

Caledonia American Legion Memorial Post 305

Serving Our Veterans, Their Families and the Community

MAY 2026



FROM THE LEGION COMMANDER

As my time as Commander of Post 305 comes to an end, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the honor of serving this Post and this community. It has been a privilege to work alongside so many dedicated individuals who keep our mission strong.

To our Executive Board, along with the leaders of the Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Riders: thank you for your leadership, teamwork, and unwavering commitment. I also want to recognize **Tom Hyde, our Post Manager**, whose hard work, creativity, and dedication have been essential in bringing customers through our doors and keeping our Post thriving. Together, your efforts have made Post 305 successful, active, and welcoming.

To every member, volunteer, and supporter: thank you for standing with me throughout my term. Nothing we accomplished was done alone — it was done together.

As we welcome the next Commander, I ask that you give them the same strong support, cooperation, and unity that you have shown me. With your continued involvement, Post 305 will remain a place where veterans and their families can thrive.

..... **Brian Stauffer**

tickets contact Fred Young at 616-901-0371 or Linda Walthorn at 616-560-2290. Our annual plant swap will take place Friday May 15th from 3-7pm and Saturday May 16th from 9-2pm. Please drop your plants off on Thursday May 14th.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following members who have been elected to the 2026/2027 Auxiliary Board: **President**; Tammy Gehl, **Vice President**; Dawn Flannery, **Secretary**; Meg Sallese, **Historian**; Jessica McCleve, **Chaplain**; Lisa Hyde. **Executive Board**: Dar Craven, Sandra Holt, Penny Overholt, Cheri Parish. **Installation of officers will take place at our next meeting; Wednesday, May 13th.**

March with your fellow Auxiliary members for the Memorial Day Parade on Monday May 25th. Meet at the old Fricano's at 11:30am. Parade starts at noon. Please wear a red shirt and black, navy blue or white bottoms. No JEANS. Please contact Dar Craven to help with set up; serving food etc. for the event. 616-581-8807.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISER: Rada

Cutlery www.radafundraising.com It's best to order online. The organization you want to support is: Caledonia Legion Auxiliary #305. We get 40% from the orders to help support our Vets!! If you have any questions, please contact Lori Trusch at 616-581-6918. Thank you for your continued support of American Legion Auxiliary Unit #305!

God bless you, our Veterans and Military!!

..... **Dar Craven**



FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

We had great Euchre Tournaments this year. Thank you to everyone; players as well as volunteers; who helped to make Euchre at #305 a huge success! Play will resume September 19, 2026. Please note that Tournaments will be held the 3rd Saturday for the months of September, October, November 2026. (no tournament in December). January, February, March and April 2027.

There is still time to purchase a ticket (\$20) for the 2026 Joint Fifth District Memorial Banquet and Service to be held May 16th at Neal E Fonger Post #179, 2327 Wilson Ave SW, Grand Rapids. Social hour is 5pm, dinner will be served at 5:30pm. Reservation deadline is May 10th. For



FROM THE SAL COMMANDER

Hello all SAL Members,

The 2026 Lent Fish Frys are in the books once again. A big shout out to all the volunteers who helped. We served an average of 225 dinners each night with many compliments on the food and service. The spring SAL steak fry was April 10th which drew a great crowd, thanks to the many volunteers.

We have been blessed with some new faces at the SAL meeting as of late. Please consider checking one out in the future. Spring roadside cleanup is coming up on April 25th please consider helping out. The SAL golf outing is coming up on June 20th at the Broadmoor Golf course.

Stop by the Post or contact a SAL officer for more information. On May 13th the SAL will attend the Caledonia Senior Recognition event to award several scholarships to outstanding individuals. Next SAL meeting will be May 11th at 7:00pm pizza at 6:30pm stop in.

Check out the calendar and get involved.

Thank you all for supporting 305. Peace and happiness to all.

..... Tom Hyde

Upcoming events: Roadside cleanup April 25th (8:45am) Meet at Legion; Legion cleanup May 16th; May 16th put flags out (9:00am) meet a DPW building on Maple St.; June 20th SAL Golf outing; Cash Bash May 1st 500 tickets @ \$25 each; April 25th 80's party sponsored by the AUX.

Cemeteries and Addresses for Memorial Day May 25th	
Alaska	9:00am – 7532 68 th St. SE
Blain	9:45am – 1243 68 th St. SE
Dutton	10:30am – 7017 Hanna Lake Ave. SE
Holy Corners	11:15am – 8361 Kraft Ave. SE
Caledonia	12:00 Noon – Main St.

..... David Shellenbarger



FROM THE ALR DIRECTOR

April showers bring May flowers and we are ready for sunshine and riding. This year is already packed with scheduled rides and events as well as our Thursday evening treks. We have grown to 58 members and hope to hit 70 by the end of the year. In May we are Riding to Madison Indiana to ride the Serpent of 62 as well as Blessing of the Bikes in Newaygo on May 17th. Our monthly meeting will be on May 9th at 10am with a ride to follow. If you want to see what the riders are doing and what we support, visit our website www.alr305mi.com for the latest updates and events. As I close, I would like to thank everyone at the legion for the support that you have given me and the Riders as the Rider Director over the last seven years. Alex Devoe is now the Riders Director and will continue to make our group prosper and continue to grow larger each year.

We need help. Our previous ranks have grown thin over the past years. Looking for Veteran members to help with our Memorial Day services. The Post has over a 70-year history of showing our respect at the 5 local cemeteries of our departed Veterans. If you still remember how to march, carry a flag or shoot a rifle, WE NEED YOU. The Post will be serving breakfast beginning at 7am and at 8:30am we will be loading up on a bus that will take us to each cemetery. Please consider volunteering.

The real meaning of life? No one knows, so we grab it by the handle bars and ride it to wherever it takes you. The clutch teaches you that letting go also means moving forward. but to move forward you have to shift things in life without looking back. This is why bikes don't have reverse.

BRICK WALL OF SUPPORT

Bricks may be purchased by anyone wishing to show support of our Post, you do not need to be a member of the Legion, SAL or Auxiliary. Bricks may also be purchased in memory of friends or family who have or are serving in the military. Call the Post at 616-891-1882 for details.

..... Mark K. Winterburn

FROM THE POST MANAGER

Hello Members,

April has come and gone leaving a ton of water behind. I hope everyone was safe during the April storms.

Use the QR code below to donate to the post!



May is here and we have a busy month at 305. Starting out on the first with our 2nd annual Draw Down Raffle. Our Breakfast is the next day on the 2nd. We have hall rentals most of the month. Celebrations of life, Graduation parties, Baby showers and more.

Every Saturday and most Sundays this month, our hall is rented or being used by members. Our staff continue to do their best when we are so busy. Please be patient if we can't get to you right away. As always, talk to me if you have concerns or accolades for our team.