



DW CASSARD POST 208

The DW Cassard legion (Post 208) is located near the base of the original Kent County Airport runway. The first GR airport was dedicated to Daniel Waters Cassard, the only Grand Rapids WWI flier killed at battle.



The dedication plaque on the statue outside our post reads:
THIS AIRPORT IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF DANIEL WATERS CASSARD
FIRST LIEUTENANT, FIRST PURSUIT GROUP, 147TH AERO SQUADRON, UNITED
STATES ARMY WHO DIED IN ACTION NEAR DORMANS, FRANCE, JULY 16, 1918.
"HE FELL GLORIOUSLY FIGHTING TO THE END."



DANIEL WATERS CASSARD - POST #208

133 - 44th Street S.E.
Kentwood, MI 49548
(616) 534-3220

Clubroom E-Mail: americanlegionpost208@comcast.net

On the Web: www.dwcassard.org

Facebook: DW Cassard - Post 208

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Grand Rapids, MI
Permit No. 402

Return Service Requested

LABEL

THANK YOU TO ALL THE VETERANS



PAST AND PRESENT

THE TWO - O - EIGHTER

MARCH 2026

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| 1 | 2 Hot Dogs 5-7PM Queen/Hearts 7PM | 3 Chicken n' Fries 5-7PM MEETING S.A.L. 6:30PM | 4 Burger Night 5-7PM Show Me The Money 7PM | 5 Dart League Pot Luck Night | 6 Fish Fry 5-7PM FOOT LOOSE 7-11PM | 7 Legion Dinner 5-7PM Mustang 7-11PM |
| 8 TIME CHANGE!! | 9 Hot Dogs 5-7PM Queen/Hearts 7PM MEETING BAR BOARD 5:30PM | 10 Chicken n' Fries 5-7PM MEETING LEGION & AUXILIARY 7PM | 11 Burger Night 5-7PM Show Me The Money 7PM | 12 Pizza 5-7PM | 13 Fish Fry 5-7PM Karaoke BLUE MOON 7-11PM | 14 Auxiliary Dinner 5-7PM Show Me The Money 6:30PM |
| 15 Breakfast 10AM-Noon MEETING LEGION RIDERS 12:30PM | 16 Hot Dogs 5-7PM Queen/Hearts 7PM | 17 St. Patrick's Day Party 5-7PM | 18 Burger Night 5-7PM Show Me The Money 7PM | 19 Chips n' Cheese 5-7PM | 20 Fish Fry 5-7PM Karaoke FOOT LOOSE 7-11PM | 21 SAL Dinner 5-7PM Big Dogs 7-11PM |
| 22 | 23 Hot Dogs 5-7PM Queen/Hearts 7PM | 24 Chicken n' Fries 5-7PM Euchre 6:30 PM MEETING EXECUTIVE BOARD 7PM | 25 Burger Night 5-7PM Show Me The Money 7PM | 26 | 27 Fish Fry 5-7PM Karaoke BLUE MOON 7-11PM | 28 ALR Dinner 5-7PM Music Bingo 7:00PM |
| 29 Vietnam Vet's & Spouses Dinner - TBA | 30 Hot Dogs 5-7PM Queen/Hearts 7PM | 31 Chicken n' Fries 5-7PM | | | | |

APRIL 2026

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| | | | 1 Burger Night 5-7PM Show Me The Money 7PM | 2 Chips n' Cheese 5-7PM | 3 Fish Fry 5-7PM Auxiliary Bake Sale 3-7PM Karaoke FOOT LOOSE 7-11PM | 4 Children's Easter Party 12-2PM Legion Dinner 5-7PM FOOT LOOSE 7-11PM |
| 5 Happy Easter!! | 6 Hot Dogs 5-7PM Queen/Hearts 7PM | 7 Chicken n' Fries 5-7PM Euchre 6:30PM MEETING S.A.L. 6:30PM | 8 Burger Night 5-7PM Show Me The Money 7PM | 9 Pizza 5-7PM | 10 Kitchen Open Karaoke BLUE MOON 7-11PM | 11 Auxiliary Dinner 5-7PM Show Me The Money 6:30PM |
| 12 | 13 Hot Dogs 5-7PM Queen/Hearts 7PM MEETING BAR BOARD 5:30PM | 14 Chicken n' Fries 5-7PM MEETING LEGION & AUXILIARY 7PM | 15 Burger Night 5-7PM Show Me The Money 7PM | 16 | 17 Karaoke FOOT LOOSE 7-11PM | 18 TBD 7-11PM |
| 19 MEETING LEGION RIDERS 12:30PM | 20 Hot Dogs 5-7PM Queen/Hearts 7PM | 21 Chicken n' Fries 5-7PM | 22 Burger Night 5-7PM Show Me The Money 7PM | 23 | 24 Karaoke BLUE MOON 7-11PM | 25 ALR Dinner 5-7PM Adult Prom Night 7PM Livin' the Dream 7-11PM |
| 26 | 27 Hot Dogs 5-7PM Queen of Hearts 7PM | 28 MEETING EXECUTIVE BOARD 7PM | 29 | 30 | | |



COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings, Legion Family!

As we continue our mission of serving veterans, strengthening our community, and preserving American values, I want to thank each of you for your dedication and involvement at Post 208. Your volunteer hours, event participation, and support make a real difference. Let's keep that momentum going as we head into spring. If you haven't visited the post in a while, stop in—we'd love to see you!

Ronny Johnson- Commander

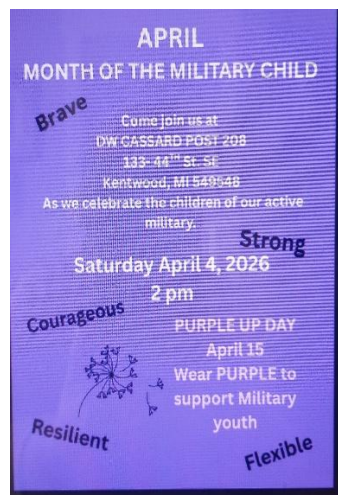
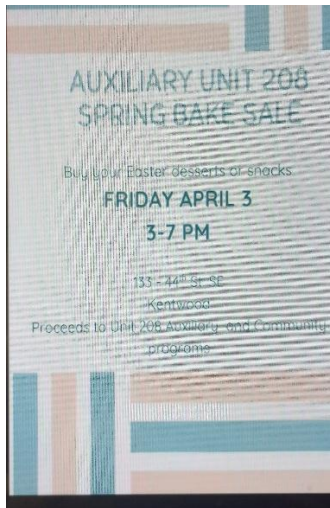


AUXILIARY

Happy Almost Spring! February is usually one of our hardest winter months and although this year there have been some very cold blustery and snowy days, there have also been lots of warmer and even sunny ones. Those sunny days help lift spirits and hopefully give us a little extra energy as we look forward to the events coming up. Thank you to all who have offered their time and donations, we appreciate you so very much! We want and need others to be involved also. We cannot be successful without all of you! There are so many opportunities for you to help the Auxiliary using your creativity and your passions. We want fresh ideas and we need you to share yours! We have a great organization and a great Post with wonderful members of which each of you are one. Come to one of our dinners, or events, or just stop and say hi. We look forward to seeing you.

Auxiliary general membership meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7PM with social time at 6:30PM. So.....March 10th and April 14th. Nominations for Auxiliary officers will be at the April meeting with elections in May. Serving our Veterans and their families is not only our duty as Auxiliary members, but it's also an honor and a privilege. Service not self. Check out our Facebook page and the website. Have a wonderful March and April! Look for the spring flowers popping up!

Kathy Bowerman, President



JUNIOR AUXILIARY AND S.A.L. MEMBERS (UNDER 18Y)

Please remember that you are always welcome to attend the Auxiliary meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The meeting starts at 7PM.



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Hello SAL family and friends:

SAL meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM. Hope to see some more new SAL members getting involved.

Our last entity dinner will be March 21st so come on down and get a burrito, tacos or some chips and cheese.

We will be having nominations for new officers for 2027 in March and elections in April, it's great to see some of the new guys stepping up!

Remember it's an honor to serve those who served us!

Don Van Tuinen, Squadron commander



LEGION RIDERS

Have you ever wondered just who those bikers with eagles on their backs are? Here are some interesting facts about the American Legion Riders that you might not already know:

1. Founded as a Tribute and Service Group - The American Legion Riders (ALR) started in 1993 in Post 396 in Garden City, Michigan. Two members, Chuck "Tramp" Dare and Bill "Polka" Kaledas, envisioned a motorcycle association within the Legion that would allow members to share their love for riding while supporting the organization's ideals. They originally formed to raise awareness and funds for veterans and the American Legion programs, especially focusing on honoring fallen comrades and supporting those still serving.
2. Not a Motorcycle Club (MC) - Though they ride motorcycles, the ALR is not a traditional motorcycle club. They are an official program of the American Legion, a patriotic Veteran's organization, with a focus on charity, community service, and Veteran's advocacy.
3. Membership Requires American Legion Membership - To join the ALR, you must be a member of the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of the American Legion. This maintains strong ties with Veteran communities and their families.
4. National Presence with Local Chapters - The ALR has chapters in nearly every state in the U.S. Each chapter supports local Veteran causes and participates in national rides and memorial events.
5. Key Events and Rides - ALR members participate in many memorial rides, including rolling funeral escorts for Veterans and fallen soldiers. They also organize fundraisers like poker runs, community parades, and ceremonies on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and POW/MIA Recognition Day.
6. Patch and Colors Have Specific Meaning - The back patch features the American Legion emblem combined with an eagle. Colors and design elements symbolize patriotism, honor, and the rider's commitment to the Legion's core values.
7. Community Service Beyond Riding - ALR chapters often volunteer in Veteran's homes, assist with food drives, and help families of deployed service members. Many also participate in advocacy and outreach programs to support veteran mental health and reintegration.
8. A Brotherhood of Veterans and Families - The ALR fosters a strong sense of camaraderie among Veterans from all branches and eras. It also encourages family involvement, with spouses and descendants often active in Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion groups.

Raymond Pickard, Director



CLUB ROOM REPORT

Fish Fry's continue through Friday, April 3rd. Don't forget to vote for us on the Channel 13 Fish Fry Frenzy contest. A St. Patrick's Day party is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17th from 5-7PM with Reubens, Irish Grilled Cheese, Irish Stew, drink specials and raffles. There will be Music Bingo on March 28th. "Adult Prom Night" will be on Saturday, April 25th. Continue to review Facebook and emails for additional information on events.

Kim VanDam, Clubroom Manager



CHAPLAINS CORNER

Sometimes I read an article I can't help but share (at least the gist of it) with others. This one appeared in the Wall Street Journal (January 26, 2026), titled "The Surprising History of America's Song" by Bob Greene.

And the song? You know it well, I am sure: "God Bless America."

It was written by America's great song-writer Irving Berlin (1888-1989) with more than 1,500 songs to his credit. Originally named Israel Isadore Beilin, he emigrated to the U.S. at age 5 with his parents, fleeing anti-Semitic violence in Russia. Living in a crowded New York Tenement, they worked hard to survive in the new land where they had to learn not just a new language, but a new way of life. Even as a small child, young Berlin did his part. At age 8 he sold newspapers on the streets. Hard to believe, but this kid eventually wrote hundreds of songs that touched the hearts of his fellow Americans--though he never had a music lesson or learned how to read music!

I'm sure you could easily sing a few lines from some of them--like "White Christmas" or "Easter Parade."

The song that meant the most to Irving Berlin, however, was "God Bless America" simply because he deeply loved his adopted country. He first wrote it in 1918 when he was drafted to serve in WWI at Camp Upton, New York. He later revised it in 1938 as the clouds of WWII grew darker--and when Kate Smith sang the song on CBS radio, Americans embraced it as their prayer as the U.S. was drawn into the war. Here are the words:

"While the storm clouds gather far across the sea / Let us swear allegiance to a land that's free / Let us all be grateful for a land so fair / As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.

"God bless America / Land that I love / Stand beside her, and guide her / Through the night with a light from above /

"From the mountains, to the prairies / To the oceans, white with foam / God bless America, my home sweet home / God bless America, my home sweet home."

It is a profound, simple prayer as urgent for us in 2026 as it was for a past generation in 1938. We live in dangerous times. Lord, stand beside us and guide us through the night with a light from above. Amen.

And let's remember that this song or prayer "God, Bless America" was written from the heart of an emigrant who came to this country desperately poor and wanting to be free. He never took a cent in royalty for the song. Instead, he legally established the God Bless American Fund so that money earned by the song would be used to help the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts of America, especially in poor areas. Over the years the fund has developed more than \$ 10 million for the Scouts.

That's the gratitude of an emigrant--and patriot.

Galen H. Meyer, Acting Chaplain

Post 208 has a BENEVOLENCE FUND to help with short-term needs. It is available to all Post members of all four entities. Contact Chaplain Galen Meyer (616) 204-3349. All inquiries and needs are confidential.



JOIN US FOR A
ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY
MAR | 17 | 5-7 PM OR SOLD OUT
AMERICAN LEGION POST 208
133-44th ST Kentwood, MI

| | | |
|---|--|--|
|  |  |  |
| \$8.00 Reuben Sandwich w/ chips | \$7.00 Irish Cheddar Grilled Cheese w/ Chips | \$8 Guinness Irish Stew with Bread |

Drink Specials
Lucky of the Irish Lottery Squares Raffle \$2.00 Tickets

AMERICAN LEGION POST 208 DW CASSARD
133 44th STREET SE, KENTWOOD, MI 49505

FIREKEEPERS CASINO DAY TRIP
SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026 8:15 AM - 4:00 PM

If you're not a big gambler--Meet at Ducey's Taphouse to share some snacks and try some new beers at 11 am.

1:00 pm meet in the High Roller Room to pool and share a big win. \$10 to enter in.

The Casino will give you \$20 in slot, \$5 in food/merchandise!

NO REFUNDS, NO TRANSFERS \$45.00 dollars per seat.
ALL PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TO OUR LEGION.

Bus will have games to play, raffle prizes and other snacks and drink items available to purchase. Bring extra cash for them, including Driver Tip.

Contact: Caryn Toering at 616-318-4619 or caryntoering@gmail.com to sign up and pay. Please reach out before sending payment to ensure availability.

CASH (Meet at Club), Venmo ([@CarynDykstraToering](https://www.venmo.com/CarynDykstraToering)), Cash App ([@CarynToering](https://www.cash.app/CarynToering))

All proceeds of this event will go to the DW CASSARD AMERICAN LEGION POST 208.

All drinks and additional food are at your own expense. Cost of bus trip includes transportation, giveaways on the bus, to and from the Casino!

FIREKEEPERS CASINO HOTEL

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

ADULT PROM NIGHT

"PICK YOUR OWN ERA": DRESS TO IMPRESS IN THE FASHION OF YOUR DECADE AND DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY TO 50S-2000S PROM FAVORITES.

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| APRIL | AMERICAN LEGION POST | SATURDAY |
| 25 | 208 | 7:00 |
| 2026 | 133-44th ST Kentwood, MI 49548 | PM |

Meatloaf Dinner Provide from 5-7PM \$12.00
Livin The Dream Band starts at 7PM