

75th Annual Memorial Day Celebration



Monday, May 31, 2010
Grand Marshals Don Rhodes and Nora Kessel

Compliments of Hartland Area Community Council - P.O. Box 113, Hartland, MI 48353

This year Hartland is proud to present the Grand Marshals for the Memorial Day Parade 2010 Don Rhodes and Nora Kessel



Mr. Rhodes came to this community about twenty years ago as an outsider. He moved to the Hartland area, married his wife Shirley, and became an active member of the community. As a retired GM worker, it would have certainly been his right to live a life of leisure and relaxation. Instead, he chose to become involved in local government as a trustee and Township Supervisor.

Having served during the beginnings of the transition of our community from a small rural township to a destination for growing families, he left Township government as others became involved. Unfortunately, the pressures of growth and personal ambition of those who replaced him led to a period of turmoil for the community, culminating in the recall of the new Supervisor. He was coaxed from his second retirement to again run for Supervisor and apply his gentle and calm nature to a group of elected officials with widely differing viewpoints and restore order and civility to local government. This was done in a selfless and dignified manner. Encouraging cooperation and fresh ideas from those who had new ideas and approaches while respecting the opinion of those already involved, he helped foster an environment of productive cooperation.

Included here is an excerpt from a letter written by Mr. Joe Petrucci of the Hartland Township Board which was read to the board at a public meeting upon Mr. Rhode's third and final retirement in 2007:

"The people elected you several years ago as their supervisor. Then a few years later the previous Township Board had to find someone to fill the seat of a recalled supervisor. This was not an easy task for that Board because under the circumstances they had to go outside the Board members to fill that seat. They had to find someone who could bring this Township together. They had to find someone with the personality, respect and demeanor that could take charge and bring peace in this Township.

Perhaps on a much larger scale there was similar challenge that was undertaken by one of our Presidents, Gerald R. Ford. He too found himself in the highest office in the land at a very uncomfortable, uncertain and untrusting time. It is not easy to be put in that position, because I'm sure the challenges are far beyond what I can imagine.

Don, you took on that challenge and you did not shrink from the responsibility. You brought calm to this Township that was in a terrible storm. During that short time of our local history, to the world, you may have been one person, but to Hartland Township you were the world."

Nora Kessel has been a force to be reckoned with in the Hartland community for almost 20 years. She began her involvement in the school district as an extremely active parent at Round Elementary School, serving as the PTO President there and again at the middle school and high school as her children moved through the district. In 1999, she was elected to the Hartland Board of Education and served over 10 years before resigning in December 2009 so her family could relocate to the Upper Peninsula.



During her tenure on the Board, Nora served as Treasurer and Vice-President, passed two Bond Issues, including the 2000 Bond to build Creekside Elementary and the current high school building, athletic complex and community aquatic center; and selected a superintendent to replace long-time superintendent Peter Caroselli. In addition to Nora's service to the Board of Education, she also served on the board of several other community organizations including Livingston County Big Brother/Big Sisters and the Pregnancy Helpline. She was also a very active member of St. John's Catholic Church.

In 2002, Nora along with her mother and other family members created the Michael K. O'Brien Scholarship in honor of her father. The scholarship was established to provide funding for LEGACY Alternative Education students continuing their education after high school graduation. Nora and her family were huge supporters of LEGACY and they truly believed in giving students a second chance. Since 2002, sixteen (16) students have been awarded the honorary Michael K. O'Brien \$500 scholarship.

During her own valiant fight with breast cancer, Nora lobbied for and got a Hartland chapter for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. She went on to chair two extremely successful Relay for Life events that garnered the Hartland community national recognition from the American Cancer Society for the extent to which Nora was able to involve the entire community, as well as for the amount the events were able to raise.

In January 2010 Nora moved her family to the Upper Peninsula for financial and personal reasons. The Hartland community lost one of its brightest beacons and strongest advocates. She will be forever missed.



A Memorial Day Perspective

On this Memorial Day, we honor all of our fallen soldiers, their commitment to our country, and their legacy of patriotism and sacrifice. By giving their lives in the cause of freedom, these heroes have protected and inspired all Americans. The commitment of these lives is clear to all: They defended our nation, they liberated the oppressed, and they served the cause of peace. And all Americans who have known the loss and sadness of war, whether recently or long ago, can know this: The person they love and miss is honored and remembered by the United States of America.

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, with his **General Order No.11**:

The 30th day of May 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.



Arlington National Cemetery (courtesy US Army)



Great Lakes National Cemetery (Holly, MI)

Since the late 50's on the Thursday before Memorial Day, the 1,200 soldiers of the 3d U.S. Infantry place small American flags at each of the more than 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery. They then patrol 24 hours a day during the weekend to ensure that each flag remains standing.

The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring all Americans who died fighting in any war). It is now celebrated in every State on the last Monday in May (passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971). Several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19 in Texas, April 26 in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10 in South Carolina; and June 3 (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.



Who were Austin & Moore for whom American Legion Post 415 is named?

From Sept 1946 Community Life: A requiem mass was held for William Austin February 18th in the Oceola church. Bill was reported missing in action May 5, 1944; his mother received the information in June 1944 when the Navy said he "took off with other members of the crew on a bombing mission over enemy territory and the plane had not been seen or heard from since...probably shot down".

Bill was born in Deerfield Township in 1925, attended Faussett School and Hartland High School; in 1942 enrolled for night school at Cass Tech in Detroit, but then decided to enlist in the Navy. Training was at Great Lakes, IL and then to a technical training Center in Memphis. The article does not mention *where* he died.

Feb. 1949 Community Life: Julian Moore attended Pontiac High School, but his mother later moved to Hartland. Julian was 23 when he died on Luzon (the Philippines) April 22, 1945. His parents had to make application for the return of his body which took 18 months. Burial in Hartland Cemetery took place in the late spring of 1949. Moore served in the Red Arrow 32nd Division, wounded in New Guinea; received Purple Heart, Bronze Star and the Combat Infantry Badge.

November 1946: The public was invited to the installation of officers of the newly formed Austin-Moore Post #415 on November 4, 1946 at the Hartland Recreation Hall.

Family histories and research T. Cain & B. Krueger

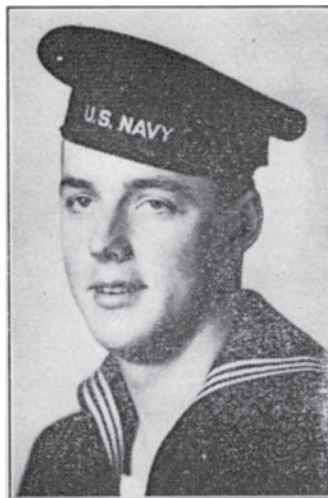
Requiem Mass was held for William Austin on February 16th in the Oceola Church.

Bill, as he was known to his many area friends, was reported missing in action May 5, 1944. The Navy has recently informed his family that he is now listed as killed in action.

In June 1944 Bill's mother received the details of his disappearance from the squadron commander who wrote, "William took off with other members of the crew on a bombing mission over enemy territory. The plane has not been seen or heard from since. What little information we have indicates that the plane was probably shot down. The other planes reported heavy, accurate, anti-aircraft fire that night."

William Merrill Austin was born in Deerfield township on February 27, 1925. He attended Faussett School and Hartland High School. In September, 1942, he enrolled as a night school student at Cass Tech High school, Detroit, then suddenly decided to enlist in the Navy.

On October 27 he left for Great Lakes, Illinois, where he took his boot training. From there he was sent to the Naval Air Technical Training Center at Memphis, Tenn., where he was graduated in May, 1943, with the rating of Aviation Machinist's Mate third class. Then followed a period of specialized training at Purcell, Oklahoma, and at Lake City Florida, after which he was transferred to the Navy Bomber Base near Seattle, Washington. In December he received his advance to A. M. M. 2 c.



Excerpt from
Community Life
March, 1946

Reburial of Hartland Soldier

The re-burial of Julian Moore will take place in the Hartland Cemetery in the very near future. Military services will be conducted by the Austin-Moore Post of the American Legion.

Pfc. Julian E. Moore was born in 1913 and was twenty-three years of age at the time of his death on Luzon, April 22, 1945. He was the son of Mrs. M. R. Cooper of Hartland and Harold Moore of Lake Orion. He graduated from Pontiac High School in the class of 1939.

Serving in the Red Arrow, 32nd Division, he was overseas for 31 months, in action in New Guinea, where he was wounded, the Netherlands East Indies, Leyte, and Luzon. Julian's entire company was cited for thirty-one continuous days of hand-to-hand fighting with Japs on Leyte in November of 1944. For his own distinguished service Julian was the holder of the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He is one of the two veterans honored by his fellow soldiers and friends at home through the name of the Austin-Moore Post of the American Legion.

About a year and a half ago his parents made application for the return of his body. On January 7th he arrived in San Francisco on the transport, Sgt. Jack J. Pendleton.

Those members of the family who have mourned his passing are his parents, his brother, LeRoy Moore, his sister, Mrs. James Brown and two step-sisters, Joann and Sandra Cooper. The community extends its sympathy to the family.



Excerpt from
Community Life
February, 1949



*Photo of Julian Moore's grave stone.
Hartland Cemetery.*



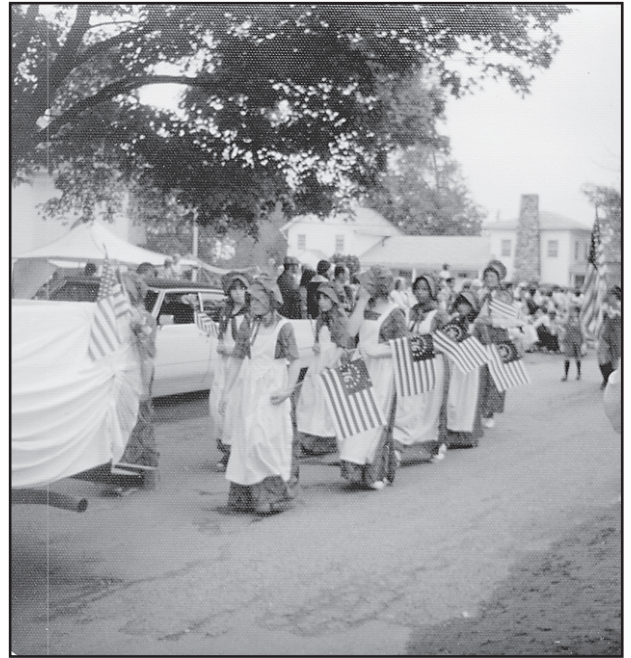
2000



2001



2001



1976



1976



1996



1990



1992



1999



1996

These past Memorial Day photos brought to you by

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Happy 75th Anniversary Hartland Memorial Day Celebration!