community

Jack Sweede became commander in the early 1980s and introduced several new programs.

There was a large flea market, and several spaghetti dinners, all successful moneymakers.

A Legion baseball team was re-organized, made up of Perrysburg and Rossford high school students. To outfit the team, the Legion opened a stand at Towpath Village, selling hams and Easter plants and later on, vegetables.

Boys State and Girls State continued over the years with such students as Gary Rice, Chad Pike, Mike Cleary, Chuck Parcher, Stephanie Kim, Colleen Brewer, Heidi Steffan and Mary Kay Sattler.

The Legion, long a supporter of "Gifts to Yanks Who Gave" was active, sending needed articles and gifts to veterans who were in hospitals.

In 1983, the Special Olympics was held at Perrysburg High School, the American Legion Color Guard participating in the opening ceremonies.

In 1984 there was a dinner dance to celebrate the Legion's 65th birthday. Funds were raised for Toys for Tots, a program run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, distributing toys to needy children.

In 1986, the Legion sponsored a Cystic Fibrosis Bike-A-Thon, raising funds to help fight the disease.

Traditional events continued, such as the Memorial Day parade, feather party and Veterans Day dinner. The American Legion Color Guard also led the parade at the newly established Harrison Rally Day celebration.

### 1990s: Gulf War and Safety Awards

1991 was the year of the Gulf War. The Legion held a support-the-troops rally with speeches music and songs.

Legion members put up flags on Main Street, and they flew night and day during the brief war.

On July 4, there was a parade to honor Desert Storm troops.

Around this time, the Legion began a policeman and firefighter-of-the-year award, recognizing and honoring our local safety officers.

During the '90s, there was a Hold-the-Fort drive to support Fort Meigs. The Legion contributed monetary support for a number of years.

Boys and Girls State representatives different years were such students as Ryan Garn, Doug Duesing, Pete Roe, June Meyer, Amanda Gagel and Jill Stover.

**Thank you**

**American Legion Post 28**  
for ALL you do  
for our community!

**Rick Ruffner's**  
**O-Deer**  
Olivia Dana Emma Elle Rick  
**Diner & Ice Cream**  
416 Louisiana Ave, Perrysburg  
419.874.7070



The history of American Legion Post 28 was compiled and written by Way Library historian Richard Baranowski with the assistance of Post 28 member Joe Stockner.



### Post 28 senior member—65 years—Don Toland

Don Toland, center, holds the distinction as the Perrysburg Post's senior member—now in his 65th year. With Mr. Toland are Legion members Gene Mishka, left, and Juan Artiaga, right.

Get your copy of  
**Now Hear This!**

**Perrysburg Veterans in War and Peace**  
by  
*Richard Baranowski*



Own this historic volume recognizing and honoring our hometown veterans.

Includes the firsthand accounts of more than 70 local veterans, compiled by Richard Baranowski, Local History Librarian at Way Public Library.

**NOW AVAILABLE AT**  
Way Public Library • Kazmaier's • Churchills  
Welch Publishing Co.



### Schaller Memorial opens in 1931; rededicated in 2006



Above: World War I veterans, from left, Harold Munger, Ray Bayer, Howard Sweet, Robert Hartshorn and Gus Schlect, celebrated the opening of Schaller Memorial, May 30, 1931.

Below: In 2006, the City of Perrysburg and Post 28 held a rededication of Schaller Memorial. Pictured from left, Commander-elect Jack Shaffer, James Schaller and Mayor Nelson Evans.



# Ladies were instrumental in Legion success

After the American Legion was established, it did not take long for local women to become involved.

There was already a group called the War Mothers—renamed the Service Star Legion, a broader name which also included wives, daughters and sisters of soldiers.

Their mission was to help guard the welfare of servicemen and to lend aid and comfort to their families. Although they were not officially affiliated with the Legion, they worked together on many projects. Many were the wives of Legionnaires.

In 1920, Mrs. Don Canfield and Mrs. George Roose became the first state delegates from the Perrysburg Chapter.

Service Star Legion routinely organized the annual Armistice Day Banquet and poppy sales every May. They were involved in various community projects such as planting flower gardens and trees around the village, including a Memorial Grove at Fort Meigs in honor of World War veterans.

In 1934, the Perrysburg Unit No. 28 American Legion Auxiliary came along.

Auxiliaries had existed from the beginning in 1919, inclusive in the Legion's master plan, but mostly located in larger cities at first. Unlike the Service Star Legion, the Auxiliary was formally affiliated with American Legion. There were 22 original members, with Betty Bayer, president and Florence Thomas, first vice-president.

They were the American Legion's secret weapon. Not only did they materially strengthen local posts, the Auxiliary was effective in mobilizing women across the nation in helping secure the Legion's legislative and other objectives.

Women got things done. Some say they were better organized than the men.

And the group grew, almost a million by 1947. They were experts at fund-raising, organizing rummage, food or clothing sales, turkey dinners, barbecues, dances, festivals and raffles of all types. They dreamed up all sorts of novel ideas, including a large money-making local furniture drive.

If there was a way to raise money, they thought of it. It came in pretty handy during WWII.

Their efforts bought many war bonds and helped the USO, the Red Cross and later the American Heart Association for rheumatic heart disease research.

They also looked after the general welfare of their communities as only womanhood can. Those in distress would find them a helping hand.

It might be mentioned that there were two other service-related ladies' groups in Perrysburg over the years.

They were the Gold Star Mothers and the Blue Star Mothers. The Gold Star Mothers were those who had lost a son or daughter in active service in the U.S. military.

The Blue Star Mothers, founded in WWII, were those who had sons or daughters in active service. It derived its name from the custom of hanging a blue star in the window for each child off to war. A gold star in the window meant that a family member had died in the service of their country.

These groups offered emotional support as well as took part in community service projects similar to the Auxiliary and Service Star groups. It was not uncommon for women to be members in all these groups. The Blue Star Mothers routinely met in the Schaller Memorial and like all the ladies' groups, used the building at no charge.

By the way, the Perrysburg Blue Star window record during WWII was held by John and Louise Moreo. They had four blue stars, with sons Dick, Bob, Don and Paul all in the service—and all came back safely.



**Blue Star Mothers, Chapter 51, April 1950. Standing from left, Emma Kazmaier, Ester Wambold, unknown, Bess Kruse and Edith Schoenberg. Seated, from left, unknown, Florence Kopp, unknown, Melva Reitz and Hazel Phillips. Among the unknowns could be Bertha Goeckerman, Violet Archable or Lena Anderson.**



**Carolyn Baranowski was president of the Legion Auxiliary in 1958.**

**A major event for the Auxiliary was the dedication of Pine Street School (Frank School).**



**Faith Lamson (Navy WAVE 1945) was president of the Perrysburg Legion Auxiliary in 1951.**



**Commander Jack Shaffer with Elsie Perch who spoke about her experience as a WWII nurse at Legion Speakers Series in 2007.**

The Legion Auxiliary thrived in Perrysburg, their golden age taking place in the 1950s. Everyone seemed to have more time then as one paycheck did the trick and television, in its infancy, was considered not so great.

There were about 30 members, and they met once a month. They worked hard for many causes. They sold poppies every May, there were landscaping projects around the village. Someone needed a hospital bed, they raised money with a White Elephant Sale.

There were box and social dances, card parties, spaghetti dinners and pancake and sausage suppers. The group created a large wreath each year to grace the bottom of the cemetery flag pole during Memorial Day ceremonies.

One major project was remodeling a build-

ing for a Perrysburg Heights Community Center and adjacent playground with slide and swing set.

The Auxiliary elected a new president each year. Some of the ladies who held the office during the decade were Donna May, Shirley Dunlap, Pauline Schaller, Julie Muhn, Carolyn Baranowski, Betty Best, Beatrice Alwood and Faith Lamson.

The Legion Auxiliary continued their good works for many years, but by the 1960s interest began to wane despite a re-charter and several ambitious membership drives.

Times changed, and those still interested transferred to the larger Troy Webster Unit #240 in Luckey, which continues the tradition of the American Legion Women's Auxiliary.

# 2000s: American Legion Post 28 preserves local history



Richard Baranowski, Way local history librarian, and Leo Darmofal, Legion historian examine veterans photos in Post 28 museum at Schaller. Photo taken in 2004.

Memorial Day parade 2019: Legion members Bob Romaker, Glenn Cousino and Bill King.

A major project undertaken by the Legion in the early 2000s was to restore its photo collection.

The collection, composed largely of about 200 photos of WWII veterans, was languishing in the Legion office and slowly deteriorating. The photos had been collected by past commander, and 40-year service officer, Howard Sweet, during WWII. He had the foresight to write names of each person on the photo, an act which deserves special commendation.

Legion historian, Leo Darmofal, had the photos restored and reframed. He also collected about 200 additional photos from area veterans from all wars.

He then assembled a book with each person's photo and a short biography. He kindly let Way Library make copies of these collections, which they keep in their local history room. The originals are in the Post's museum at Schaller Memorial Building.

As keeper of local servicemen and women history, the Legion is a mainspring for the Veterans History Project.

The Library of Congress started this project in 2000. The government believed that veterans deserved to be recognized for their

service and their experiences preserved for permanent record.

Since then, the Legion has worked closely with Way Library on this effort.

More than 90 local residents, many American Legion members, have video recorded their service oral histories. Their stories are preserved in the Library of Congress collection—which can be electronically accessed worldwide—as well as for DVD checkout from Way Public Library.

The Perrysburg Post and Way Library collaborated to transpose more than 70 of these interviews to print, resulting in the 2017 book, "Now Hear This! Perrysburg Veterans in War and Peace." The story-collection is hometown veterans' history at its best.

In 2004, the Legion and Way Library held a major program to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day. Legion members and others who were veterans of D-Day spoke at the program. It was a popular event, with 150 people attending.

The History Channel sponsored a contest for public libraries in the United States that were creating events paying tribute to the famous invasion.

At least 2,000 libraries across the fruited

plain entered the contest, and there were five grand-prize winners.

Way Public Library was among those selected and was awarded \$1,000. This national recognition was a source of great pride for these veterans, the Perrysburg Post and Way Library. (The Legion and the library split the money.)

In 2008, Perrysburg Post 28 dedicated a monument to the community's veterans who gave their lives for their country, from World War I to the present.

Located at Hood Park, it displays the names of 32 departed veterans. American Legion members Doug Pratt and Joe Stockner were the motivating force behind the memorial, and through their efforts this monument became reality.

It might be mentioned that the Perrysburg American Legion Post 28 continues to honor those late veterans with honor guard cemetery ceremonies, where uniformed members fire a rifle volley, play Taps and present a flag to family members.

The 2000s also saw a popular history lecture series, organized by Jack Shaffer, Legion Commander. Held at the Schaller, it was a popular program for several years.

Around 2015, the Legion started the Bob Kervin Scholarship, named after the long-time Perrysburg Post member who died in 2014. A \$1,000 scholarship is given to a high school boy or girl chosen by the Legion.

In recent years the Legion also has donated funds to school snacks, a program that provides lunches for students in the local elementary schools.

Post 28 events revolved around the WWI centennial in 2017 and 2018.

The Legion dedicated a plaque in Hood Park in honor of the three Perrysburg soldiers who died in World War I.

In 2018 the Legion, displayed banners throughout the village's historical district, picturing an array of local World War I veterans to mark the 100-year end of that conflict, November 11, 1918.

In 2019 there is still life and spontaneity at the Post. Their newest project is to help build a Gold Star Families Monument in Perrysburg.

There are about a dozen of these monuments across the United States and more in progress—a tribute to families, relatives and children who have lost a loved one in the military.

## Perrysburg Post 28 Perry Bells



The Perry Bells (photo taken in 1970) were a baton and marching group sponsored by the American Legion Post 28.

The history of American Legion Post 28 was compiled and written by Way Library historian Richard Baranowski with the assistance of Post 28 member Joe Stockner.



Welch Publishing Co.  
 perrysburg.com  
 rossford.com  
 perrysburgprinting.com

*Firepit Grille is proud to support the men and women of the*

# *American Legion*

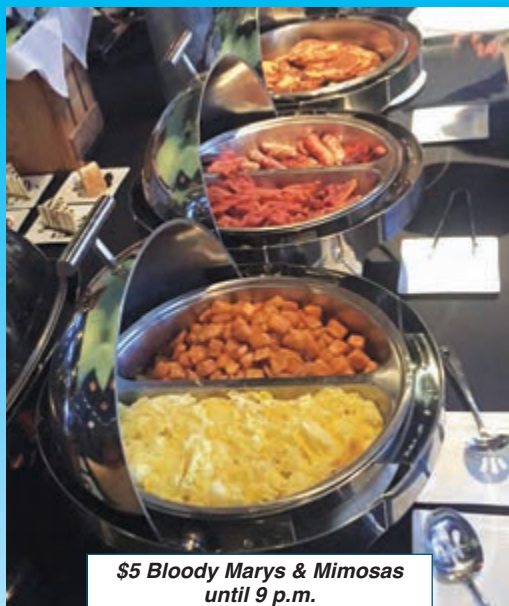
*and our local organizations!*



*Join us every Sunday!*

## **SUNDAY BRUNCH**

*Happy  
4th of July!*



*\$5 Bloody Marys & Mimosas  
until 9 p.m.*

**BRUNCH SERVED 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.**

*Yum!*  
**OMELETTE &  
WAFFLE STATIONS**

*Adults \$16.95 • 10 & under \$7.95  
3 & under Free*

CHEF CARVED SIRLOIN • SMOKED HAM • BBQ CHICKEN  
ROASTED TURKEY • MASHED POTATOES • CHEF'S VEGETABLE  
SMOKED SALMON • BISCUITS & GRAVY • SCRAMBLED EGGS  
SAUSAGE • BACON • OMELETTES • BELGIAN WAFFLES  
FRENCH TOAST • MACARONI & CHEESE  
HARVEST SALAD • FRUIT • DESSERTS AND MORE!

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR PARTIES OF 6 OR MORE



**7723 AIRPORT HIGHWAY, HOLLAND • CALL 419.724.4441 • FIREPITGRILLE.COM**



# *Congratulations to the American Legion on 100 Years!*



*Thank you for your service!*



## SKOTYNSKY

FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC

213 Louisiana Ave. • Perrysburg, OH 43551 • [www.Skotynsky.com](http://www.Skotynsky.com)

**419-873-1400**

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC.  
Investment advisory services offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc.  
Skotynsky Financial Group, LLC is not a registered broker/dealer and is independent of Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.



**SKOTYNSKY**  
FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC

**Your Wealth  
Your Life  
Our FOCUS.  
LIFE WELL PLANNED**

*“Think Local First”*

**RAYMOND JAMES®**

**213 Louisiana Ave. • Perrysburg, OH 43551**

**419-873-1400**

**[www.Skotynsky.com](http://www.Skotynsky.com)**



Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC.  
Investment advisory services offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc.  
Skotynsky Financial Group, LLC is not a registered broker/dealer and is independent of Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.

# Perrysburg American Legion Post 28 marks 100 years

By Richard Baranowski

The American Legion was founded in the early months of 1919, and individual posts began organizing soon after. Many of the country's local American Legion Posts will be celebrating their centennial this year, including Perrysburg's Legion Post. Their application date was July 10, 1919, and that's the day their post number, 28, was assigned.

## A Little History

The United States entered World War I April 6, 1917. Four million people from civilian life would eventually find themselves in the military, and 2 million of them would go overseas.

After the Armistice was signed November 11, 1918, they all returned home to real life.

How to integrate these men and women back into society? There would be special needs for many, and it went far beyond each soldier's \$60 chit and a suit of new clothes upon release.

Returning soldiers would encounter many problems, including physical and emotional health, financial, employment, to name a few.

They also held insurance and other benefits which many were not aware of. These veterans needed an advocate, and the American Legion would play that role and expand to others as the organization found its feet.

Fundamentally, the purpose of the Legion was to promote democracy, patriotism and Americanism and acknowledge the responsibilities of citizenship. They soon became a key civic group in their respective communities.

Other wars had spawned military societies, notably the Civil War's Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and Perrysburg had its chapter, although by 1919 the members had dwindled to single digits.

The "Great War" group would be its successor and carry on community endeavors started by the older outfit and begin new ones.

The American Legion had introductory caucuses in Paris and St. Louis in early 1919. Four line officers discussed their expectations for life after the Army. They were Theodore Roosevelt Jr., Major Eric Fisher Wood, Lt. Colonel William Donovan and Lt. Colonel George White.

Their ideas gained traction when General John Pershing asked to see Roosevelt because he was disturbed about morale problems among his troops. All these men were stuck in Europe and wanted to get home, and the army couldn't do it fast enough.

The former President was a shrewd fellow. He thought he could use this as a springboard to make a veteran's organization come true so he suggested a "Morale Conference." Under the guise of this meeting, held in February 1919, he formed a GAR version of the World War.

The Paris caucus took place in March 1919. An organization name was established. It would be called the American Legion.

On March 28, the army newspaper *Stars and Stripes* carried the first piece of publicity under the American Legion, announcing its formation.

A meeting in St. Louis on May 8 was held. A constitution was developed along with a state convention system. A chairman was elected and delegates chosen.

The first Post, Pershing Post No. 1 in Washington, D.C. was established, although national headquarters would be in New York City at first. Today the headquarters are in Indianapolis.

At the New York caucus in June 1919, the subject of eligibility was presented. It was suggested forming an auxiliary organization for mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of Legionnaires.

Taking a lesson from the GAR, auxiliary

members (women) had greatly aided that organization. They were good at organizing festivals, sales, food and clothing drives and other money-making projects. In years to come, they would play a large role in the American Legion and Perrysburg Post 28. There would be several local ladies' groups, the Star Service Legion, Blue and Gold Star Mothers, and most prominent, the Legion Auxiliary.

## Perrysburg Establishes Post

Perrysburg Post submitted their application July 7, 1919, and received the charter back stamped July 10, 1919.

The Legion was in business. They needed a minimum of 15 members. Perrysburg had 26 charter members. They were: Eugene Amos, Price Hall, Charley Marriott, Gus Schlect, Floyd Thornton, Lester Britten, Robert Johnson, Louis Marti, Carl Simmons, Marion Thurlby, Ralph Brokaw, Charlie Kopp, Schuyler Proscott, Christian Spilker, Erwin Ward, Louis Ehrber, William Leydorf, Paul Pheley, Lawrence Stewart, Harvey Weidner, George Greenhalgh, Harold Munger, Arthur Reape, Edgar Thomas, James Wisner and Olin Spyeby.

Lawrence Stewart, a charter member, said in an interview years later that the original charter was signed by only 17 men because of some personality conflicts. "A little while later, the charter disappeared, and when it was returned, all 26 men had signed it."

These 26 charter members and other members (there were approximately 180 Perrysburg WWI veterans eligible) held their first meeting Monday, July 28, 1919.

John E. Priddy of Findlay, district organizer of the American Legion, gave a short talk in the village's civic room. He complimented the men on their promptness and enthusiasm by getting into the game early and securing so low a number as "28" for their post. Quite a prize for the tiny village of Perrysburg.

Bill King, several times Legion Commander, said that the Post's low number was sort of a status symbol and the group was always deferred to at district and state conferences. "We were always asked to speak first," he said.

At this first meeting in 1919, Robert Johnson was chosen as chairman, Harold Munger, vice-chairman, and Louis Marti, secretary. A constitution committee was formed with Paul Pheley, Eugene Amon, Merlin Bowers, Erwin Ward and Frank Inman.

Legion officers had to be elected and at the next meeting in September, Colonel George Greenhalgh was named Perrysburg's first post commander.

Vice-commander was Robert Johnson, adjutant, Louis Marti, finance officer, Erwin Ward, chaplain, Carleton Finkbeiner. There also were some minor posts chosen as well as executive committee members.

It might be mentioned that rank was blind in the Legion system. A man's station in the service had no bearing on his place in the Legion.

Perrysburg Post 28 went to work. Projects were planned and causes decided.

Probably the most important in those days



Frederick Schaller



Schaller Memorial Building

was the endowment fund, which assisted disabled veterans and orphans of veterans. The Legion also worked on securing compensation for injured soldiers.

In the meantime, the money-making activities to fund these institutional projects as well as local projects had to be created and organized.

There were plays, a musical series at the Town Hall and band concerts. There were dinners, a street festival, baseball and boxing.

In their spare time, the Legion regularly conducted various programs for the Boy Scouts and built a community skating rink. The Legion began transitioning into Decoration (Memorial) Day parade planning and coordination, slowly replacing the ever-shrinking GAR members. One of the great traditions of Perrysburg Post 28, they still manage the parade today.

At this time, there were 150 members. Dues were \$2 per year. The Legion first met at 111 West Second Street, above the old fire station. In 1924 they moved to the basement of the Masonic building in the first block of Louisiana. They began to get serious about a new building, and a plan was afoot.

In 1921, longtime local resident, Frederick Schaller, a Civil War veteran, created a trust in the amount of \$9,000 to build a memorial for the soldiers, sailors, and marines of Perrysburg and Perrysburg Township.

"I would like to have the money held in trust until plans have been developed to build it," he said.

Mr. Schaller died in 1923. Though a bond issue failed for a larger building in 1928, through citizen, civic and business subscription another \$12,000 was raised, and Schaller Memorial was built.

It was located on donated city property, which had originally been given to the village in 1875 by Willard Way. It was dedicated May 30, 1931. Perrysburg would be half the town it is without these two major benefactors, just two out of many.

The Schaller not only became the home of Perrysburg Post 28; it also became Perrysburg's community center. This building has been (and still is) used by everyone under the sun, such as civic, fraternal, for-profit and non-profit groups, private parties and wedding receptions galore. Mr. Schaller's name lives on. He most likely never imagined the many uses engendered by his dream.

## Perrysburg American Legion Post 28 Marches On

For many years, the American Legion's Americanism program has served as a clearinghouse for Federal Flag Code-based etiquette regarding the display and care of the

Stars and Stripes.

As mentioned, the American flag is key to many of the Post's community activities. They provide flags to such local organizations as the YMCA and Perrysburg Commons.

For years the Legion has given flag-etiquette demonstrations and disposal instruction to schools and various scouting groups.

On Flag Day, with scouts and schoolchildren assisting, the Legion conducts a flag burning ceremony at the Post to properly dispose of old unusable flags.

One tradition is the color guard raising the flag before all Perrysburg High School football games.

Every Memorial Day the Legion places small flags on all veterans' graves, 2,000 in all. And the Legion keeps the flags flying along Main Street, "my favorite job," Bill King says.

As of 2019 there are about 2 million members in the American Legion, about 1 million fewer than during peak post-World War II days.

At present there are 13,000 Posts, although the number changes as old ones close and new ones begin. Perrysburg Post 28 is still going strong and currently has 137 members.

Gary Nordahl is the current commander, and Don Toland holds the distinction as Perrysburg Post's longest serving active member, now in his 65th year.

Bob Romaker, a Marine veteran of the Battle of Iwo Jima, has been a member of the American Legion since 1946, when he joined the Custar Post, later transferring to the Perrysburg Post in 1963 after he moved here. "Harry Wilson, a WWI veteran was commander, that's how long ago it was," he joked.

Mr. Romaker has held a variety of offices, including commander in 1978.

"Being in service, I wanted to be part of the group," he explained about his first joining after WWII. "There was camaraderie and a real band of brotherhood, among all servicemen—but marines the most," he added, laughing. "But overall, I thought being part of the Legion was sort of a continuing patriotic duty to serve the community."

Larry Brooks, Perrysburg Post member and Vietnam veteran, remarked about the anniversary. "It's been a long time, 100 years, a good thing. And longer I hope. We just have to make sure to get others to take over."

The Perrysburg American Legion Post 28 has seen many changes in the last 100 years, but it has remained an integral part of Perrysburg and continues to contribute its resources to the people and those principles that were established so long ago.

Happy 100th birthday Perrysburg American Legion Post 28!

# American Legion Post 533

## At the heart of community life in Rossford

◆Continued from page 4

Twenty-one ladies paid \$1 each in dues and took a pledge of “Loyalty to our work, God and country.” Members were to come from Rossford and Ross Township with meetings in the Legion room at the Ford Club.

In the following month, the ladies met and learned how to make poppies for the Poppy Day celebration. Mrs. Richard Cairns was appointed as Poppy Day chair. The event raised more than \$100, which was used for local disabled soldiers and their families.

Other officers in 1925 were Lillian Baldwin, vice president; Laura Zobler, treasurer; Mabel Haworth, chaplain; Leona Gallagher, sergeant-at-arms.



American Legion members march in Rossford’s annual memorial day parade during the 1950s.

### *Current American Legion Officers*

In 2019, the Post 533 officers are: Richard DeVaul, commander; Joseph Minarcin, first vice commander; Richard DeVaul, adjutant-finance officer; David Weaks, chaplain; Dennis J. Foy Sr., service officer.

Sons of the American Legion officers are: Kevin Weaks, commander; Dennis Blair, vice commander; Terry Wagner, adjutant.

Post 533 Auxiliary officers are: Mary Jo Anderson, president; Kathy James, vice president; Patti Anderson, secretary and treasurer; Kathy Middlebrooks, chaplain.

The Legion has led fund-raising efforts for many community projects. In the 1960s, Legion members Frank Newson, Andy Bobash, Buzz Bochazenko and Danny Knorek Jr. are pictured at right.

*Photos and information courtesy of Rossford Public Library local history department*



For decades, the American Legion has organized the annual Memorial Day parade. Pictured at the May 2019 ceremony is Post 533 Commander Richard DeVaul, at podium, along with fellow Legion members, Veterans of Foreign Wars officers and local community leaders.

## Edward Jones celebrates the American Legion.



**Justin R Knierim, AAMS®**  
Financial Advisor

849 Dixie Highway  
Rossford, OH 43460  
419-666-1910

**Edward Jones®**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

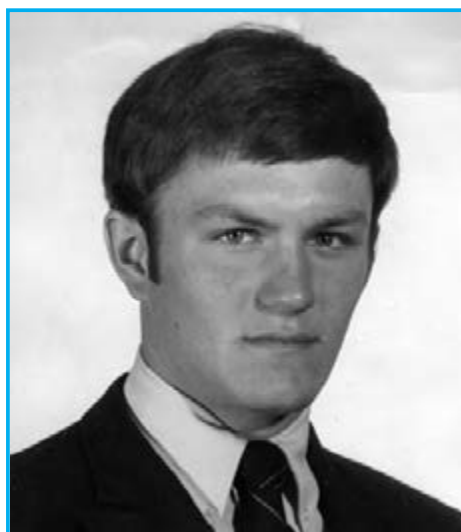
Member SIPC

MKT-58941-A

## The 1930s: Boys State and Women's Auxiliary established



Memorial Day parade 1934. Color Guard, from left, Commander Ray Bayer, unknown, Edgar Thomas, Harvey Weidner and unknown.



Hal Munger, Boys State 1971, was the second individual from Perrysburg Legion Post to be named to the Boys State Hall of Fame. Mr. Munger is a well-known area architect.

By 1931, the American Legion had 80 members. Dues were \$3.50.

After the building opened, dancing, which must have been quite popular then, seemed to be a frequent diversion.

There was a George Washington Day dance, a St. Patrick's Day dance, a Halloween dance and weekly square dances in between.

Perrysburg never had a venue like this before, and it was constantly in use.

In 1934, the Legion dedicated a bronze tablet at Riverside Park, listing the 181 names of Perrysburg Village and Township veterans



In 1936, Freddie Jacobs was the first Perrysburg High School student to be chosen by the American Legion Post 28 to attend Boys State.

who fought in World War I.

The 1930s also saw the establishment of the Buckeye Boys State program in Perrysburg. Sponsored and financed by the American Legion with the aid of state and civic organizations, Buckeye Boys State was the Legion's large-scale civics lesson, created to teach youngsters the practice of self-governance.

Delegates were chosen from Perrysburg High School, a junior with a good scholastic record, leadership ability and good citizenship. During week-long summer workshops, the boys learned how to set up a city, county and state government. Later, girls would be included in this program.

In 1936, Frederick Jacobs, a PHS junior, was selected to attend because of his scholastic, athletic and all-around school activity—he was a pretty fair saxophone player, too. He would be the first delegate to represent American Legion Post 28 at Buckeye Boys State in Columbus, where the contingent met that year.

There also was a Buckeye Girls State, founded in 1947. The Perrysburg Legion Auxiliary supervised this program. The first girl to attend from Perrysburg was Nancy Ford in 1952.

Perrysburg American Legion Post 28 has sent dozens of local students to Boys and Girls State over the years and continues the tradition to this day.

They are proud to have two local alumni in the Buckeye Boys State Hall of Fame.

Glenn Maddy PHS 1942, was inducted in 2001 and Hal Munger, PHS 1973 in 2007. This award is given later in life to individuals for outstanding work in their chosen profession.

The four students chosen for 2019 Girls and Boys State are Jena Kojuren, Daniella Morello, Olivia Thomas and Drew Paul.



In 1952, Legion Post 28 selected Nancy Ford, the first female from Perrysburg High School to attend Girls State.

Congratulations to our local **American Legions!** *100 years!*

**C&L Sanitation, Inc.**

Northwest Ohio's largest supplier of portable restrooms

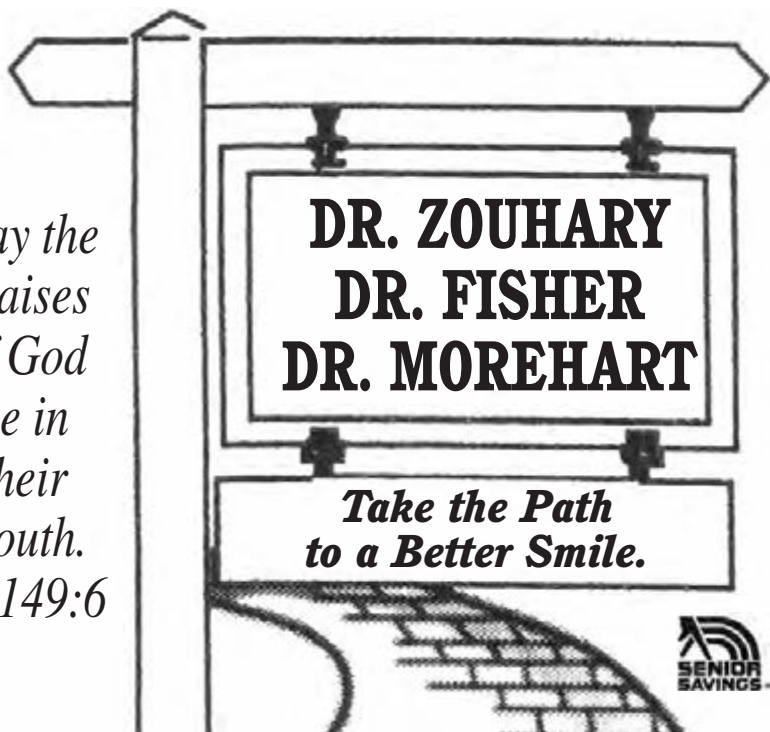
- Portable Restrooms • Restroom Trailers • Septic Tank Cleaning
- Portable Sinks • Portable Showers • Luxury Accommodations

(419)874-4653 • www.clswarents.com

C & L SANITATION, INC.

*Proud to care for our local veterans and honor their service!*

*May the praises of God be in their mouth.*  
Ps 149:6



**New Patients Welcomed & Appreciated**

**419-666-3327**

849 Dixie Highway • Rossford, Ohio  
www.zfdentists.com

VISA

MasterCard

# The 1940s: GI Bill and peak growth



The American Legion District No. 1 of the State of Ohio was held in Perrysburg in 1947, with a large parade taking place November 2.



1941 American Legion Baseball Team

World War II started in 1941. Soon thereafter, the Legion constructed a local honor roll board, which stood in front of Way Library and listed the names of young men and women from Perrysburg and the Township who went into the armed forces.

Extra wings were added to the board as the war progressed; it eventually held 800 names. The village carried its share of the war burden as the population at the time was a mere 3,400.

During the war, Perrysburg Post 28 met every two weeks with 10 or 15 members present.

Minutes reveal a steady effort to raise money to buy defense bonds, along with other donations to such groups as the Perrysburg High School Band, the Boy Scouts and to send a delegate to Boys State each year.

Don Canfield would get a projector from the school and show war newsreels—and the 1944 World Series, although it was three months old.

Often Auxiliary members would join the group after the meetings for a social gathering.

In 1944 the American Legion helped create the Serviceman's Readjustment Act, commonly known as the GI Bill.

It provided a range of benefits for service members. Indeed, 18 million veterans would receive some form of education or training and 11 million would buy houses, farms, or businesses using VA low-interest loans.

Although Veterans Bureau Hospitals had been established after World War I, the GI Bill stimulated the construction and expansion of more new hospitals. It is commonly thought

that the GI Bill strengthened the U.S.

As early as 1944, Perrysburg Post was looking ahead to help returning veterans secure work, or getting them information on schooling.

They also helped soldiers arriving home to find places to live, as Perrysburg was experiencing a severe housing shortage.

The Legion also was anxious to sign up these veterans because they knew more members equaled a more successful Post.

By the middle of 1946, the American Legion experienced its peak year of growth. Overall, there were 3 million members, about 70 percent were WWII veterans. (There are 2 million today.)

With this expansion came new Auxiliary Units, greater in size, numbering 1 million by 1947. By that same year, Perrysburg Legion Post 28 boomed to 270 members. Typically, about 60 or more members would attend a meeting.

In 1947, the Legion began sponsoring a \$150 scholarship for one worthy high school senior. Individuals were chosen from a special Americanism and Government exam score.

Perrysburg High School student, Alan Henderson was the first recipient. This scholarship, awarded in odd-numbered years, would be a Legion custom for many years.

Another important project during the late 1940s was the campaign to fight rheumatic heart disease. A national effort by the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary to fund health research for this killer disease saved thousands of lives.

## American Legion Post 28

*For God and Country*

Post Meetings are held  
the Second Monday  
of each Month  
9 a.m.  
Schaller Memorial  
Building



Enriching the lives of our older adults and their families throughout Wood County!  
305 North Main Street  
Bowling Green, OH 43402  
www.wccoa.net  
(419) 353-5661 or (800) 367-4935  
Perrysburg • North Baltimore  
Northeast • Wood County • Rossford  
Pemberville • Wayne • Grand Rapids



The Wood County Committee on Aging  
Salutes  
The American Legion on  
100 Years of Service!

**Experience MORE from the most experienced**  
Hospice of Northwest Ohio salutes the American Legion for 100 years of service and patriotism. Those same values are why we feature our We Honor Veterans program - caring for the special needs of our military veterans during life's final months.

**HOSPICE OF NORTHWEST OHIO**  
hospicenwo.org 419.661.4001

©2019 Hospice of Northwest Ohio

### Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

**American Legion Post 28**  
invites the community to celebrate its

# 100th Birthday!

**Friday, July 12**  
**6 to 8 p.m.**

**7 p.m. Guest Speaker, Richard Baranowski**

**Schaller Memorial Building**  
**130 West Indiana Avenue**

**Hot dogs and soft drinks!**

**Post 28 would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for its support for the past 100 years!**



## The 1950s: Community projects aplenty

If there was a gilded age for Perrysburg American Legion Post 28, the 1950s would be in the running.

Membership was at peak levels, and an impressive variety of programs and activities animated the Post for citizen-soldiers to serve both the community and the nation.

One of the more notable projects of this period was "Tide of Toys," a nationwide drive to send toys to children in Europe.

In June 1952, the 1st District Legion Convention was held in Perrysburg. It was so large they met in the high school auditorium. Villagers were entertained with a large parade.

A Legion band and bowling team was organized. There were Legion-sponsored village carnivals held by the swimming pool and later in a blocked-off section of West Indiana in front of the Schaller.

For several years, there was a Halloween party and parade. American Legion Junior Baseball played most summers.

In 1957, the American Legion officially began sponsoring the Blood Bank, a local endeavor to collect blood for the Red Cross.

It was co-chaired by Howard Sweet—a service officer for the Legion for years and a dedicated volunteer. He died in 1994 at age 96 and was Perrysburg's last WWI veteran. "Uncle Sam was good to me, so now I'm helping him," he once said.

During the late 1950s, the Legion began sponsoring a Perrysburg High School essay contest. Essays contained historical, patriotic and science-based themes such as "America the



**Longtime Perrysburg Legion member and post officer Howard Sweet in 1918 and 1991.**

**He died at the age of 96 in 1994—Perrysburg's last WWI veteran.**

Beautiful: How Long without Clean Water?" There were state, county and local category winners, and cash prizes were awarded.

Traditional activities continued each year, including the Memorial Day parade, Veterans Day dinners and Thanksgiving feather parties.

There were numerous dinners, suppers, card parties and dances, all raising money for various causes.

## 1960s: Scholarships and bingo



**Perrysburg High School 1961 American Legion Essay contest finalists. Seated, from left, Jim Stebel, Linda Wearly, Sally Gravett, Mary Sutter and Charles Deckman. Back row, from left, Legion members William Alwood, Herb Stemen, Leroy Frankforter, Harry Wilson and Ernie Craven.**

One notable Legion service project during the decade was the annual selection of a student for the Don Canfield scholarship, named for a prominent village doctor. It was a \$200 award to a graduate of each high school class to be applied for college tuition.

The Legion also managed an American and Child Welfare fund, to help local needy families.

As they have always done, the Legion obtained pensions for veterans and helped get cemetery markers for graves and flags for the widows. The blood bank program continued.

In 1961, the Legion renamed the Kayetts—a girl's twirling and marching group formed three years earlier by the Mother's Club—to the American Legion Perry Bells Post No. 28.

They were a mainstay in the Memorial Day parade for many years and performed at other functions as well. The Perry Belles were retired in 1976.

John Parrish, Korean War veteran, remem-

bered joining the Post in 1965.

"Keith Muir was Commander," he said. "He went around to every veteran's house in Perrysburg trying to get them to sign up. He came to my house so many times I gave him the \$5 dues just to get rid of him."

Mr. Parrish was drafted as adjutant at the first meeting he attended and later was commander himself a record nine times. Mr. Parrish also was the Memorial Day parade master for many years. The 1960s also saw the Post again holding annual feather parties, Veterans dinners and Memorial Day parades, as well as the Boys and Girls State program.

Square dancing seemed to be the rage, and there also was bingo.

"We'd get a lot of people out for that," said longtime Legion member Joe Stockner. "Bingo made a lot of money for the Post."

Bill King wound up the decade as commander with the Legion carrying 235 members.

# Celebrating 100 years!

*Happy Birthday  
American Legion!*

*Thank you to  
American Legion  
Post #28!*

*We honor you,  
our hometown heroes,  
for your bravery  
and sacrifice to  
protect our freedom.*

*- The City of Perrysburg*



# Commanders of Perrysburg American Legion Post 28

- 1920–Harold Munger
- 1921–Robert Johnson
- 1922–Edmund Schuster
- 1923–Robert Hartshorn
- 1924–James Troyer
- 1925–J.H. Harvey
- 1927–Harry Wilson
- 1928–Lawrence Stewart
- 1929–Don Canfield
- 1930–Edgar Thomas
- 1931, 1937–Edwin Ward
- 1932–Edgar Huffman
- 1933–Howard Sweet
- 1934–Ray Bayer
- 1935–Charles Kopp
- 1936–Dee Muir
- 1938–Art Morgan
- 1939–Floyd Redman
- 1940–Ed Meyer
- 1941–Harvey Weidner
- 1942–Don Canfield
- 1943-44–Harry Wilson
- 1945–Robert Barber
- 1946–Ernest Craven
- 1947–Fred O’Leary
- 1948–Dave Wambo
- 1949–Stanley Hoffman
- 1950–Robert Heslup
- 1951–William Alwood
- 1952–Richard Britten
- 1953, 1970–Earl Kopp
- 1954–Glenn Reither
- 1956–Albert Liebherr
- 1957–Harry Wilson
- 1958–Arthur Dunlap
- 1959–James Daniel
- 1960–Edward Hess



Past Commanders—standing from left, Chris Spilker, Dick Britten, Charlie Kopp, Ernie Craven, Herb Stemen, Bob Hartshorn and Ray Bayer. Seated, from left, Bill Alwood, Dee Muir, Lawrence Stewart, Harvey Weidner, Fred O’Leary and Harry Wilson.

*Photo taken in 1963*

- 1961-62-63–Herbert Stemen
- 1964–Don Toland
- 1965-66–Keith Muir
- 1967-68-69, 1971, 1974-75, 1981–William King
- 1972-73–Lloyd Mandell
- 1976-77, 1980–Phil Heath
- 1978–Robert Romaker

- 1979–Marvin Snyder
- 1982-83–Jack Sweede
- 1984, 85, 86, 87–Duane Reither
- 1988-89, 1990, 1995, 1999, 2001-02-03-04–John Parrish
- 1991–John Barber
- 1992, 1994, 1996–Ashley Gunn
- 1992-93–Harry Bugbee

- 1997-98–David Seiler
- 2000–Earl Orendorff
- 2005–Anthony Morea
- 2005-06, 2010-11-12-13– Craig Gauger
- 2007-08-09–Jack Shaffer
- 2014-15-16-17-18–Gary Nordahl

*Thank you for your service!*





**Lawrence Schramm**  
U.S. Army  
WWII



**Albert Schramm**  
U.S. Army  
WWI

Longtime residents and longtime members of the  
American Legion Perrysburg Post 28.

## Congratulations Post 28!

Thank you for your service and support of our community!  
from Paula (Schramm) Haas and Family

## Flag Days

**Q. When should the flag be displayed?**

A. The flag *may* be displayed on all days when the weather permits. Specific days, however, on which display of the flag may be most generally expected are:

New Year’s Day . . . . . January 1	Labor Day . . . . . Variable
Inauguration Day . . . . . January 20	Patriot Day . . . . . September 11
Lincoln’s Birthday . . . . . February 12	Constitution Day . . . . . September 17
Washington’s Birth . . . . . February 22	Columbus Day . . . . . October 12
Army Day . . . . . April 6	Navy Day . . . . . October 27
Loyalty Day . . . . . May 1	Election Day . . . . . Variable
Mother’s Day . . . . . Variable	Veterans Day . . . . . November 11
Armed Forces Day . . . . . Variable	Thanksgiving Day . . . . . Variable
Memorial Day . . . . . May 30	Pearl Harbor Day . . . . . December 7
Flag Day . . . . . June 14	Christmas Day . . . . . December 25
Independence Day . . . . . July 4	

and on such other days as proclaimed by the President.

We provide many types of massage for relaxation,  
injury treatment or just pampering yourself!

Offering  
Veteran & Military  
discounts

Specialty massages include:  
Hot Stone, Therapeutic, Prenatal,  
Couple, Reflexology, Aromatherapy  
Also: Reiki, Cupping & Foot Detox



Gift certificates  
available



**Bless**  
Our Troops & Veterans

Massage Therapy & Reflexology Center  
214 Louisiana Avenue • Downtown Perrysburg  
**(419) 873-SOLE (7653)**  
Book online at:  
[BODYANDSOLEMASSAGETHERAPY.COM](http://BODYANDSOLEMASSAGETHERAPY.COM)



# *Thank you American Legion Post 28!*



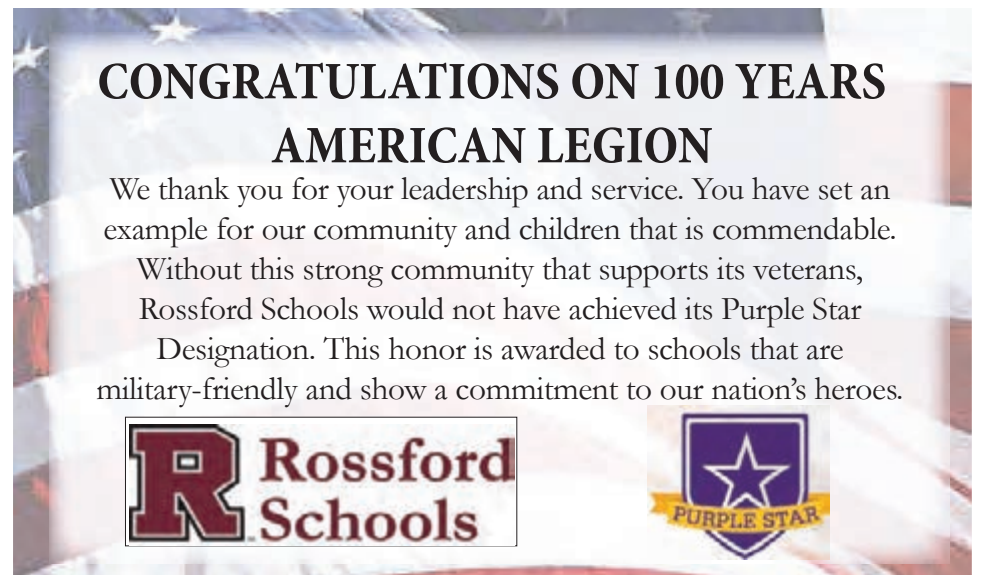
Perrysburg American Legion Post 28 members, May 2019.

Standing, from left, Commander Gary Nordahl, Bob Peeler, Juan Artiaga, Roger Shoffner, Gene Mishka, Craig Gauger and Art Sobczak. Seated, from left, Bob Romaker, Larry Brooks, Gaven Smith, Doug Pratt and Joe Stockner.





 Way Library  
**Congratulates**  
**The American Legion**  
on reaching the  
century mark! 

 We are ever grateful for your untiring service and advocacy for our veterans and our patriotic values!



**CONGRATULATIONS ON 100 YEARS  
AMERICAN LEGION**

We thank you for your leadership and service. You have set an example for our community and children that is commendable. Without this strong community that supports its veterans, Rossford Schools would not have achieved its Purple Star Designation. This honor is awarded to schools that are military-friendly and show a commitment to our nation's heroes.

## Flag Etiquette

There is considerable misunderstanding among the general public as to the proper manner of rendering courtesy and respect to the United States flag.

On December 22, 1942, Congress approved Public Law 829, commonly known as the "Flag Law," which codifies and emphasizes existing rules of flag etiquette. These interpretations are based on provisions of this law. Here are some questions and answers.

**Q. Is it proper to fly the flag of the United States of America outdoors all night long?**

A. No, not for individuals. Although there is no requirement that a night and day display be authorized by law, Section 2a of the Flag Code indicates as follows: "It is the *universal* custom to display the flag *only* from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, the flag may be displayed at night upon special occasions when it is desired to produce a patriotic effect."

**Q. When the flag is not flown from a staff, how should it be displayed?**

A. It should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out, or so suspended that its folds fall free as though the flag were staffed. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall or in a window, the union should be uppermost and to the left of the observer in the street.

**Q. What is proper respect to the flag during the ceremony of hoisting or lowering it, or when the flag is passing in a parade or in a review?**

A. Those present in uniform should give the military salute (men and women). When not in uniform, a man should remove his hat with his right hand, hold it over his left shoulder, his hand being over his heart. A woman salutes by placing her right hand over her heart.

**Q. In advancing and retiring colors, how should the flag of the United States and other flags or banners be crossed at the front of the room?**

A. At no time should any flag or banner pass in front of the flag of the United States. "Front" meaning nearest or next to the audience.

**Q. Is it proper to display another flag or pennant above the flag of the United States?**

A. No.

**Q. When should the flag be flown at half-mast?**

A. On Memorial Day (May 30) when it flies at half-mast from sunrise until noon, then it is raised to full staff until sunset. The determination as to when and for whom the flag is displayed at half-staff on State property is generally established by local custom, but may be the subject of state law, local ordinance, or other regulation.

**Q. How may worn-out or unserviceable flags be destroyed?**

A. The flag should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning, and in private without ceremony. According to an approved custom, the Union is first cut from the flag; and then the two pieces, which no longer form a flag, are cremated.

## 1970s: Bicentennial parade was a highlight



From left, Legion members Harry Wilson, John Parrish and Bill King with U.S. Congressman Del Latta.

Entering the 1970's, the Post continued its traditional events, such as Boys and Girls State and the Perrysburg High School scholarship award.

Something new was the sponsorship of a girls softball team with uniforms and equipment provided by the Post.

As needed, the Legion would routinely donate flags to every classroom, church and scouting group. A new Color Guard was organized under the auspices of Colin Plumb.

There were Children's Christmas parties several years as well as a weekly fun night most Tuesdays, with raffles, drawings, bingo and door prizes. The proceeds went to such groups as the Community Chest, Veterans Claim, and Epilepsy Campaign.

There were 198 members in 1975. Legion annual dues were \$10.

1976 was Bicentennial year. There was a huge parade June 30 with 120 units. It coincided with about the hardest rain to ever fall on Perrysburg, but the parade went on.

The Legion was much involved in the planning, as the 1st vice commander, Carl Schnei-

der, was the Post's delegate to the Mayor's Bicentennial committee. Mr. Schneider, a Vietnam veteran, organized the event and served as parade announcer.

A Legion scrapbook from 1977, meticulously assembled by historian Bill Christman, gives a glimpse of organizational doings.

Glenn Reither was a delegate at the 1st District Conference. Howard Sweet coordinated the Memorial Day parade.

In July, the 59th annual convention of the American Legion of Ohio was held in Toledo. New officers were elected, and the parade was held in downtown Toledo.

Perrysburg Post members spoke at various scout meetings throughout the year, and when the Wayne Post disbanded, the Perrysburg Post encouraged those members to join their group.

Later in the 1970s, the Legion began donating to the Kip Boullis scholarship fund, named after the Perrysburg policeman who, in 1976, drowned trying to save several people who overturned their boat in the river.

Many Legion members served on the Kip Boullis committee.

## 1980s and 1990s: Raising money for the community

Jack Sweede became commander in the early 1980s and introduced several new programs.

There was a large flea market, and several spaghetti dinners, all successful moneymakers.

A Legion baseball team was re-organized, made up of Perrysburg and Rossford high school students. To outfit the team, the Legion opened a stand at Towpath Village, selling hams and Easter plants and later on, vegetables.

Boys State and Girls State continued over the years with such students as Gary Rice, Chad Pike, Mike Cleary, Chuck Parcher, Stephanie Kim, Colleen Brewer, Heidi Steffan and Mary Kay Sattler.

The Legion, long a supporter of "Gifts to Yanks Who Gave" was active, sending needed articles and gifts to veterans who were in hospitals.

In 1983, the Special Olympics was held at Perrysburg High School, the American Legion Color Guard participating in the opening ceremonies.

In 1984 there was a dinner dance to celebrate the Legion's 65th birthday. Funds were raised for Toys for Tots, a program run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, distributing toys to needy children.

In 1986, the Legion sponsored a Cystic Fibrosis Bike-A-Thon, raising funds to help fight the disease.

Traditional events continued, such as the Memorial Day parade, feather party and Veterans Day dinner. The American Legion Color Guard also led the parade at the newly established Harrison Rally Day celebration.

### 1990s: Gulf War and Safety Awards

1991 was the year of the Gulf War. The Legion held a support-the-troops rally with speeches music and songs.

Legion members put up flags on Main Street, and they flew night and day during the brief war.

On July 4, there was a parade to honor Desert Storm troops.

Around this time, the Legion began a policeman and firefighter-of-the-year award, recognizing and honoring our local safety officers.

During the '90s, there was a Hold-the-Fort drive to support Fort Meigs. The Legion contributed monetary support for a number of years.

Boys and Girls State representatives different years were such students as Ryan Garn, Doug Duesing, Pete Roe, June Meyer, Amanda Gagel and Jill Stover.

**Thank you**

**American Legion Post 28  
for ALL you do  
for our community!**

**Rick Ruffner's  
O-Deer  
Diner & Ice Cream**  
Olivia Dana Emma Elle Rick  
416 Louisiana Ave, Perrysburg  
419.874.7070



The history of American Legion Post 28 was compiled and written by Way Library historian Richard Baranowski with the assistance of Post 28 member Joe Stockner.



## Post 28 senior member—65 years—Don Toland

Don Toland, center, holds the distinction as the Perrysburg Post's senior member—now in his 65th year. With Mr. Toland are Legion members Gene Mishka, left, and Juan Artiaga, right.

Get your copy of  
**Now Hear  
This!**

**Perrysburg Veterans  
in War and Peace**  
by  
*Richard Baranowski*



Own this historic volume recognizing and honoring our hometown veterans.

Includes the firsthand accounts of more than 70 local veterans, compiled by Richard Baranowski, Local History Librarian at Way Public Library.

NOW AVAILABLE AT  
Way Public Library • Kazmaier's • Churchills  
Welch Publishing Co.



## Schaller Memorial opens in 1931; rededicated in 2006



Above: World War I veterans, from left, Harold Munger, Ray Bayer, Howard Sweet, Robert Hartshorn and Gus Schlect, celebrated the opening of Schaller Memorial, May 30, 1931.

Below: In 2006, the City of Perrysburg and Post 28 held a rededication of Schaller Memorial. Pictured from left, Commander-elect Jack Shaffer, James Schaller and Mayor Nelson Evans.



# 2000s: American Legion Post 28 preserves local history



Richard Baranowski, Way local history librarian, and Leo Darmofal, Legion historian examine veterans photos in Post 28 museum at Schaller. Photo taken in 2004.



Memorial Day parade 2019: Legion members Bob Romaker, Glenn Cousino and Bill King.

A major project undertaken by the Legion in the early 2000s was to restore its photo collection.

The collection, composed largely of about 200 photos of WWII veterans, was languishing in the Legion office and slowly deteriorating. The photos had been collected by past commander, and 40-year service officer, Howard Sweet, during WWII. He had the foresight to write names of each person on the photo, an act which deserves special commendation.

Legion historian, Leo Darmofal, had the photos restored and reframed. He also collected about 200 additional photos from area veterans from all wars.

He then assembled a book with each person's photo and a short biography. He kindly let Way Library make copies of these collections, which they keep in their local history room. The originals are in the Post's museum at Schaller Memorial Building.

As keeper of local servicemen and women history, the Legion is a mainspring for the Veterans History Project.

The Library of Congress started this project in 2000. The government believed that veterans deserved to be recognized for their

service and their experiences preserved for permanent record.

Since then, the Legion has worked closely with Way Library on this effort.

More than 90 local residents, many American Legion members, have video recorded their service oral histories. Their stories are preserved in the Library of Congress collection—which can be electronically accessed worldwide—as well as for DVD checkout from Way Public Library.

The Perrysburg Post and Way Library collaborated to transpose more than 70 of these interviews to print, resulting in the 2017 book, "Now Hear This! Perrysburg Veterans in War and Peace." The story-collection is hometown veterans' history at its best.

In 2004, the Legion and Way Library held a major program to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day. Legion members and others who were veterans of D-Day spoke at the program. It was a popular event, with 150 people attending.

The History Channel sponsored a contest for public libraries in the United States that were creating events paying tribute to the famous invasion.

At least 2,000 libraries across the fruited

plain entered the contest, and there were five grand-prize winners.

Way Public Library was among those selected and was awarded \$1,000. This national recognition was a source of great pride for these veterans, the Perrysburg Post and Way Library. (The Legion and the library split the money.)

In 2008, Perrysburg Post 28 dedicated a monument to the community's veterans who gave their lives for their country, from World War I to the present.

Located at Hood Park, it displays the names of 32 departed veterans. American Legion members Doug Pratt and Joe Stockner were the motivating force behind the memorial, and through their efforts this monument became reality.

It might be mentioned that the Perrysburg American Legion Post 28 continues to honor those late veterans with honor guard cemetery ceremonies, where uniformed members fire a rifle volley, play Taps and present a flag to family members.

The 2000s also saw a popular history lecture series, organized by Jack Shaffer, Legion Commander. Held at the Schaller, it was a popular program for several years.

Around 2015, the Legion started the Bob Kervin Scholarship, named after the long-time Perrysburg Post member who died in 2014. A \$1,000 scholarship is given to a high school boy or girl chosen by the Legion.

In recent years the Legion also has donated funds to school snacks, a program that provides lunches for students in the local elementary schools.

Post 28 events revolved around the WWI centennial in 2017 and 2018.

The Legion dedicated a plaque in Hood Park in honor of the three Perrysburg soldiers who died in World War I.

In 2018 the Legion, displayed banners throughout the village's historical district, picturing an array of local World War I veterans to mark the 100-year end of that conflict, November 11, 1918.

In 2019 there is still life and spontaneity at the Post. Their newest project is to help build a Gold Star Families Monument in Perrysburg.

There are about a dozen of these monuments across the United States and more in progress—a tribute to families, relatives and children who have lost a loved one in the military.

## Perrysburg Post 28 Perry Bells



The Perry Bells (photo taken in 1970) were a baton and marching group sponsored by the American Legion Post 28.

The history of American Legion Post 28 was compiled and written by Way Library historian Richard Baranowski with the assistance of Post 28 member Joe Stockner.



**Welch Publishing Co.**

perrysburg.com

rossford.com

perrysburgprinting.com

*Firepit Grille is proud to support the men and women of the*

# *American Legion*

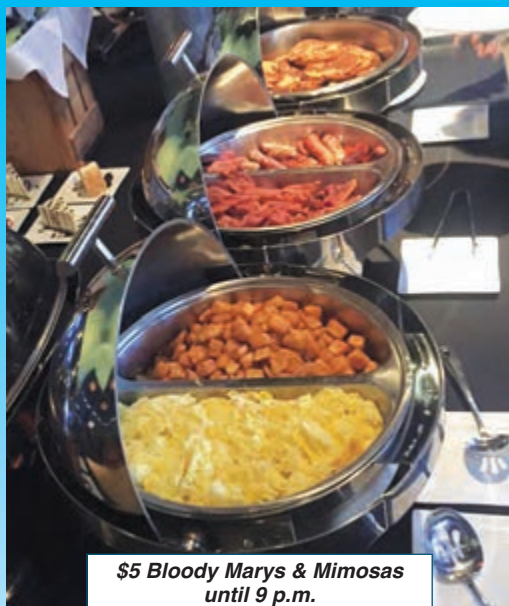
*and our local organizations!*



*Join us every Sunday!*

## **SUNDAY BRUNCH**

*Happy  
4th of July!*



*\$5 Bloody Marys & Mimosas  
until 9 p.m.*

**BRUNCH SERVED 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.**

*Yum!*  
**OMELETTE &  
WAFFLE STATIONS**

Adults \$16.95 • 10 & under \$7.95  
3 & under Free

- CHEF CARVED SIRLOIN • SMOKED HAM • BBQ CHICKEN
- ROASTED TURKEY • MASHED POTATOES • CHEF'S VEGETABLE
- SMOKED SALMON • BISCUITS & GRAVY • SCRAMBLED EGGS
- SAUSAGE • BACON • OMELETTES • BELGIAN WAFFLES
- FRENCH TOAST • MACARONI & CHEESE
- HARVEST SALAD • FRUIT • DESSERTS AND MORE!

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR PARTIES OF 6 OR MORE



# *Congratulations to the American Legion on 100 Years!*



*Thank you for your service!*



## SKOTYNSKY

FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC

213 Louisiana Ave. • Perrysburg, OH 43551 • [www.Skotynsky.com](http://www.Skotynsky.com)

**419-873-1400**

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC.  
Investment advisory services offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc.  
Skotynsky Financial Group, LLC is not a registered broker/dealer and is independent of Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.