



Commanders Comments.



A few weeks ago, I was flying from Montreal, Canada to Detroit, working my way back to Cleveland. The flight was on time, in fact, we landed a bit early. Being such a frequent traveler, I am somewhat picky as to where I sit on a plane. I typically fly coach and unless I absolutely have no other choice, I only sit in an aisle seat. This is for several reasons, but one is because I like the accessibility to stand when I want to, or even stretch my legs in the aisle. One thing associated with frequent air travel and sitting in the aisle, is people watching. Sometimes it utterly amazes me to watch how some people act in total disregard to others. I watch the leisure travelers who attempt to stuff their entire wardrobe into a carry-on roller bag,



then try to shove it in the overhead bin. Yes, I am an engineer and have a pretty good mind for geometry, physics, and even a good bit of common sense, however, it does not take this type of mind to figure out that a suitcase which is 15" high, will not fit into a slot that's 12" high. You can beat on it, yell, swear, and call the flight attendant bad names, yet it doesn't change the fact that you can't fit a square peg into a round hole.

Getting back to my landing in Detroit, there was a woman sitting across the aisle from me in seat 16C who in her mind was either the only person on the plane, or if nothing else, the most important. The moment we hit the jetway and the seatbelt sign went off, Ms. Importance sprung from her seat, opened the overhead bin, and removed a bag that I believe was large enough to hold a Toyota Prius. As she pulled it out, she hit me, and a few others with the bag, and nearly bowled over a few people making her way to the front, just so she could deplane first. There was never an "I'm sorry" or "excuse me", just 100% "it's all about me!"

Don't we see that all too often in our society today... it's all about me! There is so much complete disregard for others, yet it only gets worse. Liberals and conservatives will argue this point day in and day out, yet nothing changes. We witness this on the news, read it in the papers, and see it in our daily lives. Recently I saw on the news where looters broke into a Family Dollar store in Wilmington, NC and took nearly everything off the shelves. The store was not damaged by Hurricane Florence, but by thugs who busted out the windows prior to the storm even hitting and took everything for themselves. Just another instance of "it's all about me" ...a total disregard for the destruction of property or livelihood of others!

So many of us have witnessed this over the past few weeks in the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings for the nomination of a new Justice to the Supreme Court of the United States. What a complete embarrassment to this country. An embarrassment to our founding fathers and to the Constitution of the United States! How low are these lawyers, politicians, PAC's, etc. willing to stoop just to get their way?

Everyone has their opinion on this situation, but I hope each and everyone of you can put politics aside and just truly look at the facts. Unfortunately, those of us who are strong believers in either liberalism or conservatism sometimes cannot remove the political aspect, but I ask you to try. We live in the United States of America, a country governed by the Constitution. A constitution that not only allows us many rights, but also protects us from wrongdoing.

The Latin phrase “ei incumbit probatio qui dicit, non qui negat” means the burden of proof is on the one who declares, not on one who denies. So, in this situation, a woman comes forward and says that she was sexually assaulted by a man 36 years ago. Most of the details are unclear, but she clearly remembers who the assailant was. The other story is a man who has had a stellar career in law, has been nominated to be seated on the highest court in the land. This man, who has been investigated multiple times by the FBI, has now been accused as being the assailant in the above sexual assault incident. Under oath, he has denied this and clearly stated he was never involved in such an incident.

In my opinion, after being glued to the TV watching the hearings, and monitoring this situation closely for quite some time, I think there are two things here. I truly believe that Dr. Blasey-Ford was the victim of some form of sexual trauma, but I seriously question the accuracy of her allegations. Many psychological studies claim that victims of certain types of trauma, including sexual assault, can cause certain memories to be unclear, or referred to as “false memories”. Often times individuals suffering from PTSD experience dreams or episodes where different memories somewhat collide and cause either confusion or a misinterpretation of a situation. That is why in a criminal trial, evidence of sexual abuse must be clear and concise, and cannot be just a he said/she said situation. A specific case goes back to 1975 when Australian psychologist Donald Thomson was on TV discussing the psychological effects of an eyewitness or victim of trauma. While discussing this matter, a victim of a sexual crime saw his face and her memory encoded it as that of the rapist. The following day, Dr. Thomson was apprehended by local police because the victim identified him as her attacker. Fortunately though, he was exonerated from these charges because of a solid alibi. He was on TV at the time and was with the assistant police commissioner that evening.

Secondly, I believe that Judge Kavanaugh was a typical high school and college student who attended parties, flirted, drank beer, and got a little wild at times. I also believe that most people reading this would have to say the same thing. Does that make us bad people? NO, and it certainly doesn't make Brett Kavanaugh unfit to sit as a Supreme Court Justice. I believe that he was a normal young man, he's has a brilliant mind for law, and the credibility of his word should be equal to the words of his accuser!

To me, it's just a sad state of affairs when political power overtakes morality. I know this has been going on for much longer than I have been on this earth, but to me it seems like it is becoming worse and worse. These politicians destroyed Brett Kavanaugh and scarred Dr. Blasey-Ford far more than she already has been. Unfortunately, this nomination was a political witch hunt and there are far too many victims. In the words of Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY), on the night Judge Kavanaugh's nomination was announced, “I will work to oppose President Trump's Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh with everything I got!” Well, he sure did. He helped destroy a man's career and hurt his family and he put an alleged victim of sexual assault through something no one should have to go thru. What a complete and utter disregard to morality!

OK, I better move on because I could continue to write on this sham for hours and hours!

Since our last newsletter, VFW and post related activities have been non-stop. While attending the VFW National Convention in Kansas City in late July, we got to listen to some incredible speakers including President Trump, Lt. Col. Oliver North (USMC Ret), Harris Faulkner from Fox News, a number of other notable people. During the normal business sessions, there were a number of modifications to the bylaws to update or correct standard operating procedures. Nothing groundbreaking, just minor changes including certain wording in the rituals manual to reflect non-gender specific statements. These changes were necessary because unlike decades ago when many of these bylaws and rituals were established, typically only male service members served in the theater of operation, so the wording was reflective of men only.

Last month, we hosted our 6th annual Community Day and although Mother Nature did not cooperate, I could not have been prouder of Post 3345. We had immediate Past Commander-in-Chief Keith Harmon, Department Commander David Root, District 7 Commander Rob Robertson, Congressman Jim Renacci, State Rep Tom Patton, Mayor Tom Perciak, and many others on hand. We also had a flyover by a USCG helicopter, which flew all the way from Selfridge Air National Guard base in Michigan just to recognize us. The turnout by not only our members, but visitors made me very proud and you all should be equally as proud. We have a wonderful post, and incredible members who so many are always willing to step up to help in any way possible. I thank each and everyone of you who continue to give so much to make 3345 what it is.

We also held our 4th annual Wine & Dine and what great evening it was. It was awesome to see everyone dressed up, enjoying a little food and wine while having a blast dancing to the music of Ron Howard and his band Crusin. Please mark your calendars for September 28th, 2019, as that date is already set for the next Wine & Dine.

Finally, this year we plan to host a New Years Eve party. Specific details have not been set yet, but as of right now Cruisin will entertain us once again, as I assure you, it will be a great time.

In closing, I wish you all a wonderful Autumn, if it ever arrives. I look forward the upcoming holiday season, and ask God to bless you and grant you all "fair winds and following seas" in this voyage called life.

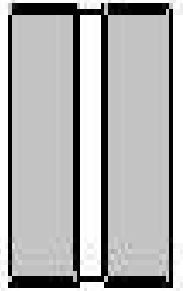
Sincerely

Commander Tim Zvoncheck





Sr. Vice Commander



*Christmas bells, those Christmas bells
Ringing through the land
Bringing peace to all the world
And good will to man*

*The Baron made Snoopy fly to the Rhine
And forced him to land behind the enemy lines
Snoopy was certain that this was the end
When the Baron cried out "Merry Christmas, my friend!"*

*The Baron then offered a holiday toast
And Snoopy our hero saluted his host
And then with a roar they were both on their way
Knowing they'd meet on some other day*

*Christmas bells those Christmas bells
Ringing through the land
Bringing peace to all the world
And good will to man*

*Snoopy's Christmas (George David Weiss, Hugo & Luigi; performed by
The Royal Guardsmen)*

This song touches on a couple of events that fall within the fourth quarter of the year for this edition of the newsletter – the First World War, which ended in November and the Christmas holiday in December (for which some retailers are no doubt already decorating as I'm writing this in September). Plus, it always brought a smile to my face, so thought it a good choice!

Every year, we celebrate November 11th as Veterans Day, although it was originally designated Armistice Day by President Woodrow Wilson. On November 11, 1918, said armistice was signed between the Allied and Central Powers, which signaled the cessation of hostilities, effectively bringing an end to the horrific First World War. While any war is awful, WW I brought a level of savagery never seen before to the battlefield. "Improved" weapons, and grueling trench warfare tactics, including the use of nerve agent gases, led to an unprecedented death toll at the time – not just among the combatants, but civilians as well. All told, approximately 16 million people were killed during the war.

This year marks the one hundredth anniversary of that armistice. Since then, we've endured World War II, with nearly 70 million lives lost; the Korean War – with approximately 1.2 million deaths; Vietnam added another 1.7 million dead to the tally; the first Gulf War led to the loss of 32,000 people; and the wars of today, known collectively as the War on Terror, account for another half a million lives. These numbers are, well, numbing! And they only reflect the wars across the globe in which the United States has been a part. There have been many others, so the total of lives ended through war is much greater than the sum of those mentioned here.

So, a century later, where are we after the 'war to end all wars'? Mankind continues to engage in hostilities against itself, which means we really haven't learned from our past. America must continue to rely on its military, and therefore, we must continue to honor those who serve or have served our nation to defend us and our allies against those who initiate these hostilities. That is why we celebrate Veterans Day. However, we cannot give up hope that one day, we will figure out a way to live amicably alongside others across the globe, let alone at home.

Enter December. Many around the world celebrate significant holidays in the twelfth month of the year, but most notably, Christmas - especially in America, Europe, and other parts of the world with a heavily Christian population. But most people, regardless of their faith, understand the Christmas holiday is celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, an actual historic figure, believed by Christians to be the Son of God. However, there's more to it than just the birth of this man.

Christmas is a holiday of anticipation and hope. Without trying to get too religious, the 'anticipation' is waiting for the arrival of Jesus – our 'gift' from God as promised by the prophets in the Bible. The 'hope' is that with this gift of Jesus on earth, a message of peace will spread throughout the world. As written in Luke 2: 10-14, or quoted by Linus in "A Charlie Brown Christmas" about the meaning of Christmas, an angel appeared to the frightened shepherds in the field, "And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.... And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

That is the hope we must take from Christmas, and I think it transcends any religion, for peace benefits everyone – "tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people". We need to find a way to bring peace to the world, even if we have failed time after time as history has shown. It doesn't matter what term you use for your God, we should all find a way to live together without wanting to kill each other. It seems to be a bit of an overly optimistic dream I've stated before, but it would be wonderful if one day no one was eligible for membership in the VFW because there were no more wars. However, even Snoopy and the Red Baron realized that time is not here – "And then with a roar, they were both on their way – *knowing they'd meet on some other day.*" Consequently, we must remember to keep those presently serving in your thoughts and prayers, not only during this holiday season, but every day, so that they too can come home safely to spend future Christmases with the anticipation and hope we all have today. Merry Christmas to all!

***Christmas bells those Christmas bells
Ringing through the land
Bringing peace to all the world
And good will to man***

Tad Brown
Sr. Vice Commander

Voice Of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Essays: The deadline to submit the essays is October 31, 2018. Questions? Please see Effie Zavatchen regarding Voice of Democracy and Carol Woodward regarding Patriot's Pen.

Attention 9th - 12th Grade Students
Enter the VFW's premier scholarship contest:

 **The Voice of Democracy**

Compete by writing and recording an essay on a patriotic theme.
2018-2019 theme:
"Why My Vote Matters"



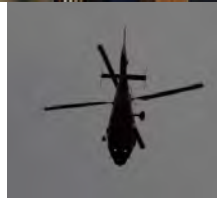
**Top National Prize:
\$30,000 Scholarship**

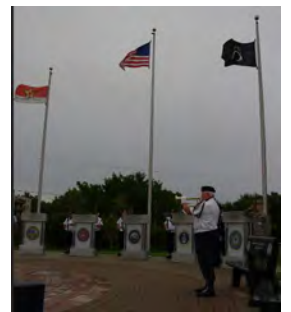
Student entry forms can be found at
<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>
or: VFW Post 3345
17900 Strongsville Blvd., Strongsville, OH 44149
Ask Canteen Staff

The deadline to submit the required entry materials is October 31st, 2018

Don't miss this great opportunity for college assistance!
Home Schoolers are eligible too!
You do not need to be a member of the VFW to participate.

September 8, 2018 Community Day







Jr. Vice Commander

Dan Dallas



Greeting all,

Events that I have scheduled for October are; Saturday, 13 October our USN BIRTHDAY BUS HOP. We will be visiting the VFW Posts in Ashtabula, Eastlake and Post 2133 on Puritas in Cleveland. We will be serving breakfast at 9a.m and the bus leaves our parking lot at 10a.m. Seats are \$35.00 each. These are always a good time and a lot of fun too.

Saturday, 27 October is our Halloween Party. This year we will have Johnny R karaoke show to entertain us. Costumes are encouraged but not necessary. Bring a dish to share with your tablemates. This party is a blast, it will start about 7p.m and go until ????. Don't miss this one!

I have nothing from the Halloween Party until Saturday, 29 December when Johnny R will return for your our pre-New Years Eve party. Johnny R will start at 7p.m get here a little early and grab a table it's sure to be a good time.

No tickets necessary for either the Halloween Party or the Pre-New Years Eve party. Just come to the post and join in the fun!

See you at the Post,

Dan Dallas

Jr. Vice Commander



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Our Members. Our Friends. Our Heroes.

Walt Tomon

Interviewed By Linda Burger



He's the first person to greet you as you enter the Canteen. He's always ready to jump in and to give a hand, with a package or a project. If you need someone to listen, he'll sit down in a minute, there to lend an ear, and his support.

Walt Tomon is, in many ways, the living symbol of the VFW – open, inviting, dedicated to helping all veterans – and everyone in need. "It's really pretty simple," he modestly explained. "If they need help, help them, no matter what. In the long run, it's all for the benefit of the VFW."

Born into a military family, Walt was "basically brought up to be a Marine." His father served in World War II, participating in six offensive landings in the South Pacific, earning two Purple Hearts and the Silver Star.

Walt answered the call himself as soon as he could, joining the Marines as soon as he turned 17. "I had it in my mind that I wanted to stop communism," he explained. "That was the bottom line, beyond the money aspects, we needed to stem the spread of communism."



The yellow footprints. That's the first thing Walt remembers about arriving at Parris Island for his training. "As you got off the bus, you had to stand on yellow footprints on the ground. You stood there as a civilian, to meet your drill instructor," he recalled. "After about two hours, you moved off the footprints and were on your way to becoming a Marine."

After completing Basic Training, Walt was transferred first to Camp Lejeune, then to Camp Pendleton where he went through infantry training and received his military assignment. "I became a cryptologist, deciphering scrambled radio messages. As an added challenge, the code changed daily so you really had to keep up, to ensure accuracy," explained Walt.

Stationed regularly for six months on the USS Okinawa in the Gulf of Tonkin, Walt also spent his tour traveling back and forth by Quattro Province and Phou BIA Province. In the "small world" scenario, one of the fellow servicemen with whom he regularly sent and received messages was a Sergeant named Billy Sopko!

Following his service in Vietnam, Walt was transferred to 29 Palms, CA where he served as a radio operator for an artillery unit. "I really enjoyed seeing the sights around Southern California in my down time," Walt said, with a laugh. "I actually went from a Sergeant to a Corporal – just from having too much fun."

With his very valuable skills, Walt then was stationed in Quantico, VA where he taught communications to Boot Officers in training.

Upon his discharge, Walt became a railroader, with the Erie Lackawanna, where he stayed until the merger with Con Rail forced many workers out. He then moved to Texas where he married, raising a family and enjoying fishing and hunting in his spare time.

After 25 years, he moved back to Ohio, in order to take care of his parents. His son, Dakota, stayed in Texas, to care for Walt's Grandma. "While growing up, I tried to teach my son to have lots of fun but take everything seriously," said Walt, with a note of pride. "Not only did he become a Master Plumber but he's also always willing to help others in need."

Again in the small world theme, while working with NAPA, Walt met Dave Hercules and Dan Dallas!

It was actually a rare time of need for Walt that brought him to the Strongsville VFW. "I had broken my leg, which created financial hardships and someone told me to come by Post 3345," he explained. "I re-met with Sgt. Sopko, who got everything going for me.

"But he said I had to join the Post and become part of the Honor Guard. I found out later he was (partially) joking but it was one of the best things to happen to me," he added.

And the best part of being on the Honor Guard? "My first time at Rittman Military Cemetery showed me the big picture, how many people it took to fight for our country," he revealed. "Their total dedication is what it takes to have this country, from this close knit group of men and women. It is our duty for their honor."



Nicknamed "the Ambassador," for his openness and friendliness, Walt also considers being part of VFW Post 3345 to be an honor. "I am so impressed and so grateful for the dedication of our Auxiliary, the past Women's Auxiliary and, of course, for our Post. I truly hold it an honor to serve for the benefit of Post 3345," Walt said.

Walt, for truly being an Ambassador for the VFW, for the Marines and for America, we at Strongsville VFW Post 3345 salute you and are honored to have you as a Member.





Service Officer Bill Overton Army 1st Cavalry 1967-1968 Vietnam



Hello VFW Members. Well the summer has just about gone. Your VFW is still working every day in the community helping veterans and their families.

The past month we have assisted several veterans with claims and employment. We had visited several nursing homes and the VA hospital at Wade Park.

H.B. 299 Blue Water Navy

Washington is doing it again. Veteran Affairs officials are strongly opposed to the legislative plan to extend disability payouts to roughly 90,000 Navy veterans who claimed exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War, saying they moved could set problematic precedents for future benefits awards.

The science is not there, and what we do depends upon science said Paul Lawrence Under-Secretary for Benefits at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

But advocates for the Blue Water Navy veterans argue that VA officials are ignoring an abundance of evidence showing veterans exposure to Agent Orange and toxic chemicals, and demanding evidence that could only have been collected more than 40 years ago.

These people were exposed, how much they were exposed doesn't make a difference said Rick Weidman, executive director for the Vietnam Veterans of America.

The Senate is going to offer up some changes in the bill. We will keep you posted on any updates that apply to Navy veterans.

The VA is also taking a look at some of the naval bases and testing facilities that may have used Agent Orange. There also have been many other chemicals used that may have caused veterans that have been exposed to depleted uranium, radiation, respiratory illnesses.

God bless American and God bless our veterans.

Bill Overton
Service Officer



Honor Guard

Don Kennett



First of all, I would like to thank Mike Murray for stepping forward and leading the Honor Guard team during two events for which I was not able to be present due to family obligations.

Again, this year, we have been asked to be the VFW Ohio 7th District Honor Guard, which we have accepted. Our first 7th District Honor Guard function was leading the 7th District officers through Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbus, Ohio on September 29th in honor of the founders of the VFW. The Honor Guard is expected to be very busy during the Veterans Day week-end. We currently have five requests for us to provide veterans activities for four different organizations, besides our own VFW Post.

The Honor Guard also has a new member that has recently joined our ranks. His name is Joseph Bechtold and he is a retired Air Force veteran who served in Viet Nam. Joe lives in Brecksville with his fiancée, Danette.

Every year the Honor Guard receives many requests to perform duties, some of which could be performed by a Color Guard. I have been asked in the past to clarify the difference between the Honor Guard and Color Guard. The Honor guard performs the ceremonial functions of honoring an individual or group, living or deceased, by standing guard, assisting, escorting, firing salutes, or otherwise participating in a ceremony or activity without use of the national or state colors. It may be armed or unarmed. Exception: when the national or state colors are a part of a funeral or burial ceremony as a casket drape or a folded veterans' flag, its handling may be part of the responsibility of an Honor Guard. A Color Guard carries, escorts, displays, posts, and recovers the national colors and any other appropriate flag(s) during a ceremony. It may be armed or unarmed. A Color Guard will not fire salutes.

Calendar for: October, November and December:

Oct. 6th – Honor Guard Meeting

Nov. 3rd – Honor Guard Meeting

Nov. 7th – Veterans Day Activity (Strongsville Senior Center)

Nov. 8th – Tour of Duty at Rittman

Nov. 9th – Veterans Day Activity (St. Joseph/John School)

Nov. 9th – Veterans Day Activity (North Royalton)

Nov. 11th – Veterans Day Activity (VFW Post)

Nov. 12th – Veterans Day Activity (Middleburg Heights)

Nov. 17th - VFW 7th District Military Ball

Dec. 1st - Honor Guard Meeting

Dec. 27th - Tour of Duty at Rittman

Respectfully Submitted,
Don Kennett,
Honor Guard Commander

Commander Tim's Wine & Dine

September 22, 2018



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Canteen Manager

Bill Sopko



Boy, it seems that time is moving way too fast. Where did the summer go? Fathers Day, Independence Day and Labor Day just blew right by us. Now the most scenic season is upon us, so enjoy the beauty. I hate to say it but you can put away your lawn and garden tools, dust off

and tune-up the old snow blower and maybe buy a new snow shovel so the wife has no excuse that she couldn't keep the driveway clear for you to meander up to the post for a refreshment or two.

To all you Teufel Hundens out there we will be celebrating the 243 birthday of the U.S Marine Corp. on Nov. 10th. @ 1400hrs. a brief ceremony, a little rum a little cake and a whole lot of camaraderie. The next day Nov.11th. we will be honoring all our veterans on a day dedicated to them. The Commander and his staff always have a great ceremony. All are welcome to attend the above mentioned events. Please try to attend and show respect to all veterans.

A lot of events are planned for the upcoming months. Stop on up to your canteen grab a libation or two and check out the bulletins boards for dates and times. Don't miss out on some good times. The post depends on its members to make these functions a success raising monies to support veterans so please try to participate in some way.

With that, have a great Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Signing off for now. Pray for all our troops and their families. God Bless the U.S.A.

"Say goodnight Gracy "

DAVE & BILL

Reminders.

- 1) set your clocks back an hour on Nov.4th
- 2) check your drivers license expiration date.

I looked up my family tree and found three dogs using it. go figure



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Taps



July 2018: None

August 2018: None

September 2018: Frank Mares

New Members: July 2018

Daniel Tomko John Gardina

New Members: August 2018

None

New Members: September 2018

Steven Petersen Philip Senko Eric Buelow
Thomas Dreher Pat Benson Benjamin Thomas

Donations: July 2018

VFW National Home For Children	\$ 250
Honor Flight Cleveland	\$ 750
Strongsville Kiwanis	\$ 200
(Patriotic Flag Display)	
American Legion Post 91 Golf Outing	\$ 100
VA Hospice	\$ 500
Ohio Flags of Honor	\$ 250
Valley Forge High School	\$ 200
(Vietnam Veterans Memorial)	

Donations: August 2018

VFW National Home For Children	\$ 250
Honor Flight Cleveland	\$ 750
Vin Rouge Pup Tent #1	\$ 250
(Military Order of the Cootie)	
Arts in Strongsville—Day at the Chalet	\$ 50
Leukemia and Lymphome Society	\$ 200
2/337th Dining Out	\$ 600

Donations: September 2018

VFW National Home For Children	\$ 250
Honor Flight Cleveland	\$ 750
Wreaths for Western Reserve	\$ 500
Volunteers of America	\$ 100
(Veterans Day Dinners Wade Park)	
Strongsville Chamber of Commerce	\$ 100
(Outing Hole Sponsorship)	
Serving Area Military (SAM)	\$1,500
Marine Corp Ball Gold Star Table	\$ 500
Alzheimer's Association	\$ 500
(Jessica Woznicki Bender fund raiser)	
Akron Navy Ball	\$ 500



Auxiliary

Bob DeHart



Wow, I can't believe that summer is over, and the holiday season is almost here. The Auxiliary has been involved in a great deal of events over the summer such as the VFW and Auxiliary Golf Outings, the post Patio Concerts, Margaritaville Pig Roast, the VFW vs American Legion Post 91 Softball game

and the Post Community Day, just to name a few; all was a lot of fun and a great way for our Auxiliary to show their support to our veterans and our post. I would like to Thank Mike Zullo and the members of the Auxiliary who helped in these events. It may have been a lot of work, but the outcome is very much appreciated.

The next three months will be a busy time for the Auxiliary. We have added the following events to the post calendar:

October 28th at 1:00pm - Tailgate Party

November 24th at 2:00pm – Tailgate Party \ Chili Cook-off

December 10th at 7:00pm - Auxiliary Christmas Dinner

December 16th noon – 2:00pm – Children Christmas Lunch with Santa

We will also be selling Cookies starting early December

The post will also be having events throughout the next three months that may need help from the Auxiliary; in case you are able to help. I know I have said this in the past, but I'll say it again, I think this really is one of the best auxiliaries in the state of Ohio – We are never short on people stepping up and volunteering to help.

Please see the monthly calendars for the dates of the Auxiliary Clean Days. We normally start at 8:00am and done before noon. Please consider stopping up on one or both days to help keep the post looking clean. Some jobs that are done by the Auxiliary are: wash tables and chairs, dust everything, clean kitchen, etc. The more people we get to help, the earlier we get done. Please be sure to place your name and hours worked on a paper and put in the Auxiliary mailbox. Mary Ann creates the reports for the Auxiliary Clean Days; please be sure to get your two drink chips for helping clean on these days.

Lastly, remember that your dues are due before the end of the year. If you haven't paid them stop in now and keep your membership in good standing. Dues for yearly renewals are \$25. If you're not already a life member, please consider becoming one – the rates are more than reasonable.

On behalf of me and all my auxiliary officers, I would like to wish everyone Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to all of you and your families. We wouldn't be the kind of post we are without all the good and supportive people that are here. Thank you all for your support of our post, and all that you do around here to make it the best post around. I am proud to be your Auxiliary President.

As always, please remember to keep our troops and their families in your thoughts and prayers during this holiday season and throughout the year.

Bob DeHart
President Auxiliary

Bunkers in Baghdad

The Auxiliary took on a new service project this summer and helped send "a little slice of home" to active duty U.S. soldiers, Wounded Warriors and injured veterans. The First Annual Golf Ball and Club Roundup for Bunkers in Baghdad, a 501(c)(3) charity, collected 2,988 gently used golf balls and 17 dozen golf clubs. With the help of post veteran Josh Smithisler, Margie Briller and Linda Tobel stuffed Linda's SUV, and on August 7 they delivered the donations to the charity's warehouse in Buffalo, NY. Bunkers in Baghdad then ships the clubs and balls across the world to 65 countries as well as all 50 states for recreation, stress relief and to aid in rehabilitation. Thanks to everyone who dropped off their donations! We'll see if we can top these numbers next year! The next drive will begin in the spring 2019. Learn more about this charity at www.BunkersinBaghdad.com.





HOUSE COMMITTEE

Brent Newton



First, I would first like to thank Roger Kvasager and Greg Denk (Housing Committee) for doing such an outstanding job in the past with overseeing and keeping the maintenance up in the post.

I would also like to thank all of the dedicated workers that volunteered their Saturdays and other times to help with supporting the post and in keeping our post looking so clean; we have had a lot of compliments from guests on how clean our post is.

As a reminder:

- ♦ If you have flags for proper disposal, please bring them to the post and place them in the red, white and blue mailbox located on the west side of the building.
- ♦ The work parties are the second and fourth Saturday of every month, starts at 0800.
- ♦ Check the calendars for Auxiliary clean days

The housing committee would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

The Housing Committee



Ah-choo!! The dreaded cold and flu season is upon us and we want to do everything we can to keep our members healthy.

In addition to the regular cleaning, every surface in the Post is sanitized on a daily basis. You can help, too, by doing the following:

- Get your Flu Shot! It couldn't be easier now – it's like McDonald's – they're everywhere. Check with your doctor, pharmacy, even grocery store! The VA Clinic – Brookpark is offering walk in flu shots through October 12th, no appointment necessary. They are open Monday through Friday, 9 to 11 a.m. and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- Got a fever, scratchy throat, sneezing, feeling under the weather? Stay home and take care of yourself. We love you – but not your germs!
- If you are at the Post, please follow the rules we all learned at home, in school – and in the service – watch your hands frequently, cover those sneezes and coughs with a tissue, napkin or the crook of your sleeve.

We are very proud of maintaining Post 3345 as the cleanest Post of all. Please work with us to keep it that way and, most importantly, protect the health of our Members and Guests.



RHB Consulting

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Thank You to our Local Politicians:

Mike Byrne (Mayor, Parma Heights)
Tom Patton (Ohio State Rep., District 7)
Tom Perciak (Mayor, Strongsville)



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Strongsville Post 3345
17900 Strongsville Blvd.
Strongsville, OH 44149

November 11, 2017

Post Newsletter Advertising Application

1. **Ad sizes available:** Business Card single, 3 ½ X 1 ½ \$100.00 Yr.
Double Business Card, 3 ½ X 3 \$200.00 Yr.
Top or Bottom Banner, 1 ½ X 7 \$200.00 Yr.
2. **Includes:** 6 bi-monthly issues, plus 24/7 coverage on Post web site.
3. **Circulation:** E-mailed to 1,300 Post members.
4. **Graphics and Text:** All graphics and pictures must be in any of the following formats. Jpeg, Tiff, Gif or Bitmap. Text should be in MS Word. Submit ad design for approval. Newsletters and Calendars are produced in MS Publisher.
5. **Payments:** All payments are due before printing; future payments are due prior to the end of the 12-month cycle. Your cycle begins with the month your first ad is printed. Your ad cost is protected for at least three years. All checks should be made out to Strongsville VFW Post 3345 with "Newsletter" noted on the memo line.

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Contact information: Tad Brown, Sr. Vice Commander

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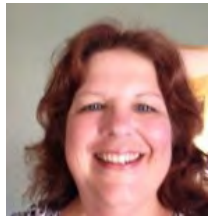
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Scuttlebutt publishing!



Newsletter publication: As a reminder, the Scuttlebutt newsletter and calendars have been switched to a quarterly electronic delivery – either as an email attachment we send to you, or by visiting the Post's website, www.vfw3345.com. Check out the new look on the post website; it looks really great. I have added a few pictures from past events. I am still uploading pictures from various events held throughout the year so check them out and join in on the fun (Web and Mobile access).

Please send your electronic contact information, and any updates to your home address if something has changed, to svcdr.vfw3345@wowway.biz and we will make sure our email distribution list gets you added to it!

NOTE: if you include your birth month and day, we will also get you added to the birthday list. There is also a birthday book behind the bar at the canteen in order to add your birthday information.

I would like to thank Tom Teti, Tracey Damian and Linda Tobel for providing all the pictures used in the newsletters.

I would also like to thank Linda Burger for doing such an outstanding job in the "Our Members, Our Friends, Our Heroes" articles. What a great way to honor our veterans.

Wishing all a Happy Holiday season!

See ya at the post

Support our Troops!!!

Mary Ann Almashie

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October 5, 2018

1. **Special Forces Medic Receives Medal of Honor:** President Trump presented the Medal of Honor on Monday to former Army Special Forces medic Staff Sgt. Ronald J. Shurer II for fighting his way through an enemy ambush to render aid to wounded Special Forces soldiers and Afghan commandos in an April 6, 2008 battle in Shok Valley in northeastern Afghanistan. Shurer was initially awarded the Silver Star for his role in the operation, but a Pentagon review of all valor medals awarded since 9/11 resulted in the award being upgraded to the Medal of Honor. Shurer is currently a special agent with the U.S. Secret Service.
2. **VA to Host Economic Development Events in Puerto Rico:** In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria and the devastating impacts on Puerto Rico last year, there are still many veterans who are attempting to get back to normal. On Nov. 8, VA's Office of Transition and Economic Development will host an event offering multiple services at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. The centerpiece of the event will focus on a veteran economic themed roundtable from 9 a.m. to noon where attendees can learn of some of the programs they might be eligible for. During this event there will also be an all-day large scale claims clinic available to veterans from the surrounding area. On Nov. 14 at Fort Buchanan there will be a Hiring Our Heroes job fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The VFW is glad to see VA is making sure to take care of the veterans from Puerto Rico in their times of need.
3. **Compare 2019 FEDVIP Dental and Vision Plans:** Starting in 2019, dental and vision insurance plans for military retirees and their families will be available through the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). If you're eligible, the first opportunity to enroll in a plan is during the Federal Benefits open season, which will take place from Nov. 12 to Dec. 10. Compare FEDVIP plans and rates before open season begins.
4. **On-Base Shopping Privileges to Expand:** The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 includes a provision to open on-base commissary, exchange and MWR privileges to stateside Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, and those with service-connected disabilities and their caregiver spouses. Once implemented on Jan. 1, 2020, the new beneficiaries will be allowed to use these facilities on the same basis as any service member, dependent or military retiree, although a new user fee might be created for this population to offset additional expansion expenses. The delay to enact is to give the military services, exchange systems and Defense Commissary Agency time to ensure the launch is seamless. Gate access and shopping privileges will be based on the new VA-issued Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC), which identifies the holder as having a service-connected disability. The DOD's electronic physical access control system, to be completed by Sept. 2019, will accept the VHIC to enable streamlined access to installations. The VFW will monitor and report back as expansion efforts progress.
5. **Trump Donates His Salary to Veteran Entrepreneurs:** President Donald Trump is donating his second quarter salary to a Small Business Administration program that will help veteran entrepreneurs. At a White House briefing on Wednesday, SBA Administrator Linda McMahon accepted a \$100,000 check from the president. "This money is going to be used in our veterans program. We're going to establish a seven-month intensive training program called 'Emerging Leaders.' It's an adaptation of that program for our veterans, helping them transition from military life into private sector if they desire to start their own jobs and their own companies, and be entrepreneurs," McMahon said. "We thank the president very much for this and it will be put to very good use." Trump donated his first quarter salary for 2018 to the Department of Veterans Affairs for caregiver programs.
6. **HonorBound Foundation Awards VFW a Grant to Help Service Officers:** HonorBound Foundation has awarded the VFW a \$55,263 grant to help offset a larger initiative that will begin equipping VFW service officers with new laptops and tablets so that they can more efficiently and effectively help veterans file disability claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The VFW has nearly 2,000 VA-accredited service officers across America and abroad, and reliable Internet connectivity is key to helping veterans process their claims. The HonorBound Foundation grant will help jumpstart a larger \$300,000 VFW initiative to ensure all service officers have the ability to provide the same service to all veterans anytime, anywhere. "The VFW is in business to help as many veterans and their families as possible, and part of our success relies on technology," said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. "We're thankful for the HonorBound Foundation's generosity, which will help ensure our professional advocates can process more VA claims wherever and whenever needed."