



# 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](mailto:americanlegionpost208@comcast.net)  
On the Web: [www.dwcassard.org](http://www.dwcassard.org)  
Facebook: DW Cassard - Post 208

Non Profit Org.  
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Rapids, MI Permit  
No. 402

Return Service Requested

LABEL

## THANK YOU TO ALL THE VETERANS



## PAST AND PRESENT



COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings, Legion Family!

I am proud to serve as your Commander. Our post remains a strong member of our community because of your tireless commitment to our mission of serving Veterans and their families.

I want to thank all the volunteers who came out for our post clean up-day and those that show up every day.

I want to give a warm welcome to our newest members. If you haven't yet, please visit MyLegion.org to set up your profile and access your digital membership card. Thank you for your service and for keeping Post 208 strong.

Ronny Johnson  
Commander



AUXILIARY

Happy Spring Auxiliary Members!

It's great to see nature springing into life again! As we are all preparing to open up our summer retreats and prepare our campers for summer fun, I hope you'll keep our Post and our Auxiliary Unit in your plans. We still have many events happening in the upcoming months, and we still need your support.

Kentwood's Memorial Day parade and service at Veterans Memorial Park is hosted this year by Post 208. I've been going to Kentwood's Memorial day parade since I was young (yep...a long time ago!) and the thing I like the most about it is the somber quiet true meaning of the day, to remember those who gave their life in service to our country so we can enjoy the freedoms we have. If you are home that day, please plan to attend, or better yet...walk in the parade. The date is Monday, May 25, with the parade at 10AM.

On June 13th, the Auxiliary is hosting a Patriotic Art Contest to celebrate USA's 250th anniversary! See the flyer included and stop by or enter an art piece to support the Auxiliary and the talented artists in our community.

Once again, I would like to thank our many volunteers who help make the success of our Auxiliary and our Post successful. You are the backbone of this organization. I and the rest of the Executive Board appreciate you very much.

Last but certainly not least, at our May 12th meeting, we will hold our elections of officers for the 2026-27 year. This important meeting gives you our members the chance to choose the Unit 208 Auxiliary leadership for the next year. Please come and support your choice.

Happy Mother's Day to our moms, grandmas, and all those who fill the shoes of a mom for someone. You are loved.

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.



Patriotic Art Show & Competition  
Celebrating America 250

Artists from ages 8 through adult are invited to submit patriotic artwork in any medium that can be displayed.

When: Saturday, June 13, 2-5 p.m. (6/5 entry deadline)

Where: D.W. Cassard Post 208 of the American Legion, 133 44th Street SE, Grand Rapids Michigan 49548

Who will benefit: Proceeds will be used toward funding a Veteran Honor Flight and Viewers Choice Awards.



Entry fees are \$5 for the Youth Competition (ages 8-14) and \$10 for the Adult Competition (ages 15-Adult). See entry form for more details.

Enter at: <https://forms.gle/8bz5hgIRGjRjWHfC7>

Questions?

Email [alaunit208mi.craft.vendor@gmail.com](mailto:alaunit208mi.craft.vendor@gmail.com).

**Patriotic Art Show & Competition Celebrating America 250, June 13 from 2-5PM.** Plan to attend and to cast your votes in the Viewer's Choice Awards for both the Youth and Adult Competitions.

**Entering?** Make sure to Invite your family and friends to come vote for you! **Know someone who is creative?** Encourage them to enter!

**In honor of Flag Day (6/14/26): American Flags and baked goods will be available to purchase.** And representatives from Post 208 of the American Legion and its entities will also be available to educate attendees about our purposes), what we do, and the requirements to join.



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Hello SAL family and friends:

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30PM.

We will be having our yearly elections and installation of officers on May 5th for 2026-2027 year.

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

Don Van Tuinen  
Squadron commander



LEGION RIDERS

Hello Riders,

Warmer weather is here! Please don't forget to make sure everything is in order before you ride. License, insurance and REGISTRATION (that one is easy to forget about) for a vehicle that we only get six months with.

While we are waiting out the ride schedule, plan to dip your toes back in the water with shorter rides around town, dial in any adjustments that need to be made, knock the cobwebs off your bike and your skills.

The group has been busy fundraising through the winter ensuring we do our part to serve our Veterans, their families and the community we live in. Be ready to continue that Legacy through the summer on the bike for a higher cause.

For God and Country, it's our duty to serve those who serve us.

Todd VanDam  
Assistant Director



## CHAPLAINS CORNER

Memorial Day always floods my mind with memories of men and women whose sacrifices for our country we gratefully acknowledge on that day. Let me tell you the story of two of them: Ken and Jill (not their real names in the interest of privacy).

It was in late 1966 that I first met them. I was the Chaplain of a recruit battalion at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. On a sunny fall Saturday morning, Ken graduated from boot camp with his own company and several others. It was a festive occasion. The recruits, now Marines, looked sharp, proud and happy in their new Class A uniforms. They had longed for this day and here it was at last! They stood in precise formation at the entrance to the large auditorium where the graduation ceremony would take place. The Marine Corps Band in dress blues provided their usual stirring music. Families and friends stood around, straining their necks to spot their loved one in the formation--and then happily pointing and waving. The poor guy they spotted could only move his eyeballs in response--though he may have wished to wave back.

After everyone had moved into the auditorium, the ceremony began. I delivered the invocation. The Commanding Officer of MCRD, MG English, gave a speech of congratulations and advice. Individual Marines and Platoons were cited for special accomplishments. The whole ceremony was compact by design so the newly graduated Marines could be released to enjoy the rest of the day around the base area with family and friends.

And that's how I met Jill later in the afternoon. She was Ken's fiancé and had come to celebrate his graduation. Ken brought her to see me. "Padre," he said, "this is my fiancé, Jill; we're going to get married after my AIT (Advanced Infantry Training) and then I'll probably go to Vietnam. She's kinda worried about that. I'm not though," he added with a confident laugh, "but I thought maybe you could help put her mind at ease."

I don't remember exactly what encouragement I might have given her. The three of us had a brief prayer together and then it was over. Ken wanted to get back to showing Jill around MCRD and spend what little time he had left of the afternoon with only her.

I did not see Jill again until late spring, 1967, when it was my assigned day of the month to accompany the CACO (Casualty Assistant Call Officer), a Marine Captain, to visit a family in the San Diego area to inform them ahead of an official telegram that their beloved Marine was missing, wounded or killed in action in Vietnam. The KIA visits were the hardest. Jill knew exactly why we were at her apartment when she opened the door to us. She put both hands to her mouth with a quick gasp. Her eyes flooded with tears and a look of horror descended like a shadow over her whole being. We asked to come in and suggested she sit down. She sat on a small couch, and we pulled up chairs in front of her. I will never forget how much smaller and fragile she appeared as she sank into the couch. It was as though she had collapsed in on herself. If ever I actually saw a crushed heart, it was then.

Jill's image stays in my head and becomes most vivid every Memorial Day. It makes me think with sorrow and gratitude of all those who died in the service of our country--either on the field of battle or in some way at home when they learned of the loss of their loved one. What a debt we owe them! It is one we can only begin to pay by being good, decent, loving, active citizens of our country, right where we are.

God, help us remember!

Galen Meyer  
Acting Legion 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.



## CLUB ROOM REPORT

Mother's Day Breakfast – Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> – 9AM-12PM.  
Post Mug Cups are now for sale. See the Bartender for an order form.

Euchre League – Thursday nights – May 7<sup>th</sup>-June 25<sup>th</sup> . Golf Outing – July 26<sup>th</sup> – 8:30AM. See the Bartender to sign up.

Burger Nights – Wednesday's starting April 29<sup>th</sup> with a limited menu.

Kim VanDam, Clubroom Manager

**Euchre League**  
Thursdays, May 7 - June 25, 6 pm  
Sign Up in the Club Room

- \$5 a week
- 1 game = 8 hands
- 6 games per night

For more information:  
Call or text Jon Aten (616-558-2275)

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 208 GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER**

DATE: SUNDAY JULY 26<sup>TH</sup> | SHOTGUN START: 8:30 AM | LOCATION: BRIARWOOD GOLF COURSE

**\$80.00 PER PERSON INCLUDES:**

- 18 HOLES OF GOLF
- PRIZES
- TACO BAR DINNER AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 208

**DINNER ONLY TICKETS \$10.00**

JOIN US AT THE POST FOR FOOD AND FUN EVEN IF YOU DON'T GOLF!

**GREAT GOLF. GREAT FOOD. GREATER PURPOSE.**  
SUPPORTING VETERANS • STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY  
CONTACT THE POST OR SEE THE BARTENDER TO SIGN UP!

\*\*\* AMERICAN LEGION POST 208 \*\*\*

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 208 MUG CLUB**

**\$30.00**

POST MUGS: \$30.00 INCLUDES NAME \$10.00 EXTRA FOR CUSTOM BACK WITH BRACH, YEARS OF SERVICE, AND MIDDLE RANK.

MUG CLUB PERKS: \$ .50 OFF DRAFT BEERS  
MUGS CAN BE WASHED HERE BUT NOT STORED HERE.  
SEE BARTENDER FOR ORDER FORM

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 208 Mother's Day BREAKFAST**

**SUNDAY, MAY 10**  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Mothers eat **FREE**  
Kids under 6 eat **FREE**  
Everyone else – **\$12**

THANK YOU MOM!  
CELEBRATING ALL THE Amazing Moms!


Bring the family and enjoy a great breakfast together!  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 208

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MAY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<b>1</b> Kitchen Open 5:30-7:30PM  Karaoke BLUE MOON 7-11pm	<b>2</b> Legion Dinner 5-7PM  FOOTLOOSE DJ 7PM
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Hot Dogs 5-7P Queen/Hearts 7PM	<b>5</b> Cinco De Mayo Dinner 5-7PM  MEETING S.A.L. 6:30PM	<b>6</b>  Burgers 5-7PM  Show Me The Money 6:30PM	<b>7</b> Euchre League 6PM  Panini Night 5:30PM	<b>8</b> Kitchen Open 5:30-7:30PM  Karaoke FOOTLOOSE 7-11PM	<b>9</b> Auxiliary Dinner 5-7PM  Show Me The Money 6:30PM
<b>10</b> Mother's Day Breakfast 9AM-12PM	<b>11</b> Hot Dogs 5-7P Queen/Hearts 7PM  MEETING BAR BOARD 5:30PM	<b>12</b> Chicken n' Fries 5-7PM  MEETING LEGION & AUXILIARY 7PM	<b>13</b>  Burgers 5-7PM  Show Me The Money 6:30PM	<b>14</b> Euchre League 6PM  Pizza Night 5:30PM	<b>15</b> Kitchen Open 5:30-7:30PM  Karaoke FOOTLOOSE 7-11PM	<b>16</b> Chicken n' Fries 5-7PM  Free Pool
<b>17</b>  MEETING LEGION RIDERS 12:30PM	<b>18</b> Hot Dogs 5-7P Queen/Hearts 7PM	<b>19</b> Chicken n' Fries 5-7PM	<b>20</b>  Burgers 5-7PM  Show Me The Money 6:30PM	<b>21</b>  Euchre League 6PM	<b>22</b> Kitchen Closed  Karaoke BLUE MOON 7-11PM	<b>23</b>  Memorial Weekend Hours 12-8PM
<b>24</b> Memorial Weekend Hours 12-5PM	<b>25</b> Memorial Day Parade 10AM  Clubroom Opens 11AM Free Hot Dogs Last Queen/Hearts 7PM	<b>26</b> Chicken n' Fries 5-7PM  MEETING EXECUTIVE BOARD 7PM	<b>27</b>  Burgers 5-7PM  Show Me The Money 6:30PM	<b>28</b>  Euchre League 6PM  Cheesesteak Night 5:30PM	<b>29</b>  Wet Burritos 5:30-7:30PM  Karaoke BLUE MOON 7-11PM	<b>30</b>  Kitchen Open 5PM  Skybourne Band 7-11PM
<b>31</b>						

JUNE 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> Hot Dogs 5-7P Queen/Hearts 7PM	<b>2</b> Chicken n' Fries 5-7PM  MEETING S.A.L. 6:30PM	<b>3</b>  Burgers 5-7PM  Show Me The Money 6:30PM	<b>4</b> Euchre League 6PM  Pizza Night 5:30PM	<b>5</b> Kitchen Open 5:30-7:30PM  Karaoke FOOTLOOSE 7-11PM	<b>6</b>  Dinner 5PM  Show Me The Money 6:30PM
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Hot Dogs 5-7P Queen/Hearts 7PM  MEETING BAR BOARD 5:30PM	<b>9</b> Chicken n' Fries 5-7PM  MEETING LEGION & AUXILIARY 7PM	<b>10</b>  Burgers 5-7PM  Show Me The Money 6:30PM	<b>11</b> Euchre League 6PM  Meatball Subs 5:30PM	<b>12</b> Kitchen Open 5:30-7:30PM  Karaoke FOOT LOOSE 7-11PM	<b>13</b>  Art Contest 2-5PM
<b>14</b> Flag Day & Army Birthday TBD  	<b>15</b> Hot Dogs 5-7P Queen/Hearts 7PM	<b>16</b> Chicken n' Fries 5-7PM	<b>17</b>  Burgers 5-7PM  Show Me The Money 6:30PM	<b>18</b> Euchre League 6PM  Cheesesteak Night 5:30PM	<b>19</b> Kitchen Open 5:30-7:30PM  Karaoke BLUE MOON 7-11PM	<b>20</b>  Chicken n' Fries 5-7PM  Free Pool
<b>21</b>  MEETING LEGION RIDERS 12:30PM	<b>22</b> Hot Dogs 5-7P Queen/Hearts 7PM	<b>23</b> Chicken n' Fries 5-7PM  MEETING EXECUTIVE BOARD 7PM	<b>24</b>  Burgers 5-7PM  Show Me The Money 6:30PM	<b>25</b> Euchre League 6PM  Chicken n' Fries 5:30PM	<b>26</b> Kitchen Open 5:30-7:30PM  Karaoke BLUE MOON 7-11PM	<b>27</b> Kitchen Open 5PM  Band 7-11PM
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Hot Dogs 5-7P Queen/Hearts 7PM	<b>30</b> Chicken n' Fries 5-7PM				