



***HISTORY OF***  
***THE AMERICAN LEGION***  
***DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN***  
***FOR THE YEAR***  
***2005-2006***

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***DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN***

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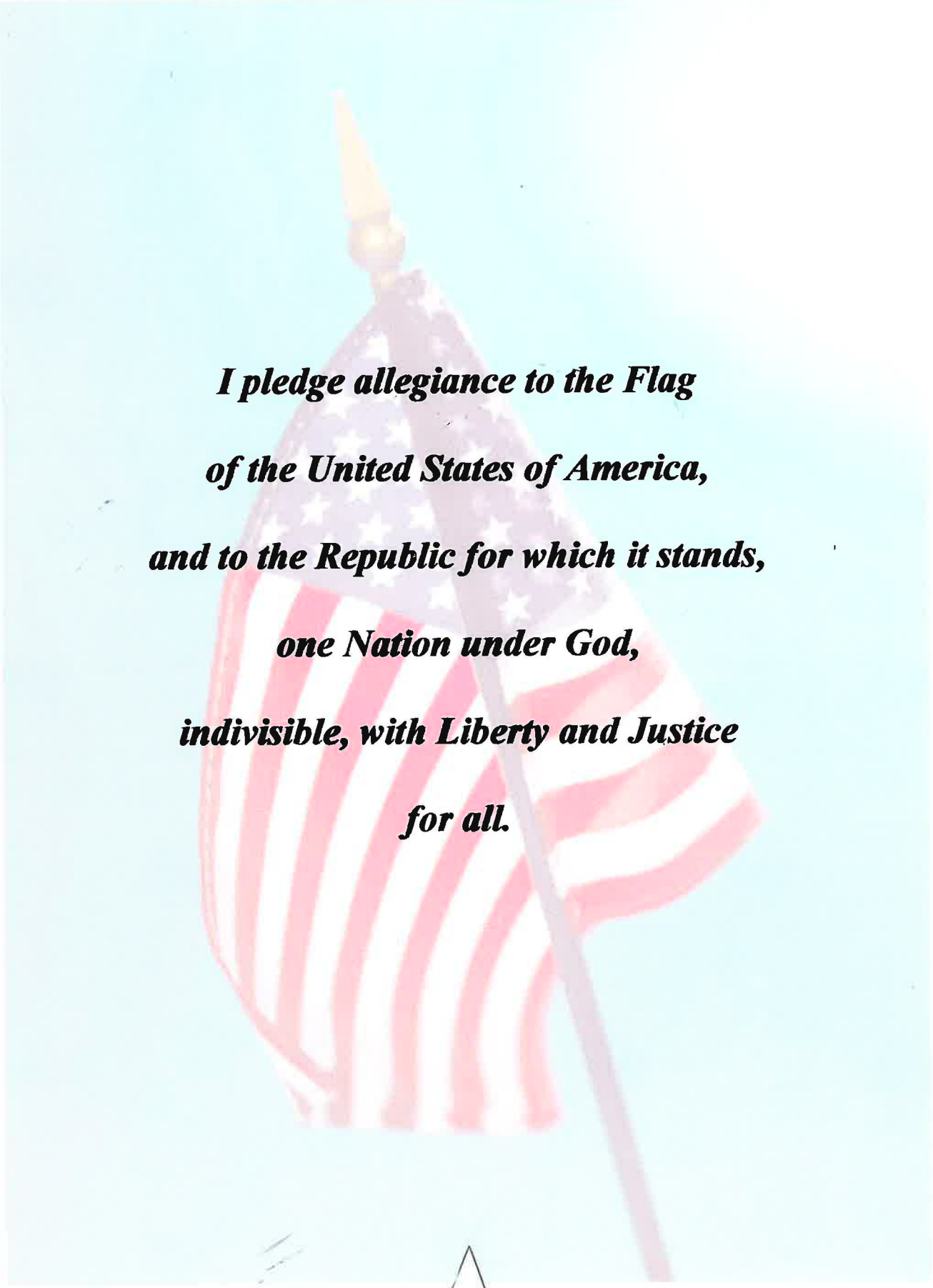
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**MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER**

*Compassionate one,  
lover of all nations and people,  
on this weekend when we remember and honor  
those who have been killed in our nations wars,  
we are confronted anew with  
issues of peacemaking in our time.  
We see how violence and war  
are taking many forms,  
fueled by religious intolerance,  
historical hatreds and divisions,  
poverty and powerlessness,  
and by our self-righteousness and fear.  
Still our spirits long for  
another way.*

*Receive our prayers of intercession  
for all those places  
where hostilities rage from within and without,  
and for all who need  
love and healing. Amen.*



***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.***



## Preamble to the Constitution

For  
**G**od and **C**ountry  
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 autoocracy 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.



**DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**  
**2005-2006**



***John H. Skinner***

***John H. Skinner, a 32 year American Legion member of Schoolcraft Post 475, is the newly elected State Commander of Michigan's 91,000 member American Legion by delegate action at the organization's 87<sup>th</sup> State Convention Sunday, June 19, 2005, in Grand Rapids. Commander Skinner, a Vietnam veteran of U.S. Army service, has been active at many levels of the Legion, the nation's largest veterans organization. He has served the State Headquarters as a Vice Commander, Membership Director, Chairman of the Education and Scholarship, Public Relations, Membership and Constitution and Bylaws Committees. He also served as a member of the Americanism Committee.***

***He has served on the National Americanism Committee and as Kalamazoo County Commander, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander as well as numerous offices at Post 475, including Commander. He is also a Charter Member of the Kalamazoo County Veterans Affairs Committee and retired after 32 years with Armstrong International as a Manufacturing Engineer. His wife Jackie is a 32 year member of Auxiliary Unit 475 and a Past State President. They have four children and five grandchildren.***



**Department Executive Committee 2005-2006**



***Adjutant  
Patrick Lafferty***



***Finance Officer  
William Anderson***



***Sgt. At Arms  
Thomas Headworth***



***Department Chaplain  
Lawrence Vollink***



***Judge Advocate  
Anthony Derezinski***

**Department Zone Commanders**

**2005-2006**



***Zone 1  
John Bradford***



***Zone 2  
Linda Lefcheck***



***Zone 3  
Joseph Burman***



***Zone 4  
Robert Drebenstedt***



***Zone 5  
Edsel Robinson***

**Department Officers 2005-2006**



***Membership Director  
Stephen German***



***VA & R Director  
John Nelson***



***Public Relations Director  
Warren Stensrud***





**District Commanders 2005-2006**



***Richard Chatman  
First District***



***Charles Cox  
Second District***

***Sylvia Nicholas  
Third District***



***James Schutze  
Fourth District***



***Robert Tickner  
Fifth District***

***Lester Ray McWilliams  
Sixth District***



***Linda Sharp  
Seventh District***



***Richard Root  
Eight District***



**District Commanders Cont.**



***John Lamphere  
Ninth District***

***William Welsh Sr.  
Tenth District***



***William Hafeman  
Eleventh District***



***Arthur Davis  
Twelfth District***



***Mike Buda  
Sixteenth District***

***Andrew Melcher Jr.  
Seventeenth District***



***Shannon Wawruck  
Eighteenth District***



***Tom Derenzy  
Nineteenth District***

## State Convention 2005



*Commander Tom Holzgen gives John his Dept. Commanders pin.*



*Jackie places John's white Commander's hat on him.*



*John introduces his family to the convention delegation.*



*John addresses the new DEC*

**National Convention, Hawaii 2005**



**State Auxiliary President  
Norma Wojack**

**USS Missouri anchored in Pearl Harbor**



**Jackie and John, a moment to relax before the convention opens.**



**Theresa and Pat at the Michigan Luau.  
(Where is Pat's lai?)**

**Fall Conference, Boyne Mountain, 2005**



**Color Guard at opening ceremony**

< **One of the beautiful buildings at Boyne Mountain.**



**Deanna, Bob Simons, Richard Dubay, and Mike Gallaway discuss scholarships.**



**Ray Carlson, Frank Rodman, and Don Hudon**



**S.A.L guys take a break**



**Past Commanders draw raffle winners.**