

RETIREE LINE

SPRING 2018

Consumers Energy

Count on Us®

2018 ANNUAL GOLF OUTING & REUNION LUNCHEON SEPTEMBER 18 & 19, 2018



ANNUAL GOLF OUTING - SEPT. 18

PLANs ARE BEING FINALIZED for our annual 2-day event. Our Golf outing will again be held at the Medalist Golf Club, 15701 N-Drive North, Marshall on Tuesday, September 18. We are happy to announce a return to this beautiful course which many of our golfers have requested. Our reunion luncheon will be held the following day at Cornwell's Turkeyville USA in Marshall.

A day on the fairways is like a trip into the wilderness to play the game you love. Wild turkeys, deer, fox, sandhill cranes and even a rare white robin make their home here

Golf registration will begin at 9 a.m. with a shotgun start at 11 a.m. The format is a four-person scramble. Further details and registration forms will be provided in the Summer newsletter, or online at **ConsumersEnergy.com/retiree**. Golf Captains letters to be mailed in July.

ANNUAL REUNION LUNCHEON SEPT. 19

OUR LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD at Cornwell's Turkeyville USA - located at **18935 15 1/2 Mile Road, Marshall** on September 19. Join us for some down-home cooking. Turkeyville is committed to homemade and happy. Food always made the way Grandma used to; starting with real ingredients and preparing dishes using Grandma's original recipes. "When you come to Turkeyville we want every minute to be special and fun!"

Registration will be at 10:30 a.m. followed by a brief meeting and Scholarship presentation at 11 a.m. A turkey home-cooked feast and a memorable performance of the show **NunSense** following lunch. Watch for information and registration forms in July newsletter and online at **ConsumersEnergy.com/retiree**.



**NUN
SENSE**
The Show

Apply for SCHOLARSHIPS for High School Seniors

THE FORERUNNERS WILL AWARD five scholarships valued at \$4,600 to eligible high school seniors graduating in 2018. The Forerunners will sponsor one \$1,000 scholarship. Plus Richmond Brothers, based in Jackson, Mich. and Flynn Wealth Partners, based in East Lansing, Mich., will each sponsor a \$1,000 scholarship. Both firms offer retirement and financial planning services. In addition to the above three scholarships, the Forerunners will provide two additional \$800 scholarships.

Applications and eligibility information are available at any Forerunners office, from chapter presidents, or online at the Consumers Energy website, **ConsumersEnergy.com/company/careers/retirement/retiree-advantage**. The application and required academic information must be received on or before **June 15, 2018**.

To be eligible, students must be high school seniors with a grade-point average of 2.5 or above. After graduating from high school, they must enroll as full-time students at an accredited college,

university or trade school. The award can be used for tuition, books, fees and other academic expenses.

Scholarships are awarded to children, grandchildren, step-children, step-grandchildren, and other legal dependents of paid-up Forerunners members. A Forerunners member is eligible for only one award in any given year.

The first name drawn during the selection process in June will receive the \$1,000 Richmond Brothers Scholarship; the second name drawn will receive the \$1,000 Flynn Wealth Partners Scholarship. The third name drawn will receive the \$1,000 Forerunners "Building for the Future" scholarship. The final two names drawn will each receive a \$800 Forerunners Scholarship.

Award recipients are invited to attend the Forerunners Annual Meeting and Luncheon to accept their scholarships. This year's event will be September 19 at the Cornwell's Turkeyville USA Restaurant, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Road, Marshall.





Thank You For Your Service

JACKSON – Jackson resident Herb Elfring vividly remembers the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, because he was there.

"I was reading the bulletin board at the barracks when the first plane shot down at us," said Elfring, a 96-years-young U.S. Army veteran. "The line of bullets was about 15 feet from me."

Elfring is back at Pearl Harbor today for the 75th anniversary of the Japanese attack on the U.S. Naval base. It's his fourth trip back, but this time 21 family members are with him.

"It's reminiscent, of course," he said. "It's just human nature to have that feeling that you're one of the lucky ones to survive that ordeal."

Elfring was about three miles from the harbor itself when it was bombarded by hundreds of Japanese fighter planes.

"We went to our radar, which was in infancy at the time," he said. "It was used to detect planes at night to pass info to anti-aircraft guns. Another plane came over and hit the radar signal-corps radio. As that plane came over it swerved off a little, and the rain of bullets hit the radar."

"It put us on a war status right away. We prepared for a troop landing on the island."

More than 2,000 Americans were killed in the attack, and another 1,000 were injured.

The United States of America declared war the next day.

"We were very conscious after that in case anything else did happen," Elfring said. "I've become more and

Herb Elfring worked for 35 years as a Senior Supervisory Engineer, in the Transmission line design department.

more appreciative of being one of the remaining survivors. I guess you don't have a whole lot of time to stop and think how you feel. I just did what my superiors told me to do. I was a good soldier. You do what you have to do."

Elfring was one of 150 soldiers in his 251st anti-aircraft artillery battery.

"All the fellas that I knew are all gone," he said. "I may be the last one out of 150. You think about them, and how lucky you are to be one of the last remaining. It's emotional to be called the greatest generation."

Elfring served his country from Sept. 16, 1940, to Nov. 11, 1945.

He moved to Jackson in February 1950 after attending the University of Michigan on the GI Bill.

Elfring and his late wife, Ruth, have five kids, who now range in age from 52 to 66. Since retiring from Consumers Energy in 1985, Elfring has traveled to Egypt, England, Scotland, New Zealand, Australia, Alaska and all over the U.S.

"Being in the service you learn discipline and how to take care of yourself, how to work as a team," Elfring said. "It's disappointing in that after we did such a tremendous job defeating the Germans and Japanese in World War II, that we still have so much conflict at this time."

Elfring stays very active. He square dances three to four times a week rides, his bike around Jackson County, golfs and plays tennis. Herb also participates in the "70's and older Ski Club". Downhill skiing recently in Colorado and Utah. "But I ski very carefully now," he said.



IMPORTANT RETIREELINE OFFICE NOTICE

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST MAILING OF THE RETIREELINE NEWS.

The Forerunners officers are in the process of updating its membership roster. We will be deleting members who are not Lifetime members and are not current with their dues payment. Due to the cost of printing and mailing, this has become necessary. If you need to know if you are current with your dues payment, call your Chapter Treasurer or call the retiree office directly at 517-788-1221. If you wish to remain a member,

your 2018 dues must be paid by June 15, 2018, and if you have any past dues payment will be forgiven.

Please pay your dues directly to your chapter treasurer, or you may send your payment directly to the Forerunners office, 1945 W. Parnall Road, P21-504, Jackson 49201.

If you contact the retiree office, remember this is a volunteer-managed office, and someone will get back to you in a timely manner.

Thank
you

Thank you to **Nancy Miller** for her years serving as the Forerunners Secretary. Nancy also contributed her time

and talent for several years publishing the **Retireeline** and came up with many ideas to support our Scholarship Fund.

Welcome

OUR NEW SECRETARY is Helen Riendeau, who retired in 2012.

Helen brings a wealth of experience with her. She has held a variety of positions and has worked in Jackson, Royal Oak, Pontiac, Macomb, Grand Rapids and Lansing. Welcome, Helen and thanks for volunteering for this important position.



THE FORERUNNERS BOARD and many local Chapters are looking for new leadership in many positions. The Forerunners will have a Vice President vacancy at the end of 2018, and the Presidency will be vacant at the end of 2019. We need a volunteer to run for Vice President, ultimately to become President. It is imperative we get new leadership in position as soon as possible. The President vacancy will occur in November 2019. Anyone interested in exploring this or other leadership positions with the Forerunners or local Chapters, contact Vonda Belanger at vondaleigh@msn.com.



FEBRUARY 2018

Ahler, Leanne C., Bay City
Almasian, David, South Lyon
Chambers, H. Richard, Jackson
Duby, David A., Manistee
Kane, Barbara J., Midland
Markey, Steven F., Au Gres
Melin, Joseph J., Linwood
Mierzwa, Terrence J., Parma
Rademaker, Terry L., N. Muskegon
Scudder, Phillip E., Montague
Stafford, Debra J., Fraser
Swan, Jody L., Kalamazoo
Thompson, Patti L., Essexville
Torres Jr. David, Ionia

JANUARY 2018

Bowman, Kevin P., Jackson
Brown, Paul G., Jackson
Buchanan, Ronald L., Bay City
Chrisman, James M., Pleasant Lake
Connell, Bruce P., Kawkawlin
Cooper, Robert C., Coldwater
Coval, John A., Jackson
Crane, William E., Jackson
Devries, Julia M., Clarkston

Farr, Thomas W., Jackson
Frey, Wayne K., Jackson
Gagnon, Kathy A., Saginaw
Haase, Dawn M., Washington
Hamlet, Steven M., Jenison
Harker-Leigh, Julie A., Bad Axe
Hunt, Eric K., Harrison Twp
Lipinski, Andrew A., Essexville
Mcknight, Karen K., Jackson
Nowak, Raydene V., Kawkawlin
Prevost, Paul M., Bay City
Rand, Martha A., Jackson
Sterling Michael C., Breckenridge
Stevens, Robert M., Lansing
Stutler, Chris E., Indian Lakes Estates, MI
Symon, David B., Bailey
Trombley, Cynthia, Midland
Trudeau, Sharon L., Lansing
Wagner, Robert D., Temperance
Whitney, David G., Brethren
Wilson, Kathryn A., Grand Ledge

DECEMBER 2017

Bray, Richard W., Mears
Cole, Rick A., Hesperia
Dahl, Richard J., Washington
Duits, Michael J., Hastings

Kasper, Richard B., South Haven
Kuczkowski, Patrick J., Bay City
Malone, Daniel J., East Lansing
North, Patrick E., St Johns
Perkins, Allan K., Jackson
Ropp, Angela L., Concord
Schneider, Linda L., Mikado
Surber, James H., West Olive
Welcher, Keith D., Gaylord

NOVEMBER 2017

Bush, Jimmie D., Hastings
Mengebier, David G., Traverse City
Mudge, Steven L., Clark Lake
Sprick, Joel B., Hamilton

OCTOBER 2017

Bromley, Lawrence C., Waldron
Long, Carolyn Y., Southfield
Lubitz, William O., Jackson
Mento, Paul M., Macomb Twp.
Orlikowski, John M., Newaygo
Patteen, Paul M., Bay City
Rossow, Martin L., Livonia
Tetil, Donna M., Reese
Webb, Thomas J., Richland
Weber, Bonnie J., Saginaw





DEATHS

FEBRUARY 2018

Beatty, Deborah L., Concord
Eldred, Marilyn J., Avon Park, FL
Juhl, Phyllis J., Bay City
Kuhn, Robert J., Hudson
Larson, Lynn A., Caledonia
Naegele, Dorothy M., Kalamazoo
Ratza, Robert L., Otisville
Rison, Gloria G., Flint
Rutland, Charles D., Macomb
Wickham, Leslie A., Parker, CO

JANUARY 2018

Bauman, Ronald C., Manistee
Boon, Maribeth, Freesoil
Chess, Gertrude M., Houghton Lake
Coon, Gerald E., Fort Mohave, AZ
Coppernoll, Timothy J., Spring Arbor
Corbin, Norma J., Holton

Dunham, Robert L., Muskegon
Dunn, Joan P., Saginaw
Durkee, Helen J., Clermont, FL
Eschenburg, Eldon W., Jackson
Julian, Robert R., Jackson
Kelley, Richard B., Saginaw
Kiessel, Donovan R., Traverse City
Kison, Shirley D., Muskegon
Lane, John A., Riverview, FL
Lound, Gary C., Holland
McDaniels, Robert M., Bay City
Mercado, Mildred D., Collierville, TN
Potts, Raymond G., Adrian
Primo, M. E., Brandon, FL
Rabideau, Ronald D., Oscoda
Rumble, Lesley W., East Tawas
Schneider, Clemensl., Crystal
Schulz, Gwendolyn R., White Pigeon
Tschirhart, Donald E., Bad Axe
Turpin, Rosemary, Holland
West, Duane W., Jackson
Westerhof, Elmer E., Grand Haven

Zackery, John H., Kalamazoo
Zielinski, A. J., Manistee

DECEMBER 2017

Bowman, Charles E., Frostproof, FL
Chenery, Bruce W., Michigan Ctr
Cone, Bernard R., Midland
Cosand, Alfred B., St Clair Shores
Davis, Marland V., Kalamazoo
Felton, Earl C., Clio
Galich, Robert P., Kalamazoo
Guillaumin, Eleanor K., Kalamazoo
Hagedorn, Frederick H., Mt Clemens
Jennings, Leonard P., Mattawan
Jones, Richard L., Traverse City
Miner I, Ronald G., Plainwell,
Norwood, Valdean E., Mountain Home, AR
Pearson, Wayne N., Winter Haven, FL
Postel, Maxine S., South Daytona, FL
Quigno, Richard T., Mt Pleasant
Schneidenbach, Lorraine P., Kalamazoo
Stanfield, Don M., Epps, LA
Townsend, Mark T., Frankenmuth
Tyrrell, Diane M., Jackson
Wallington, Charlotte., Lake City

NOVEMBER 2017

Anys, Russell J., Spring Lake
Ayers, Donna J., Jonesville
Belanger, Lewis J., Royal Oak
Beutler, John E., Lansing
Bowen, Dallas M., Adrian
Craven Jr., Frank L., Grand Ledge
Denning, Everett L., Jackson
Dunn, Melvin J., Saginaw
Greyerbiehl, Richard L., Saginaw
Hapke Jr., Paul E., Pullman
Harris, Marian F., Clinton Township
Kast, Robert W., Napoleon, OH
Lynch Jr., Frederick D., Ann Arbor
Malear, Mary L., Chesterfield
Mason, Venice F., Jerome
McClean, Elaine V., Rochester Hills

Nikolaulyk, Robert F., Macomb
Owsiany, John, Paw Paw
Piegols, Donald E., Midland
Postl, Daniel J., Jackson
Savage, Edward C., Cadillac
Somervill, Donald D., Portland
Valkema, Joyce M., Byron Center
Walters, Bertha H., Parker, CO
Webb, Janet M., Springport
Woodhead, Ralph W., Franktown, CO

OCTOBER 2017

Andresen, Barbara J., Tucson, AZ
Axtell, Charles A., Vicksburg
Bailey, Joanne M., Destin, FL
Baker, Charles F., Jackson
Bassett, Ivan, Chesterfield
Bergmann, Jo A., Bay City
Coffee, Beatrice, Lilly, PA
Comrie, Patricia A., Charlotte
Cox, Floyd L., Clinton Twp
Crowley, Suzanne M., Jackson
Dial, Hobert A., Ranger, WV
Dumont, Betty L., Mikado
Edward, Ruth G., West Olive
Ellsworth Jr., W., Byron
Heyer, Harvey G., Spring Lake
Higgins, Barbara L., Grand Rapids
Idzkowski, Joseph E., Jackson
Johnston, Robert F., Jackson
Kinch, Raymond J., Jackson
Kirkby, Wayne A., Corrales, NM
Koker, Nancy L., Jackson
Martin, John M., Jackson
Morris, Annamae A., Sterling Hgts
Schmidt, Gerald D., Bay City
Smith, Willard M., Livonia
Snow, Betty L., Charlotte
Stephenson, Lee C., Traverse City
Talaga, Raymond F., Bay City
Thomas, Shirley J., Concord, NC



Contacts

FORERUNNERS OFFICERS

President: Vonda Belanger – vondaleigh@msn.com – 248-761-2470

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Secretary: Helen Riendeau – hlriendeau@att.net – 517-339-3528

Treasurer: Kathy Gabriel – kathleengabrier@att.net – 517-783-5072

Past President & Scholarship Chair: Rhoda Tinkham – rmtinkham@gmail.com – 517-628-9740

FORERUNNERS CHAPTERS

Please call the appropriate chapter president if you want to be on the mailing list for club events.

Adrian – **Adrianites** – Alan Morgenthaler – 517-265-7539

Alma – **Grey Power** – Bob Divelbiss – 989-833-2403

Arizona – **Sun Runners** – John Ralph – 623-935-9772

Battle Creek – **Kilowatt Kreekers** – Margaret Skinner/Moody – 269-967-2263

Flint & Lapeer – **Easterners** – Tom Bollman – 810-444-9054

Florida – Bill Romoser – 863-666-8021

Grand Rapids & Greenville – **Livewires** – Frank Zimmerman – 616-656-1147

Jackson – **Jacksonians** – Diane Loring – 517-782-7594

Kalamazoo & Hastings – **Southwest Energy Stars** – Vacant

Lansing – **Capitaliers** – Sue Garland – 517-543-9488

Livonia & Howell – **Blue Flames** – Sue Breckenridge – 734-453-2251

Monroe County – **Southeasters** – C.J. Schwartz – 734-847-1516

Muskegon – **Lakesiders** – Vacant

Royal Oak & Pontiac – **Metro Region Pioneers** – Phyllis Leo – 586-677-9235

Saginaw, Bay City & Midland – **Wonder Watts** – Len Bobick – 989-893-2418

Tawas City – **Northeastern Lights** – Lee Lockman – 989-329-0325

Traverse City – **Northwesters** – Robert Gluszewski – 231-313-8344

OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Aetna – Medical: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday, 800-654-7248; <http://aetna.com>

Express Scripts Medco – Mail Order Prescriptions: 800-875-3147; <https://express-scripts.com>

Fidelity – Benefits, ALL Address Changes: 8:30 a.m. – midnight Monday – Friday (except New York Stock Exchange holidays), 800-260-4015; <http://netbenefits.fidelity.com>

Consumers Energy Employee Service Center: 800-272-4045

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