

A Husband of 48 years, this individual has supported his wife, daughter, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren in school activities, scouting activities, gun safety classes, baseball teams, auxiliary activities and according to his daughter, "In addition to the example he has been to us of selfless giving, he has taught all of us many valuable life lessons."

A 27 year member of the Sons of the Legion, he serves proudly, honoring the service of his Brother, his father and also in memory of his grandfather, step-father and step-brother.

He has served in every capacity and held every office in his squadron and while many his age say, "I have given enough," he continues to lead and organize and is first to step up and serves as squadron treasurer.

He is well respected and trusted by everyone who knows him, but particularly above all, his family.

Being the outdoorsman that he is, he has always taken great pride in teaching others respect of the land. He is an important supporter in his young grandchildren's Hunter's Safety Education as he did with his daughter, nieces and nephews. Believing firsthand experience teaches best, he led many youth hunting and fishing excursions also donating many duck, goose and rabbit hunts to promote proper use of equipment and respect for nature.

He travels to Alaska almost every summer and is proud to have been able to share the beauty of nature with his wife, daughter and grandchildren. He feels one of his greatest accomplishments is to be able to personally show them so much of what nature has to offer.

They fished for Sockeye Salmon in the Kenai River, caught huge King Salmon in the Kasilof River, halibut fishing out around Pearl Island and even camped out at oceanside in Tutka Bay (a cove on the tip of the Kenai Peninsula, across Kachemak Bay from Homer, Alaska). He proudly shows the photos and "brags" about the life-molding trip he shared with his grandson.

For the past 25 years, the community and our local veterans reap the benefits of his trips as he has created and organized a wild game dinner fundraiser which provides funding for veteran support in excess of \$6,000 each year. Much of the game prepared for the dinner is donated by him from the Alaska trip.

His granddaughter participated in brownies and girl scouts where he was able to show his support for these junior organizations. Each year for the community Memorial Day celebration, he provided the row boat and guide-ship for the Girl Scout & Cub Scout to lay the Naval memorial wreath out in the water. He also taught her (and many other troop members) the importance of "serving those who have served" by guiding their participation in placing flags and markers on veteran's graves each year before Memorial Day in local cemeteries.

He also supported other character building activities such as his grandchildren's youth baseball/softball teams. He always made it a point to attend games to admire their camaraderie and was particularly pleased that they always started their games with the lead off of our National Anthem. His grandsons' team was continuously sponsored by The Sons of The American Legion and the local club displays plaques and trophies with pride.

25 years ago he started the Sons of the Legion Pizza night during the winter months which remains one of the most popular of the Sons events. Many other Sons of the Legion fundraising events including Annual Christmas Tree Sales, Sons of the Legion Mother's Day Breakfast were developed by him. You will often find him repairing something, replacing something, arranging for entertainment or bussing tables during Friday night fish fry.

Whether volunteering to build a handicap ramp, cutting and delivering a few cords to someone without heat, driving someone to a doctor's appointment, shoveling a walkway, offering up his chain saw to remove a fallen tree, attending a sump pump in a flooded basement, painting a ceiling, refinishing a floor, this gentleman has a unique talent of seeing someone in need and steps up to help out.

Throughout the planning and construction of the new hall, this man was deeply involved. Sharing his bricklaying talents, he led a team of volunteers to provide the laying of the exterior to the building. This 1999 Auxiliary of the year recipient, donated his time and talents to construct the Veterans patio so veterans can enjoy summer evenings and families and friends can purchase bricks to honor their veterans. He also built a large outdoor BBQ and grilling area on the patio for the club. Always counted on for his innovative ideas and most of all follow through, his word is his bond.

Each year on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, the streets of his town are lined with American flags. It is this man who rises at dawn, loads the 70 flags on 10 ft poles to place on the streets honoring our servicemen and women. It is also this man who returns at dusk to return them to the post for safe keeping.

His involvement in his community and the American Legion, pride dedication to his family and his ability to provide leadership sets him apart as a fine example of the true meaning of a volunteer.

The 2018 Michigan Sons of the American Legion Son of the Year we honor here today is Bob Beck.