



The Scuttlebutt

WE ARE ONE!!

July - September 2021

Commander's Comments



Hello everyone, and welcome back to our quarterly newsletters. Of course, you all have received countless memos from me over the past 18 months discussing Covid, closures, and various other Post related topics, but this is the first time in what seems like forever that we are doing the full-blown publication.

So how do I get back into the groove of putting thoughts into words? Well, I'll give it a shot.



According to H.H. Mitchell, Journal of Biological Chemistry 158, the human body is comprised of an average of 60% water. The brain and heart are approximately 73%, the lungs are an average of 83%, the muscles are 79%, etc. So, if the average male weighs 180 lbs, then roughly 108 lbs of that weight is water.

Defining the word "weight" is a body's relative mass or the quantity of matter contained by it, giving rise to a downward force...the heaviness of a person or thing.

Just imagine if life experiences had mass! Imagine if the experiences veterans carry gave a rise to a downward force. How much would he or she weigh? I think of this all the time. As you look into the eyes of a veteran, just imagine what they have seen. If you shake the hand of a combat veteran who served in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, or other godforsaken parts of this world, just imagine what those hands have felt. They may have held the head of a dying comrade or perhaps wiped the tears away from a soldier who was a mere child.

I know what my eyes have seen, and what my hands have felt, but how about other veterans? Often the depth of a stare, or the tremble of a hand clearly defines the weight these experiences carry.

A couple weeks ago, I was at the VFW Department of Ohio Convention, and I walked through a room displaying the various patriotic artwork students submitted for a competition. In the room was a young artist's rendition of an old United States Marine. I am assuming it was meant to depict a Marine from either WWII or the Korean War.

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Sponsored by Ohio VFW Charities

I don't know if this painting was an actual portrait of a real human being, or was it the imagination of the artist, but either way, the painting was chilling. The detail was phenomenal! His wrinkled skin, the faded cloth of his uniform, the tarnish on the medals that hung on his frail chest, and the heaviness of his stare reminded me once again of the burdens veterans carry. Just imagine if these burdens had mass!

To me, nothing depicts the figurative weight of these burdens like The Three Soldiers statue at the Vietnam Wall in Washington DC. Unveiled on Veteran's Day, (November 11), 1984, sculpture Fredrick Hart perfectly encapsulated this "downward force". It shows strength, yet weakness, valor, yet vulnerability. It shows that even though experiences may not have a relative mass, the weight is certainly unimaginable.



"I see the wall as a kind of ocean, a sea of sacrifice that is overwhelming and nearly incomprehensible in the sweep of names. I place these figures upon the shore of that sea, gazing upon it, standing vigil before it, reflecting the human face of it, the human heart.

The portrayal of the figures is consistent with history. They wear the uniform and carry the equipment of war; they are young. The contrast between the innocence of their youth and the weapons of war underscores the poignancy of their sacrifice. There is about them the physical contact and sense of unity that bespeaks the bonds of love and sacrifice that is the nature of men at war. And yet they are each alone. Their strength and their vulnerability are both evident. Their true heroism lies in these bonds of loyalty in the face of their awareness and their vulnerability." Fredrick Hart.

Speaking about the eyes, the hands, and the vulnerability of our veterans, approximately two months ago, I was in Chicago for a family wedding, and received a call that our past Post Commander Dennis Pilny was in hospice. Although Dennis did not really want any visitors other than family, he requested my presence so that we could share one final conversation.

Upon returning, I immediately went to visit him. Although the Dennis we all knew typically had a smile on his face, this time he didn't. He had that look, that stare that is caused by the burdens of life. Dennis knew it was only a matter of time before his earthly being would fade away. He and I shared many conversations over the years, but we both knew this would be the last.

We discussed many things regarding his wishes, but more so the pride he had for Post 3345. He told me how much he loved our Post, and the people who help make it what it is. He also shared with me his proudest achievement, being named an All-American Commander, and Post 3345 being named an All-American Post.

I held Dennis's hand, I looked into his eyes, and I assured him that under my command, one day we would get there again. Before departing, we shared what we both knew would be the final goodbye. I thanked him for being there for me when I first took over as Commander, and he thanked me for what I have done as well.

Rest in peace, Commander Pilny!

For the past nine years, the Commanders-in-Chief have made the goal of All-American almost unachievable by a Post of our size. Not because we don't do enough, but because the membership requirements were far too aggressive for even a great Post like 3345 to achieve.

Well, the global pandemic really shed some light on the current Commander-in-Chief, and he realized that although membership is extremely important, so is the mission of the organization. For a Post like ours, one who constantly shines in and around our community, more than just an aggressive membership goal was considered. VFW Post 3345 went above and beyond in 2020, and continues to do so in 2021, and therefore I was able to follow through with my promise to Commander Pilny.

I received word two weeks ago that Post 3345 will be awarded All-American Post, and I will be named an All-American Commander in Kansas City in early August. This is an incredible achievement over such a trying year, and I am IMMENSELY proud of all who helped make this happen! We have a lot to be proud of with our Post, and in the months and years ahead, I assure you, we will continue to strive to keep VFW Post 3345 as the role model for all other veteran and civic organizations.

Speaking of shining, we will do so once again on September 11th, 2021. We are in the process of designing and building an addition to our Veterans Memorial. We will be adding a small sidewalk and a 10-foot diameter circle off the western quadrant of the Memorial. This new circle will be the foundation for a First Responder Memorial bench.

This bench will be dedicated on the 20th anniversary of the attacks of 9/11 and will be in conjunction with the City of Strongsville, the Strongsville Police and Fire Departments, and we will host our annual Community Day at the same time. This will be a very high-profile event for the VFW and Strongsville. We will once again make our Post the envy of all other organizations. More details to follow as we get closer.

Finally, as I begin my ninth year as Post Commander and second year as District 7 Commander, I want to thank everyone who supported me over the years, and who helped make our Post what it is. I also want to thank Dan Dallas for all the years he served as Junior Vice Commander, and welcome Effie Zavatchen in her new position.

We have a great team of officers for both the VFW and Auxiliary and we will continue to navigate our Post into new and exciting waters.

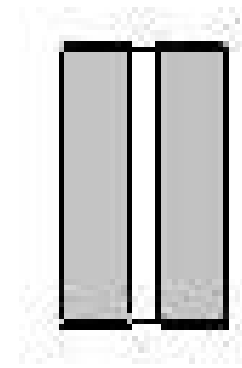
As always, I wish you all fair winds and following seas and I ask God to bless you and keep watch over all of us.

With great respect,
Commander Tim Zvoncheck

Senior Vice Commander



*Oh, sweet freedom, may you stay
In our land and lives always
And may peace and beauty fill our hearts anew
And may we all stand up for you
May our thoughts and deeds be true
And be worthy of your stripes
Red, white and blue (red, white and blue)*



*I am red and white and blue
These are colors that ring true
To all I love and feel and see and do
Oh, I stand proud and brave and tall
I want justice for us all
So, color me America, red, white and blue*

“Color Me America” Dolly Parton

Happy Independence Day!

“When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness...”

Pretty powerful – those first two sentences penned by Thomas Jefferson 245 years ago in our Declaration of Independence, which was crafted to send notice to King George III and the Parliament of Great Britain that we would no longer be subject to their rule. Much of the Declaration is a laundry list of grievances that the colonies had against the King and Parliament – twenty-seven to be precise.

Later, Thomas Jefferson, in November of 1779, had asserted, “Believe me, dear Sir: there is not in the British empire a man who more cordially loves a union with Great Britain than I do. But, by the God that made me, I will cease to exist before I yield to a connection on such terms as the British Parliament propose; and in this, I think I speak the sentiments of America.” This gives us insight into how the American colonies felt they were being mistreated by Great Britain during the height of our fight for freedom.

After the American Revolution concluded in September of 1783, our Founding Fathers began working on the Constitution. Their intention was to correct the known shortcomings of a monarchy, creating the first constitutional liberal democracy. It was fed by the American Enlightenment – which, from Wikipedia, is described as “focusing on the concepts of natural law, natural rights, consent of the governed, individualism, property rights, self-ownership, self-determination, liberalism, republicanism, and defense against corruption.”

Hard to believe these aspects of a political ideology were not commonplace prior to our founding, but then again, how can monarchies survive when something totally opposed to them is present at the same time? That is the reason monarchies and dictatorships rely on suppression of freedoms – if not, they would cease to exist.

Was our newly founded country “perfect” right off the bat? Certainly not – but the structure that was put in place by the Constitution was such that the inevitable march toward making right what were some shortcomings would be built in. From the Preamble to the Constitution, the very first sentence of that wonderful document, we read the words, “We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union...” – not “...a perfect union”.

There are some out there today that discount every aspect of America’s founding since it did not address every deficiency in the world at that point – namely, it still allowed for slavery, non-white men and all women were not allowed to vote, and several other issues that certainly did not meet up with our current world view of what we stand for in America.

However, we have taken great strides over the past 245 years as a nation to correct those! This country was founded during a time with a different ethos and understanding of humanity. To dismiss America as illegitimate and malevolent because of that, and to disregard America’s capacity to remedy its shortcomings is to do a great injustice to this nation and our citizens!

In addition to the original ten amendments to the Constitution (the Bill of Rights), we have added seven amendments to the Constitution to guarantee civil rights, including the 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery (1865) – after a four-year Civil War that claimed the lives of over 500,000 Americans to emancipate those people; the 14th, granting US Citizenship to former slaves (1868); the 15th, prohibiting the use of race, color or previous condition of servitude in determining who can vote (1870); the 19th, which prohibited the denying of women the right to vote (1920); the 23rd, granting DC the right to vote in presidential elections by admitting them to the Electoral College; the 24th, prohibiting poll taxes or any vestiges of discriminatory policies following emancipation (1964); and the 26th, extending the right to vote to citizens eighteen years of age or older (1971).

Are these tell-tale signs of an evil country, with the intention to suppress the rights of its citizens? Not at all. Rather, it is reflective of a national trait to seek to improve itself. As has been cited here before, a quote from Alexis de Tocqueville is appropriate: “The greatness of America lies not in being more enlightened than any other nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults.”

So let us celebrate our Independence Day this July 4th – our 245th year of being a model of striving to be better, recognizing the inherent rights of men and women being granted not by a government, but from their creator. I encourage everyone to take some time to reread the Declaration of Independence and think about what courage it took our Founding Fathers to take the stand they took. Never before had a government been established to be beholden to its citizens. Certainly, we are humans, and as humans, we do not always live up to our high ideals; but that is not a valid reason to dismiss the institutions of American freedom.

As Ronald Reagan said, “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”

Tad Brown
Sr. Vice Commander

Membership Committee:

Let's continue our strong push to keep existing members, but also to attract new members! Please encourage any veteran that you know to inquire about membership in our wonderful organization. We can only survive if people choose to remain as well as to get new people to join!

Have them contact me via email (svcdr.vfw3345@wowway.biz) or my cell (440.376.7491).

Tad Brown, Sr. Vice Commander

Advertisers

We have not been publishing our newsletter on a regular basis, so I have not sent out invoices to our advertisers in quite some time. However, I will be doing so over the next couple of weeks.

Also, if you are considering becoming an advertiser, see the information further back in the newsletter on the costs for the various sizes of ads. Print out the form and send it in to my attention, or our newsletter editor, Linda Burger.





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

July, 2021

Post Newsletter Advertising Application

1. **Ad sizes available:** Business Card single, 3 1/2 x 1 1/2 \$100.00 Yr.
Business Card double, 3 1/2 x 3 \$200.00 Yr.
Top or Bottom Banner, 1 1/2 x 7 \$200.00 Yr.
2. **Includes:** 6 bi-monthly issues, plus 24/7 coverage on Post website
3. **Circulation:** Emailed to 1,400 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.

Application

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Name of Contact: _____

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Ad Graphics or Text Submitted:

Date Submitted: _____ Date Approved: _____ Date of 1st Ad: _____

Submit all ad material on separate sheet, or preferably by digital format to email listed below. Design assistance is available.

Contact information: Tad Brown, Sr. Vice Commander

Cell: 440-376-7491

Email: svcd.r.vfw3345@wowway.biz



Junior Vice Commander Effie Savatchen



Hello All, my name is Effie Savatchen and I am honored to serve as our new Jr. Vice and excited for the year ahead. Here are our upcoming events for the next few months.

All American Cookout

Sunday July 18th, 1-4 pm

All American Cookout featuring Bill March and John Gardena live on the patio.

MOXIE

Saturday July 31st, 7-10 pm

Come enjoy an outdoor concert and listen to some classic Rock and Dance tunes from the 60's through the 80's.

VFW and Auxiliary Joint Golf Outing

Friday Aug 27th, check in 7:30am

This year the VFW and Auxiliary are teaming together to put on a joint golf outing. This is always a fun event followed by a steak dinner and door prizes. The sign up sheet for golfers is on the bulletin board in the canteen.

**If you know someone with a local small business that would like to support our cause, please consider asking them to be a "hole sponsor". A \$100 hole sponsorship includes a sign representing the company and logo, to be displayed in the tee area. If you would like to sponsor a hole or know someone who may, please see the attached sponsorship form.

Ace Molar

Saturday Sep 4, 7-10 pm

Grab a chair or a blanket and don't forget your dancing shoes!

Come enjoy an outdoor concert featuring Cleveland's favorite party band.

Queen of Hearts

1st and 3rd Friday, 7pm

Come try your luck on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month. Drawing at 7pm, followed by the Winner Take All drawing at 8 pm

Weekly Drawing

Every Wednesday, 8pm

Weekly drawing every Wednesday at 8pm, Winner Take All drawing at 9 pm.
(Must sign up prior to Wednesday)

Monthly Drawing

Last Thursday of the Month, 7:30 pm

Monthly drawing is on the last Thursday of the month, winner take all drawing at 8:30 pm.
(Must sign up prior to Thursday)

EFFIE ZAVATCHEN, Junior Vice Commander



**Veterans of Foreign Wars
Auxiliary**
17900 Strongsville Blvd
Strongsville, OH 44149-1658
(440) 234-0250



Dear Friends,

On **Friday, August 27th 2021**, The Auxiliary of Strongsville VFW Post 3345 will be having our annual golf outing and fundraiser at **Hickory Nut golf course, Columbia Station, Ohio**. Check in will begin at **07:30 am** with an **08:30 am** shotgun start.

We would like to invite you and your friends for golf and dinner afterward. We would also like to ask for your support by being one of our "Hole Sponsors". A hole sponsorship is \$100 and consists of a sign representing your company name and logo which will be displayed in the tee box areas. As an alternative to hole sponsorships, maybe your business may want to give gift certificates that can be used as door prizes. We greatly appreciate any contributions you may care to give. Checks can be made payable to: **The Auxiliary, VFW Post 3345**.

Treat your clients to a day of fun!

One player is \$80.00 or a foursome is \$320.00. This includes 18 holes of golf, 2 carts, continental breakfast, lunch, and a steak dinner afterward with door prizes and monies awarded.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND RESPONSE!
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

**** 100% of the money we raise goes to help veterans and their families, and our local community ****

Yes, I want to sponsor ____ hole(s)

Yes, I want to donate a door prize ____

Yes, I will join in the fun on August 27th and I will have ____ persons in my group.

Golfer _____

Golfer _____

Golfer _____

Golfer _____



Honor Guard Don Kennett



It has been over 16 months since we have been anywhere near normal; now it looks like we are back in the swing of things. I would like to thank whoever donated/made the VFW masks and gave them to the Honor Guard, for which we have all been very thankful. They made our uniforms complete.

Lately it has been very hard to put a team together for our events. A lot of our events have been at the very last minute and a lot of our members have had other commitments.

The VFW Honor Guard has expanded its membership requirements to include all members of VFW Post 3345, including Auxiliary members, who have served in the military, whether you were deployed or not, and have an honorable discharge.

VFW Post 3345 is dedicated to serving our Veterans at all times, in all ways. One of the greatest ways to show respect, gratitude and appreciation for all Veterans is by recognizing and honoring them at their time of passing, and showing that respect to their families.

The VFW Post 3345 Honor Guard does this, in incredible fashion, by providing Casket Duty, Gravesite Honors, monthly Rittman Burials and providing honors on Memorial Day/Veterans Day and at various parades and veterans events.

Becoming a member of the Honor Guard is one of the highest opportunities to honor all veterans. Full training is provided and hours served vary by need and availability.

For more information on joining the Honor Guard, providing a dignified final goodbye to your comrades, please contact Don Kennett, Honor Guard Commander at 440-666-7751 or via email at KennettDM@roadrunner.com. We would love to have you as part of our team!

Respectfully Submitted,
Don Kennett, Honor Guard Commander

Calendar for: July, August, September

July 10th –	Honor Guard Meeting
July 15th –	Car Rally (Grace Church)
August 4th –	Scheduled tour of duty at Rittman
August 7th –	Honor Guard Meeting
September 4th –	Honor Guard Meeting
September 11th –	Post Community Day
September 22nd –	Scheduled tour of duty at Rittman
September 25th –	VFW Founders Day (Columbus)



TAPS

April, 2021: None
May, 2021: Past Commander
Dennis Pilny



June, 2021: None

New Members

April, 2021

William Stanton

May, 2021

Emma Smith
Randy Smith
Casimer Kravec

June, 2021

William Szabo

Donations

April, 2021

VFW National Home for Children	\$250
Cleveland American Veterans Association	\$2500

June, 2021

VFW National Home For Children	\$250
St. Joseph Church SOUL Run	\$250
District 7, VFW Department of Ohio	\$500

May, 2021

VFW National Home for Children	\$250
Ride for Homeless Vets Post 894	
Natrona Hts., PA	\$50
VFW Unmet Needs	\$750
VFW VMS (Veterans and Military Support)	\$750
City of Strongsville (Fireworks)	\$500
Brian Riddle Memorial Run American	
Legion Post 91	\$150
District 11, Ohio VFW Golf Outing	\$200
Department of Ohio Relief Fund	\$250



Canteen Manager Bill Sopko



Finally after a long and very wet spring summer has finally arrived so lay back, relax and enjoy the season.

After toiling around your house and working up a thirst, stop on in to your friendly canteen and enjoy a refreshing beverage or two, watch some Tribe games or just relax on the patio and enjoy your memorial. Outdoor concerts have started up again with some very talented groups to play for your listening pleasure. Grab the wife, husband, girl or boy friend, a neighbor or two, grab a lawn chair or blanket and relax to some entertaining music under the stars . Food and beverage will be available. Check the postings for dates and times.

Post and canteen rules are clearly listed in the canteen. It seems as of late we are starting to get complaints again about the profanity, rule #1, getting a little abused. Let's tighten up the tongue and keep the ship sailing smoothly. We are trying to retain members and attract new ones not turn them away. Thank you for your cooperation.

I want to thank Maria Gardens for their generous donations of flowers and shrubs. Also Home Depot for flowers, shrubs and mulch from a grant to help VFW and Legions posts spruce up their landscape. Both very veteran friendly. Also our corner car wash is still offering discounts using code 33453

Remember live, love and laugh. Have a safe summer. Pray for our troops and families. GOD BLESS THE U.S.A.

Happy trails . Dave and Bill

Interesting,

My doctor said I drink too much. I said how could he tell. He said my urine sample had an olive in it.

My wife says I talk to myself, I told her sometimes I need expert advice.



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House Committee Brent Newton



Work parties are the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month. All are invited and breakfast is included.

Thank you,

The Housing Committee

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Do you know of anyone looking to buy or sell a home?
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I am a Vietnam Veteran and want to use my 34 years'
experience helping people buy and sell homes,
to help my fellow veterans in need!



Jack Egan: Broker Realtor

216-780-3534





Auxiliary Jeff Myers



First and foremost, I want to thank all the past officers, trustees, and committee members for all they have done for "our" Auxiliary, secondly to all of you for the confidence shown in selecting me to lead you in the coming year. I do plan on maintaining the great traditions of excellence already established as we continue to push forward out of this Covid 19 mess.

Congratulations to all of the newly elected and appointed officers, committee members, and trustees, and hope that you plan on jumping in and getting busy and down to work to keep Post 3345 the best in the State of Ohio.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer and I hope to be seeing you at some of the Weekly and Queen of Hearts drawings, which are currently the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month.

Starting off July, the Post has Johnny R on the 10th, and for those that wish to help set our budget for the year, our Standing Rules Committee will be meeting July 11th at 6pm. Our next stated meeting is the following day on the 12th, and our own Mike Zullo's band Moxie will be playing on the 31st as we will be cooking and selling food.

Frank Zullo is trying to squeeze in a Pig Roast/Margaritaville on August 7th, and our Meeting on August 9th follows right afterwards.

Our most important fundraiser of the year is our Golf Outing on August 27th which is our drive to get sponsorships, which is where we make all our money. This is critical folks; we have lots of mandatory allocations of our funds we are required to make, and it is imperative that this is successful. So please grab some sponsorship forms and hit up some local businesses or some friends and seek out some sponsorships.

September 4th is our second and final concert of Ace Molar followed by our meeting on September 13th. Why do I keep mentioning our meeting dates? Because I want to see you there!!

I hope to see more of you at our meetings and to get more involved in our Post Auxiliary.

Always Remember To Thank A Veteran,

God Bless

Jeff Myers, Auxiliary President

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A Veteran, Serving Veterans!

Our Members. Our Friends. Our Heroes

Don Kennett

Interviewed by Linda Burger

A shadowbox filled with medals, a jacket covered with ribbons. Album after album with pictures of family, friends, trips, milestones and events both big and small.

For Don Kennett, these items reflect more than accomplishments or memories, they symbolize a lifetime of service, devotion and love.

Born on Cleveland's near East Side, Don and his sister moved to Westlake with their grandparents. It was there, in 1965 at a CYO dance that he first met a lovely young lady named Mary, who became the love of his life.



Don enlisted in the Army in 1968, with the goal of becoming an aviation mechanic. "I knew that the Vietnam War was going on at that time. How could you not know, it was all over the TV," he recalled. "After completing my basic training and transferring to Fort Rucker for the U.S. Army Aviation School, everyone but two guys then got orders for Vietnam."



His abilities were quickly recognized by the Army as he was promoted to private (E-2) after Basic, then, after his completing his Advanced Individual Training (AIT) as a Helicopter Repairman, he was again promoted to Private First Class (E-3).



A quick two-week leave to visit family – and his girlfriend Mary – then the trip to Ben Hoa Airbase, Vietnam where he was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). "After just a week, I was sent up North to Camp Eagle, near Phu Bai where I was assigned to 'The Blackwidows' – C Company, 101st Assault Helicopter Battalion," said Don. "I spent almost 18 months with that unit as a helicopter gunner and crew chief, flying over 1300 combat assault hours and getting shot down twice.

"Our role was to provide support for troops, specifically the 3rd Marine Division and Special Forces Group," he added.

Asked of his most vivid memories of Vietnam, Don quickly replied "the extraction of Firebase Ripcord on July 23, 1970 when he was shot down "technically."

It was while in Vietnam that his future career dreams took seed. "The mother of one of my friends asked us – what are you going to do with your life after Vietnam? After thinking about it, I knew I wanted to become involved with computer technology," he reflected.

In October, 1970, Don received orders for Fort Hood, TX and was assigned to the 92nd Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Armored Division, in an Artillery Unit. At that time, the Army converted his Specialist 5th Class Rank to Sergeant (E-5).



With discharge looming, the Army offered Don a guaranteed seat at West Point if he would reenlist for six more years. His reply "no thanks" and, thinking it was the end of his military career, he "went home and became a proud civilian!"

In May 1972, the high school sweethearts married and a few years later the first of their two daughters was born.

Frustrated with the lack of career advancement opportunities, in March 1977 Don “raised my right hand one more time and took the oath to defend the Constitution of the United States of America”, enlisting in the Ohio National Guard as a citizen soldier.



He joined the Howitzer Battery, Third Squadron, 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) as a Sergeant (E-5). This, though, was the just the next step in his illustrious Service career as he quickly applied for, and was accepted to, Officer Candidate School at the Ohio Military Academy. Don entered the Academy as a Junior Officer Candidate, along with 96 other enrollees. After 14 months of study and training, 55 members of the class graduated.

For Don, he then went back to his Artillery Battery as an Officer, a Second Lieutenant. In 1986, he was assigned as that unit's Commander and promoted to the rank of Captain. After almost two years, Don was assigned as the Fire Support Officer for the Aviation Squadron at the Akron-Canton Airport. This was followed by a transfer to Denver, CO. The lack of opportunity for future advancement in CO led Don to, reluctantly, submit his paperwork for retirement and return to Cleveland.



Numerous medals and decorations, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, 2 Bronze Stars, 27 Air Medals, Army Commendation Medal with Gold Palm, Reserve Unit Citation with 2 Gold Palms, among many others, testify to Don's exemplary military service.

Although once again a civilian, Don stayed in service, working as an Information Systems Security Manager for the Department of Defense before officially retiring in November 2011 after 20 years of active and reserve duty with the Army and 30 years of service with the Federal Government.

Now, his, and Mary's days are filled with family, travel, hobbies and, especially, the VFW. Don first joined the VFW while in Colorado, into a Post with just 6 – 8 people that met in someone's home. Upon their return to Cleveland, he transferred to Post 3345 and became a Life Member in 2009.

That same year began another, very special, service for Don as he became a member of the Post Honor Guard. According to Don, “providing services at wakes and funerals is one of the last things that we can do for veterans, to recognize and honor their accomplishments.”

Don has served as Honor Guard Commander for the last 6 – 7 years and strongly encourages all Post veterans to consider joining the Unit.

He is also already busy planning for another very special celebration – his and Mary's 50th Wedding Anniversary next year. It will very possibly involve another cruise or trip but will definitely be something worthy of the occasion.

Don Kennett – for the honor you have brought and shown to your family, your friends, your Post and your Country, we at Strongsville VFW Post 3345 salute you and are honored to have you as a Member.



What's Cooking!

*Our Post is very fortunate to have many great chefs, cooks and bakers!
Every event brings delicious donations that are enjoyed by members and guests.
And everyone always asks for the recipe!*

*If you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share, please email it to vfwpst3345_1@gmail.com
or drop it off at the Post, in the Auxiliary mail slot.*



*This issue we feature a recipe from our Kitchen
(and Post) dynamic duo and Celebrity Chefs -
Effie and Jerrit Zavatchen!*

ONE OF EFFIE & JERRIT'S FAVORITE RECIPES - PULLED PORK

Ingredients:

1 Blade in pork butt
Olive oil
Granulated garlic
Kosher salt
Granulated onion
McCormick Montreal Steak Seasoning
Sofrito
Sazon
Butter
Nickle's Honey Buns

1. Rub the pork down with olive oil then season the pork with salt, onion, garlic, and Montreal seasoning. Cover and refrigerate for 2 days.
2. Set smoker to 180 degrees and place pork directly on the rack. Cook until the internal temperature reaches 165 degrees. Will take about 12-14 hours long.
(Traeger signature blend pellets are a nice mixture of hickory, maple, and cherry)
3. Take the pork off of the smoker, rub with sofrito and sazón (optional) and double wrap the pork in foil.
4. Put the wrapped pork in a 300 degree oven until the meat reaches 207 degrees internal temperature (will take about 3-4 hours)
5. Turn oven off and let the pork rest in the oven with the door closed for 3-4 hours.
6. Pull the meat apart (careful, it will still be very hot) and throw the bone and fat away but save the juices
(if there aren't enough juices, you can add some butter) to pour over the pan of pulled pork.

Serve with Nickle's Honey Buns and Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ Sauce on the side. Enjoy.

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. Pictures from some events have been uploaded to the Post website, check out the fun. We are continually uploading pictures from various events held throughout the year so check it out frequently.

If you have pictures you would like to share, please email them to vfwpost3345_1@yahoo.com.

Please send your electronic contact information, and any updates to your home address, to svcdr.vfw3345@wowway.biz and we will make sure you are added to our email distribution list.

NOTE: If you include your birth month and day, we will also add you to the Birthday List. There is also a Birthday Book behind the bar in the Canteen, where your information can be added.

Share Your Celebrations!

You can now share the good news and celebrate a Birthday, Anniversary, Retirement, Graduation or other Special Event in the Scuttlebutt Newsletter! One-time, quarter page ads can be purchased for \$25 per issue. Photos and other images can be included - and we'll even help with the design.

Information can be submitted via email vfwpost3345_1@yahoo.com or by contacting Linda Burger at lewburger2@gmail.com.

Comments, suggestions and ideas for the Scuttlebutt are always welcome - just let us know!

Have a great summer!

Linda Burger
Scuttlebutt Editor

Cash for Lionel Trains

Call Bob at (440) 759-2573

Mom's
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🌐 www.momspierogies.com

✉ teampierogi@momspierogies.com

Mom's Meal Deals

Home cooked style dishes:

(pierogies, stuffed cabbage, cabbage and noodles, potato salad, cucumber salad and our delicious barszcz (traditional beet soup))

Hot and ready to eat pierogi and stuffed cabbage meals available.

Also available frozen. Call ahead for what's fresh daily



July 12, 2021

MST Prosecution Changes: Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced that he will be recommending the prosecution of sexual assaults in the military be taken out of the military chain of command. He plans to work with Congress to amend the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The change comes after a 300-page report completed by the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military was released by the White House with more than 80 recommendations. The commission met with military and veterans service organizations, victim advocacy groups, and active duty and veteran sexual assault survivors. The findings focus on four areas — accountability, prevention, climate and culture, and survivor care and support.

VA Education and Training Options: The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that in June the jobless rate for all veterans rose to 4.8 percent, which is up from 4.1 percent the previous month. If you are a veteran in need of a job or job training, VA has a number of programs to help. The VA's VET TEC program can help veterans start or advance their careers in the technology industry. Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program can assist veterans with education and training if they are unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. VA has also partnered with Salesforce that has created a program to provide free training, certifications, and career opportunities for veterans.

VA Answers FAQs about COVID-19 Delta Variant: The highly contagious Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus strain is rapidly sweeping across the United States. Studies have shown that fully vaccinated individuals have protection against the Delta variant. Under the SAVE LIVES Act, veterans, caregivers, and spouses may receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Check with your local VA facility for vaccine clinic times.

Learn Where the VFW Stands on Legislation: The National Legislative Service staff regularly testifies before Congress on behalf of our VFW members. Our testimonies cover a wide array of issues that are critically important to veterans from all eras. While comprehensive toxic exposure legislation is currently our number one priority, we actively advocate on many varied issues concerning veterans' earned benefits, care options, and delivery. The VFW currently supports 69 bills and opposes one bill pending before the 117th Congress.



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