



# VFW WISCONSIN



# NEWS 2017



VOL. 35 NO. 3

STAND TOGETHER

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2017

## Honor Flights Continue to Serve



Truax-Longmire VFW Post 8483 Commander Mike Wenger greeted nine Vietnam Veterans and Post members who were part of the October 7th Badger Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. Pictured (back row, from left) are: Fred Kohlscheen; Craig Steensrud, Dave Schultz; Cdr. Mike Wenger (not on flight), Dale Schneider; Rodney Hoverson; and Fred 'Fritz' Gedko. Front row (from left) are Gary Foerster and Bill Gander. Post member John Lietz was also on the flight but not pictured.

Submitted by VFW Post 8483 Commander Mike Wenger.



Krecji-Braun-Meier VFW Post 7485 Quartermaster Daniel Ody pauses to reflect at the Pentagon Memorial. The Memorial includes 184 illuminated benches representing the victims both inside the Pentagon and on American Airlines Flight 77 on September 11, 2001. The visit was part of the September 16th Stars and Stripes Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

Submitted by VFW Post 7485 QM Daniel Ody.

The six Honor Flight Hubs in the Wisconsin Honor Flight Network continue to make regular trips to Washington, D.C. to provide Veterans "the trip of a lifetime" to our Nation's many memorials dedicated to the honor and service of our Veterans. Top priority is given to the most senior heroes – World War II survivors and any Veteran with a terminal illness. All flights also continue to include Veterans of the Korean War and Vietnam War. Guardians accompany the Veterans to ensure a safe and memorable trip.

Every Veteran travels at no charge, and ALL Veterans serving either stateside OR overseas are eligible. Volunteer guardians are expected to pay for their own trip fares. All Honor Flights accept applications from Veterans who served in the following conflicts:

- WW II: December 7, 1941 – December 31, 1946;

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## David Green Named 2017 Veterans Advocate

The County Veterans Service Officer Association (CVSOA) of Wisconsin honored David Green of VFW Post 10818, New Richmond/St. Croix County as the 2017 recipient of the Association's Veterans Advocacy Award at their Fall Training conference in Oshkosh. The Association began this award in 1995 to recognize and honor an individual or group that makes a significant contribution to advocating for and assisting Veterans in the state.

Philip Landgraf, the St. Croix County Veterans Service Officer nominated David for the award. In his nomination he said that though it wouldn't be adequate, he "...would attempt to describe the tireless dedication and cutting-edge, outside the box thinking that [David] has displayed to not only improve services provided to St. Croix County veterans, but all Wisconsin veterans! Mr. Green has been involved with veterans' issues for numerous years. As a member of the Board of Veterans Affairs in Wisconsin, he assisted the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) in many critical decisions regarding policy..."

Since leaving the board, David channels that dedication and hard work locally through VFW Post 10818. Phil wrote, "They have enacted numerous programs to help strengthen veteran/community bonds and have become integral in all of St. Croix County. VFW Post



CVSOA President Joe Aulik (at left) and St. Croix CVSO Philip Landgraf congratulate David Green, 2017 Veterans Advocacy Award recipient and his wife Karen Green.

Photo and information courtesy of Charlene Cobb, VFW Member and Sheboygan CVSO.

10818 is now a county-wide Post, attending city council meetings, school board meetings, county board meetings and coordinating with the Chamber of Commerce for parades and city festivals. David has also committed to expanding the Post and incorporating younger veterans in leadership positions. He also

works very closely with 22Kill, to curb the alarming amount of veteran suicides and has assisted with other programs to assist veterans locally who are struggling with mental health concerns."

SEE GREEN, PAGE 9

Editor: Marla J. Morgan  
Phone: (715) 384-2500  
E-mail: wivfweditor@gmail.com

VFW Department Headquarters  
Phone: (608) 221-5276  
Fax: (608) 221-5277  
Website: vfwwi.org  
E-mail: hq@vfwwi.org

Visit our NEW website at [vfwwi.org](http://vfwwi.org) for more news.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR VFW RAFFLES



# "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS"

### Thank You

Thank you for what you all are doing for our Veterans and their Families, VFW and Auxiliary members alike. We are surely **Standing** (and working) **Together**.

Our Officers just had an online Council of Administration meeting and approved increasing our Unmet Needs funds by another \$15,000. Bruce Sorensen and his Committee have already awarded the original \$9,000 they were allotted. A few applicants were denied, as they did not meet the requirements. But those who were approved were very deserving. Thank you to Bruce and your Committee.

At this same C of A, we approved my appointment of David Green (of Portage, WI) as the new State Adjutant. Joe Hines will continue working full time for a while, then part time to ensure a smooth transition. We are losing a great team player, and gaining another as well.

The Service Office in Milwaukee is gaining another great young man, who will try and fill the vacated shoes of Zach Zdroik, who is now working for the Racine County Veterans Service Office. They gained a great Veterans advocate in their County Service Office. Check our Dept website at [vfwwi.org](http://vfwwi.org), under Programs/Service Office, to read about this newly hired employee, another young, dedicated Marine vet working to serve our Veterans and their families.

I need to dispel a myth going around. ROAR vs So Big. It is rumored that I threw down the gauntlet and came up with the challenge. WRONG! This idea and challenge came from the Auxiliary Ways and Means Committee Chairmen, to us. It was not the idea of VFW. But, either way, the VFW will benefit from it as well as our Auxiliary. Has your Post sent in their donation, and marked it ROAR yet? The deadline of January 31, 2018 is coming soon. What is ROAR vs. So Big? Talk to your Post Commander and District Commander for more details, and mark your checks for ROAR when you send them in. When we win, we will gain more than just the money, it will be the bragging rights as well. Winner will be announced at the Mid-Winter Conference, February 2-3, 2018 in Wisconsin Rapids.

**Remember, the Mid-Winter Conference is open to all Members and Officers of ALL Posts and Auxiliaries.** This is the perfect time and place to learn what the Department of Wisconsin is doing for Veterans. Please fill out the reservations in this edition of the newspaper and come and learn what goes on behind the scenes and learn so much more of the workings of the VFW. I ask all of you reading this newspaper to come and join us at the meeting on Saturday and to attend our Banquet on Saturday night. Bring your spouse or guest. See the agenda and reservations forms in this newspaper.

How is your Poppy Distribution going? Has it been reported to the Department using our online reporting? Why have you only done it once this year? You can do multiple campaigns. It promotes the VFW in the Community. Is the Post handing out recruiting information with the Poppies? Contact Randy Strickland for more Poppy information and Lee Otto for more Recruiting and Membership information.

Is your Post Color Guard ready to head north to our Loyalty Day Celebration in New Richmond on April 28, 2018? I hope to have the biggest and most attended Loyalty Day Parade in our Department's History. Contact Dave Green of Post 10818 in New Richmond (NOT David Green, the new Adjutant) for all the pertinent information. I challenge all you Post Marching Units to bring your "A game" to take top honors in New Richmond!

Have you purchased your 2018 VFW Raffle Calendar yet? Deadline for sales is December 26 with all monies and stubs *hand delivered* to Dept HQ by the end of December. The money raised from this raffle supports our VFW Service Office. That Service Office puts about two Million dollars of new money into the hands of our Wisconsin Veterans every month. So many Veterans have had their homes saved and lives changed by the efforts of this office.

I want to thank Tom Hoffman of Colby for his continued mentoring, leadership and guidance over the past several years. And to Plover Post's Adjutant, Ron Stoffel for his support to his Post, District and Department as he was the reason the Post made All-State. Thanks to both of you Comrades and friends.

God Bless America, and don't forget to salute the flag, as all veterans are asked to do, all the time, instead of hand over heart.

Have you ever visited the VFW National Home for Children? If not, why not? I had the pleasure this fall of spending time with 17 other Auxiliary and VFW members from Wisconsin at the National Home for the annual Missouri/Wisconsin Fall Festival. Every year Missouri and Wisconsin take turns in providing a fun time for the children of our National Home with a Halloween Party. This year was Missouri's turn. Next year on October 27, 2018 it will be Wisconsin's turn to host the party.

The VFW National Home for Children was founded by the VFW in 1925 as a safe place to live for the spouses and children of service members who were killed. The land was donated by a VFW member near Eaton Rapids, MI. What resulted from that generous gift was a small community. Various states have a single family house at the home. Yes, Wisconsin has a house/cottage which was built in 1937. It has just been completely renovated. It really looks great. Within the next two weeks we have a family of six who will be moving into the house. What started out as a place for single parents or orphaned children has now been turned into a safe place for families from the Military, descendants of VFW and Auxiliary members, or veterans that may be eligible. The home now will take the entire family (yes, mother, father, and children) that need assistance in getting back on their feet. Please check out the web page: [vfwnationalhome.org](http://vfwnationalhome.org) to find out more about the National Home.

### John Schultz State Commander

715-344-7453  
trapper2441@gmail.com



### Gundel Metz State Sr. Vice Commander

608-698-8825  
gmem@tds.net



The National Home is completely funded by donations. They do not receive any federal or state monies. The members of both VFW Posts and Auxiliaries have been donating to the Wisconsin home for 80 years, great job done by everyone. But as always, the home can use more donations, especially for their operating budget. If you know of anyone looking to donate money to help veterans, tell them about the National Home. This is a great way to help our veterans and families.

Thank you to all of our members who traveled to the National Home this year for a great party. And Wisconsin took first prize in the adult Halloween costumes. We were a box of crayons, and no, we did not stand inside a box, but rather were dressed as crayons. Thanks, Michelle Rathke, for the great idea. Come along next year, bring the kids and see what the National Home is all about. You will enjoy your time there.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season.

## STATE OFFICERS

The holidays are upon us, but that doesn't mean we stop doing our work. This is a great time of year to go out and visit veterans that are alone, home-bound, or in the hospital.

We also have the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen judging in full swing. Remember, if you did not submit any student entries, you can still qualify for All-State if you make a \$75 donation to each program. Let's recognize the hard work of all of these students.

A lot of Posts are falling behind on their programs. You should be reporting them each month - don't hold them and report them all at the end of the year. If you are having problems reporting or getting onto the website, please contact State Judge Advocate Bill Knudson for help. If he doesn't have the answer, he will get it for you.

When this column was written in late October, we were 31,000 members behind

### Don Lynch Jr. Vice Commander

847-436-4833  
cootielynch@yahoo.com



compared to the same time last year nationally. Please go out and get those members to renew now. If you see someone with a military hat or shirt, thank them for their service and find out if they are eligible to join the VFW. Let them know what the VFW does - remember No One Does More for Veterans than the VFW.

Wishing you safe and happy Holidays - I hope to see you in my travels around the state.

First, and most importantly, I want to make you aware that although members' dues expire throughout the year, large numbers of our annual and/or continuous members' dues expire during the month of December. If you are a Post Officer and your dues expire during your tenure, you will be removed from your position by our National Organization. This means you will be unable to hold a Post Officer position for the remaining 2017-2018 administrative year, as stated in Section 215 of our National Bylaws. ["Any officer or committee member whose membership is not in good standing by reason of failure to pay current dues by their anniversary date shall forfeit eligibility to hold any office in that administrative year."] Even if you subsequently pay your dues right after they expire, you will be unable to hold office for the 2017-2018 year. Please check your dues expiration date and pay immediately if your dues are about to expire. Contact your Post Quartermaster if you need assistance renewing your membership.

We have completed a successful round of Fall District Meetings. Congratulations to the District Officers that set up these meetings and thanks to all the individual Posts across the state for hosting your respective District Meetings. Members like you are truly the glue that holds our VFW together. Looking ahead, please ensure that your Post has a representative attending the upcoming winter meetings. These meetings are critical for training and dissemination of information about State and National Level VFW activities in support of our members. In addition, it is vital that attendees let us know what we are not doing, should be doing or could be doing better for our members. In order to maximize our effectiveness, we need you to attend the District Meetings to voice your concerns and receive important organization updates. The Calendar of Events for the upcoming meetings and other events is listed elsewhere in this paper.

This is my last column as your State Adjutant. I informed the Wisconsin VFW leadership last spring that I would serve as the State Adjutant for one more year, or less if they were able to find an acceptable replacement. I am thrilled to announce they were able to hire an outstanding candidate who is currently being trained and will officially become the State Adjutant on 1 December 2017.

David Green of Portage, Wisconsin, is a great addition to the Department. He is a retired Army Officer and Iraq War Veteran. David served a number of years as an enlisted soldier before becoming an officer. We have spoken on a number of occasions about our similar experiences in the Army, and he has the knowledge and skills needed for this position and will do a great job. Please continue to give him the same great support you have given me throughout my tenure.

Although I am stepping down, I am not totally stepping away. I will be very active in my Post 1318 in Madison and will serve on various Department Committees. I plan on following Mike Furgal around the State Capitol and learning more about the VFW Legislative Committee. It has been, and will continue to be, an honor and a privilege to serve the great veterans of the Wisconsin VFW. You are my heroes and have been the inspiration that I carry with me each day.

I would like to express my appreciation to State Senior Vice Commander Gundel Metz who I met as a fellow member of Post 1318 and who made me aware of the opportunity to serve at the State Level. Thanks to Past State Commander John Giese who first appointed me as the State Adjutant and has mentored me throughout my time in this role. I greatly appreciate Past State Commanders Mike Borg and Mike Eggleston and current State Commander John Schultz for their leadership and continued faith in me.

Thanks most of all to State Quartermaster Tom Heath and Carol Welch with whom I have had the honor to work with here at the State Headquarters these past years. They have been a great inspiration as I have witnessed the concern and diligence they bring in service to this organization and the state's veterans every day.

Headquarters has been pretty busy these days. We have been processing bonds, Inspections, Buddy Poppy orders and audits among other things. But even more exciting is the transition of our State Adjutant.

As most of you know by now, Joe Hines is retiring and we have found our new adjutant, David Green from Portage. I hope everyone welcomes David and gives him a little latitude until he gets fully trained.

I also would like to recognize Joe Hines for an outstanding job performance over the last three and a half years. Joe will stay on for a transitional period and he assured us he would be involved at the State Level in some capacity when he can. Thank you, Joe!

As we move into winter, we have our

### Joe Hines State Adjutant

608-221-5276  
adj@vfwwi.org



### Tom Heath State Quartermaster

608-221-5276  
qm@vfwwi.org



holiday season coming up. Enjoy your family and friends, but don't forget about our Veterans who sometimes have little or no family to be with. If nothing else, a smile and a friendly gesture will help. Please be safe as the weather changes. If you need any help with your Post, programs or membership, give us a call.

# STATE OFFICERS

Comrades All – I hope you read this! Thank you for your membership!

May I ask each one of you how you arrived in the ranks of the oldest combat service organization in the United States, the VFW?

I remember that I was asked to join our VFW by another Comrade who had been a member for some time, and he was proud to state that fact. He offered me a handshake and a welcome after we exchanged some basic questions and answers to identify what branch and where I had served. The application card was simple to fill out, but the VFW Pledge made me think of my military service experience and the importance of serving our great country in uniform. I then signed that application as a true VFW Comrade to accept what may come from joining.

Another question is, are we right now giving this same opportunity to others that we once received? Why would we not share that same 'pride-feeling' we experienced in joining, whenever we can offer it? Possible new members can usually be identified by their ball cap or t-shirt showing their service branch, unit or location. Sometimes it's that hair cut that begs the asking. Do we talk to the other veterans during our appointments to our local VA facility? Opportunities abound!

Here are the cold, hard facts, Comrades: right now we have less than 1/3 of our Posts contributing to our Department Membership push this year. That's right! Only 77 Posts out of 269 currently show gains either in new members or reinstates. Can we do better? We need to be honest and admit that each of us should be able to react to the call for members, and to help put the needed strength back into the VFW.

We are fortunate to have some recent younger members who are interested in leading this VFW Department of Wisconsin into the future. It's up to all of us to make sure they can lead a membership strength to support their drive and their ideas to continue to help all veterans in our ranks. After all, are we not the old reliables, those who have been around? Please . . . let's give that some serious thought.

Bottom line, Comrades . . . our Department needs your help, starting as soon as you finish this plea. If you are able, get out there to spread our gospel statement of "No One Does More for Veterans". Thank You!

**Gerald Parchem**  
Chief of Staff  
608-393-1828  
gerald.parchem@gmail.com



Greetings comrades:

I hope that everyone is doing well and enjoying the fall season. With winter upon us, I would like to talk about a few things. As always, we want to make sure that we are preparing ourselves and our vehicles for the harsh winter months that are coming up. Below are some signs and symptoms of hypothermia:

- Shivering
  - Slurred speech or mumbling.
  - Slow, shallow breathing.
  - Weak pulse.
  - Clumsiness or lack of coordination.
  - Drowsiness or very low energy.
  - Confusion or memory loss.
  - Loss of consciousness.
- Treatments for hypothermia include:
- Call 911 if you suspect hypothermia.
  - Restore warmth slowly. Get the person indoors.

• Begin CPR, if necessary, while warming the person. If the person is not breathing, start CPR immediately!

- Give warm fluids. Give the person a warm drink, if conscious.
- Keep body temperature up.
- Follow up.

Now, calling 911 and starting CPR are in extreme circumstances if someone is not breathing and/or has no pulse.

Packing lists for cars during the winter months:

- Battery– or hand-crank–powered radio and flashlight, plus extra batteries
- Blanket
- Booster cables
- Bottled water and nonperishable high-energy foods such as granola bars, raisins, and peanut butter
- Fire extinguisher (5-lb., A-B-C type)
- First Aid Kit and manual
- Maps, shovel, flares
- Tire repair kit and pump
- Spare tire
- Snow brush and ice scraper
- Snow shovel
- Bag of sand to help with traction
- Extra windshield-wiper fluid

**Kenneth Kleman**  
State Surgeon  
414-324-3544  
kennethkleman@gmail.com



- A blanket, just in case
- Old winter boots and winter clothes (hat, gloves, jacket, snow pants, scarf, etc.) for the trunk

I hope that this helps you plan better for the upcoming cold season that is upon us. Remember too, with winter we all have a tendency of becoming a bit less active and this can cause unwanted weight gain and/or depression. So, I urge you all to find something to keep yourselves busy whether it is getting a membership at a local gym and/or just going for a walk.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Mid-Winter Conference. As always, if you need any further info, please call or email. Until next time, take care and God Bless.

**Wisconsin VFW News**

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Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars

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Bill "Knoot" Knudson, Ad Mgr.  
wivfwadmanager@gmail.com

**EDITOR VFW:**  
Marla J. Morgan  
PO Box 223  
Marshfield, WI 54449  
Phone: 715-384-2500  
wivfweditor@gmail.com

**AUXILIARY LIAISON:**  
Ann Wirth  
(608) 228-9696

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<b>Mid-Winter February 2-3, 2018</b>		
March	Vol. 35 / No. 5	February 21, 2018
May	Vol. 35 / No. 6	April 18, 2018
<b>Convention June 13-16, 2018</b>		

What makes a Good Comrade?

What makes men/women yearn to reunite? Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men/women who once acted their best, men/women who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped raw, right down to their humanity.

We did not pick these men/women. They were delivered by fate. But, we know them in a way we know no other men/women. We have never given anyone such trust. We were willing to guard something more precious than their life. They would have carried their reputation, and their memory. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another.

We cannot say where we are headed. Ours are not perfect friendships; those are the province of legend and myth. A few of our comrades drifted far away, sending back only occasional word. We know that one day even these could fall to silence. Some of the men/women will stay close, a couple, perhaps, always at hand.

As long as we have memory, we will think of them all, every day we are sure that when we leave this world, our last thought

**Norbert Lee**  
State Inspector  
715-660-0322  
norbertlee2008@gmail.com



will be of our family and our comrades.

This is why we all have joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to be the best we can be and with other comrades like us. When we take a position as an Officer in the VFW, we need to do our job the best that we can. All the Officers are to make sure that all the paper work gets in on time. There still are some June and September Audits that are not in yet. Let's all get this done by the Mid-Winter meeting. It sure would be nice to report that all Posts are up to date by then.

As the holiday season is upon us, let's have a happy season. Hope all you hunters have a successful season — and let's all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Phil Allen**  
State Chaplain  
262-586-5252  
philandglo64@yahoo.com



As we move through fall and into winter, I hope this finds everyone doing well and looking forward to the changing of the seasons.

Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish. (Proverbs 18:13) I don't know everything. I wish I did, but I can't even get away with pretending to know everything. Too many people have made it painfully clear that I don't. But over the years, I have become more and more comfortable admitting that and listening to others.

Some people pretend to know more than they do. The attitude may come from a huge ego, but it's more often a defense mechanism masking insecurity and fear of being exposed as ignorant. When we feel like we have to know everything about everything — or at least, make other people think we do — we've got some self-esteem issues.

I found out that "I don't know" is almost always a good answer. It's actually a sign of strength, not of weakness. We have to be secure to say that. When we find people who know more than us about a certain topic — and they are everywhere — it's a great idea to take them to lunch, ask questions, and let them do the talking.

This is the flip side of mentoring. A mentor reaches out to help someone along the path of life. That's important, and everyone should have someone to mentor in his or her life. But when we seek counsel, we are looking for someone who is a little farther along on the path of life — or at least on the path of a certain area of knowledge and wisdom. We need to put all pride and ego aside and be open to being mentored.

A need to be "the expert" about something rarely impresses others and can actually hinder your own growth. Always be in the process of learning. Seek the counsel of others. Listen to their experiences, and feel free to say, "I don't know — enlighten me." And let them fuel your growth. Remember, sometimes the wisest thing to say is "I don't know." And the wisest thing to do is to listen to those who do know.

May everyone have a Great Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas! God Bless all of you and may God Bless America!

## Planning for Upcoming Meetings

- **2018 Department Mid-Winter Conference**  
Fri. - Sat., February 2 – 3, 2018  
Hotel Mead & Conference Center • \$89 + tax  
451 E. Grand Avenue, Wis. Rapids, WI 54494  
(715) 423-1500
- **2018 Department Convention**  
Wed. - Sat., June 13 – 16, 2018  
Tundra Lodge, Green Bay, WI 54304 • \$89 + tax  
865 Lombardi Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54304  
(920) 405-8700
- **2018 - 19 Program Kickoff / Council of Administration**  
Fri. - Sat., July 13 – 14, 2018  
Hotel Mead and Conference Center • \$89 + tax  
451 E. Grand Avenue, Wis. Rapids, WI 54494  
(715) 423-1500
- **2019 Department Mid-Winter Conference**  
Fri. - Sat., February 1 – 2, 2019  
Ho-Chunk Casino Hotel & Conf. Ctr. • \$99/\$109 + tax  
S3214 County Highway BD, Baraboo, WI 53913  
(800) 746-2486

**Pension Programs Available**

Wisconsin's VFW Department Service Officers are giving more time and effort to enroll Veterans and their dependents in the VA's Non-Service Connected Pension Program. Our office is fortunate to be in the Milwaukee VA Regional Office that also hosts one of three Pension Management Centers. The Center administers more than \$230 million in monthly Federal benefits to nearly 300,000 beneficiaries living in Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. The other Pension Management Centers are located in St. Paul, Minnesota and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

All wartime Veterans should be aware of pension programs, especially those Veterans entering or already in retirement. The keyword is **wartime** as service during a wartime era is necessary to be eligible for **Veterans Pension**, a tax-free monetary benefit payable to low-income wartime Veterans. Generally, a Veteran must have at least 90 days of active duty service, with at least one day during a wartime period to qualify for a VA Pension. If you entered active duty after September 7, 1980, generally you must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least one day during a wartime period.

In addition to meeting minimum service requirements, the Veteran must be one of the following: age 65 or older; totally and permanently disabled; a patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care; Receiving Social Security Disability Insurance; or Receiving Supplemental Security Income.

**Survivors Pension** is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse and/or unmarried child or children of a deceased Veteran with wartime service. While an un-remarried spouse is eligible at any age, a child of a deceased wartime Veteran must be one of the following: under 18; under age 23 if attending a VA-approved school; or permanently incapable of self-support due to a disability before age 18.

For Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension, the yearly family income must be less than the amount set by Congress to qualify for the benefit. If eligible, your pension benefit is the difference between your "countable" income and the annual pension limit set by Congress. VA generally pays this difference in 12 equal monthly payments. For example, the current **annual income limit** for a Veteran and spouse is \$16,902. If a wartime Veteran's income combined with his or her spouse's income is \$13,902, their VA pension will be \$3,000 (\$16,902 - \$13,902 = \$3,000), paid in monthly installments of \$250.

Veterans and survivors who are eligible for Pension benefits and are housebound or require the aid and attendance of another person may be eligible to receive additional monetary amounts. Recurring medical expenses can reduce the income limits set by Congress, making pension programs more accessible to Veterans and their dependents.

Contact your Department Service Officer or County Veteran Service Officer with questions and if you need applications for VA pension programs.

**Dan Driscoll**  
State Veterans  
Service Officer  
414-902-5748  
daniel.driscoll2@va.gov



**STATE OFFICERS**

By now you should have your copy of the 2018 VFW Podium Edition. You may be pleasantly surprised at the changes.

Turn to Article X – RULES OF ORDER, which contains the basic parliamentary ground rules for the conduct of our business. They are adapted from **Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised 11th Edition**. (Toss your old Demeter's book and pick up a copy of Roberts if you like.)

Among the big changes is a new "Contemporary" Order of Business that bypasses much of the traditional that tends to stretch out our meetings. Many of today's Veterans are impatient with the old ways of doing things. And that impatience is not confined to just younger Veterans. A lot of older Vets avoid these meetings because they get bogged down in peripheral stuff that seems to accomplish little and takes forever. This complaint crosses age brackets with ease.

We get impatient and anxious to just huddle, improvise a plan and implement it for whatever we want to do. Stop and take a breather. Realize that, like it or not, we are making organizational decisions that have legal ramifications. We have an obligation to honor the interests of our members in full. So decision-making must be properly structured and recorded so that all interests are best served.

Here's an example of failing to meet such obligations: A Post duly votes to conduct a successful fundraiser seeking donations to their Relief Fund. Word goes out to the general public inviting them to an event promising that the money they spend or contribute will go specifically to the Relief Fund to help Veterans in their community. Thanks to great publicity and a successful event, several thousand dollars flow into the Relief Fund.

A short time later the leadership sits around jawboning at the local café and says, "Wow. Y'know what we shoulda done? We shoulda collected that money to put a new roof on the clubhouse!" And sure enough, they decide that's where the money should go instead. So the Commander announces that's what they are now going to do with the several thousands just raised.

Think that's okay?

It isn't. It's wrong on several levels. First of all, when someone contributes to a specific purpose, the organization has not just a moral obligation, but a legal one, to follow through on their stated promise. Second, the membership voted their will in authorizing the proposed event. Thirdly, no matter who volunteered their help or how many people contributed to the success of the campaign, changing the use of the money to another purpose is fundamentally fraudulent. And, finally, any money contributed to the Relief Fund cannot be transferred, loaned or used for any purpose other than that for which it was raised: Aid, assistance, relief and comfort of *needy or disabled veterans or members of the Armed Forces and their dependents, and the surviving spouses and orphans of deceased veterans*. Also maintenance and expansion of the *VFW National Home*; Providing entertainment, care and assistance to *hospitalized Veterans and service members*; *Veterans rehabilitation, welfare & service work*; Perpetuate the memory of *deceased veterans and Armed Forces members and comfort their survivors*; And finally, *to foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs*.

See anything in there about a new roof on the canteen? See anything in there giving the Commander authority to divert funds to non-allowed purposes? See anything in the By-Laws allowing a group within the Post to make monetary decisions without a duly considered and voted motion of the membership? See anything in there empowering the Commander to decide this on their own?

The VFW and its Auxiliaries are all bound to the same proscriptions against these actions. Period.

So the leaders in our little story need to take their idea and rework it, presenting to the membership a plan to do a new fundraiser to specifically generate money for their Building Fund or Capital Improvement Fund, or a "New Roof For The Bar" Fund. And donations raised for that can be used for that purpose, *once the membership approves the motion at a duly held regular or special meeting*.

So, while our new By-Laws have served to streamline the meeting process, the membership card in your pocket obliges you to abide by the road rules, laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Auxiliary. We haven't been able to exist this long without a legal and ethical structure that assures **our word continues to be our bond**. That is the strength of structure.

**Bill Knudson**  
Judge Advocate  
715-384-2500  
judge@vfwwi.org



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Please note that some District meetings listed are VFW or Auxiliary only!

- December 2 6th District Meeting – VFW ONLY! – 1:00 – 3:00 pm – VFW Post 1230, Sheboygan
- December 10 4th District Meeting – VFW ONLY! – 12:00 – 5:00 pm – hosted by VFW Post 8482 at Oak Creek American Legion Hall, 9327 S. Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, WI 53154
- December 13 DEADLINE for January/February 2018 Wisconsin VFW News
- January 13 1st District Meeting – 8:30 am – 1:00 pm - VFW Post 1621, Janesville
- January 13 9th District Meeting – VFW ONLY! – 7:00 am – 4:00 pm – VFW Post 305, Eau Claire
- January 13 11th District Meeting – VFW ONLY! – 10:00 am – 3:00 pm – VFW Post 1916, Reedsburg
- January 19-21 MOC/MOCA Grand Mid-Winter Conference and Testimonial, Three Bears Resort, 701 Yogi Circle, Warrens, WI 54666 (See hotel and registration forms in this paper - NOTE DEADLINES!)
- January 20 2nd District Meeting – VFW ONLY! – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm – VFW Post 1163, Beaver Dam
- January 29 7th District Meeting – 9:00 – 3:00 pm – hosted by VFW Post 388 at the Labor Temple, 318 S. Third Avenue, Wausau, WI 54401
- February 2-3 VFW/VFWA Dept. Mid-Winter Conference, Hotel Mead & Conference Center, 451 E. Grand Ave., Wis. Rapids, WI 54494 (See hotel and registration forms in this paper – NOTE DEADLINES!)
- February 10 6th District Meeting – VFW ONLY! – 1:00 – 3:00 pm, VFW Post 5612, Plymouth
- February 11 3rd District Meeting – 8:30 am – 12:00 pm – hosted by VFW Post 2334 at Schreiner Memorial Library, 113 Elm Street, Lancaster, WI 53813
- February 11 4th District Meeting – VFW ONLY! – 12:00 – 5:00 pm – hosted by VFW Post 8482 at Oak Creek American Legion Hall, 9327 S. Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, WI 53154
- February 17 8th District Meeting – 11:00 am – 3:00 pm – hosted by VFW Post 2113 at Comfort Inn & Suites, 1951 Bond Street, Green Bay, WI 54303
- February 21 DEADLINE for March/April 2018 Wisconsin VFW News
- February 24 4th District Meeting – AUXILIARY ONLY! 1:00 pm – Safety Center, 5911 W. Grange Ave, Greendale, WI 53129
- April 20-22 MOC/MOCA Grand Convention, Eagle River, WI
- April 28 VFW State Loyalty Day – New Richmond, WI
- May 2-4 National Auxiliary President official visit to Wisconsin (details to follow in future issues and mailings)

Comrades and Auxiliary Members,  
As the paper reaches you this time Veterans Day will be over, and I hope you have taken time to spend with others in honoring our fellow vets. We take the time to recognize those who have served and those still serving. Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy should be completed. It's a time when we start preparing for the holidays and some for deer season. Hopefully you get your deer by means other than a car.

On a much more serious note, I would like to talk to you about something that has been happening to our vets on a regular basis. Suicide, not only here in Wisconsin, but across the country at a rate of 20-22 vets per day. Suicide can happen to any family but when it's a vet, it hits harder on us all. In my previous job as Police Chief, I was called to the scene of many suicides and observed the aftermath. Some of those suicides were both fellow vets and friends at the same time. It's much more difficult for families as there are often no answers and people are left with sadness and anger.

As members of the greatest combat veterans organization we should be doing all we can to look for signs and help when we can. The VFW has put out five signs to watch for and they are as follows:

- Personality Change
- Agitated
- Withdrawn
- Poor Self-Care
- A feeling of Hopelessness

When you notice these signs, try talking to them and helping with referrals. There

**John Giese**  
National Council  
Member  
262-723-3073  
jsgiese@charter.net



**Veterans  
Crisis Line**



**1-800-273-8255  
PRESS 1**

are many places to call and talk, such as the Veterans Crisis Line – dial 1-800-273-8255 and press 1. Or text to 838255. ALL calls and chats are confidential.

# MEMBERSHIP

**POLITICS  
+ MEETINGS  
x MEMBERSHIP  
= DISCONTENT**

**Lee W. Otto, II**  
State Membership  
Director

920-988-8145  
membership@vfwwi.org



Another couple months have passed and we are almost into winter. Yes, I said winter. It is getting drastically colder. Unfortunately, our membership is looking even colder. As I mentioned in my last article, we have a goal of 98% by April 2018. National, Department, and the Membership Team are not seeing the effort. I'm sure you can tell by the emails that have been sent out by everyone. Haven't received anything?! I think that you should make sure that your chain of command has your email. If you don't have one and you're an officer, GET ONE, and check it.

So as you can see the title of my article is a bit different. I have recently received complaints, and information from the different eras that are current members throughout the great state of Wisconsin. A lot has gone on politically, events that have occurred and made headline news, social media, papers, etc. We get fed enough garbage through those mentioned ways that we do NOT need this in our Post/District meetings. When these are discussed, it takes us away from our main focus and our main goal. That is, "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS." By talking about the NFL or our feelings toward religious beliefs, or what our Commander in Chief (POTUS) is doing or not doing takes away from what we as an organization need to be on track with. When these things are brought up and new members attend your meeting, where do you think they are going to go right after your meeting is through? HOME! To their family, that they left, or work or whatever it may be, and NEVER come back. Leave that garbage at the door or for when you and your comrades are at the bar.

We comrades are struggling and everyone knows it and feels it. When one individual is taking on everything and does what they're supposed to be doing but the rest of the team is failing or, for lack of better words, being lazy, we first wear down that individual. Secondly, we are letting the entire team and organization down. Don't aspire to be the best on the team. Aspire to be the best for the team. Let's pick up our feet! Let's ruck up, suck up, and follow our orders and OATH

OF OBLIGATION that we swore to! The Commander's statement this year at the very beginning, has it already been forgotten? STAND TOGETHER!!! I don't feel like we are. Let's work together and stand together and we can accomplish so much more.

I make it sound easy, right? It's not by any means. But we have many tools that are available to us. District Commanders, I have some ideas in mind that I look forward to sharing with you. But I will share with our membership one of those ideas. I will be arranging a "membership huddle" Go-To-Meeting. I will be inviting the District Commander and if he/she so chooses to pick an individual that feels that can add ideas, or take away any ideas from the huddle; something that will benefit his/her Post, District, or Department, will be able to join in on this.

When we have a problem; we fix it, learn from it, and move on. Shouldn't social recruiting mean recruiting members in such a way that allows them to learn about the Post and organization in a way that they'd find...pleasant? Let's keep pushing forward and start getting out there and talking to prospective members. If you're looking for members, I know of two people in our Department that each have signed up a total of 43 members at large (MAL). Do you know how many have been contacted?! 4!!! Yes, I said four. The others are waiting on you - Post Commanders, Officers, and fellow members. Let's get these individuals into a Post home and get them involved!

It's time to CHARLIE MIKE!!! CONTINUE MISSION!!! Our mission is 98% by April, 2018. Please stand together and let's get it done. Please feel free to contact me any time at the new Membership email address - membership@vfwwi.org  
TO BE CONTINUED....



## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP TOTALS BY DISTRICT

District	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	N/R LM
1	2716	23	4	218	2961	3447	85.90%	7
2	3694	27	6	374	4101	4693	87.38%	12
3	837	4	0	103	944	1092	86.44%	2
4	1615	32	0	191	1838	2019	91.03%	3
6	1982	5	1	214	2202	2512	87.65%	6
7	2639	12	5	284	2940	3335	88.15%	10
8	1994	8	6	262	2270	2657	85.43%	7
9	2684	15	4	135	2838	3083	92.05%	12
10	1831	11	6	277	2125	2474	85.89%	8
11	1814	7	4	190	2015	2244	89.79%	0
99	1090	51	6	154	1301	1664	78.18%	10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22895</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2395</b>	<b>25526</b>	<b>29220</b>	<b>87.35%</b>	<b>76</b>

• Totals as of October 31, 2017  
• Total Legacy Life Members: 68

## Starting the Membership conversation ... from a successful Recruiter

When out and about, and I see a Veteran/Military type cap on an individual, I ask, "If you don't mind me asking, where did you serve?" That opens the conversation to when, where and what branch. Easy to move on from there. If the Veteran is VFW-eligible based on this short conversation, I ask, "Has anyone ever asked you to join us as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars?" (I don't use VFW yet).

If they say they are a member, I thank them and chat on and ask them if they filed for VA benefits yet and tell them to stop in to see our VFW VSO or visit their CVSO. If they are not a member, I encourage them and tell them about their VA benefits and our programs and benefits. I remind them that back when we joined the service, we were told we would have a long list of benefits and how, over the years, they reduced more and more. And now, our current Veterans don't have 1/4 of the list we had.

But the VFW is fighting to get them back, along with the other Veterans Service Organizations. And we are winning. I remind them how "the squeaky wheel gets the grease". And that membership numbers are our voice. I ask them to please join us to help preserve benefits for our current Veterans and those who will be Veterans soon, and to help us to promote good old community Americanism.



# WE PROTECT OUR OWN.

When you join or renew your membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, your dues go to helping veterans right here at home in Wisconsin - veterans like you who answered their nation's call to serve.

Our strength depends on members like YOU. To learn more about what the VFW is doing in Wisconsin, contact your local VFW Post.

## MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS

- **Members/Officers can go online and pay their dues by setting up an account at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), using their member number and email address. Members and Officers can also set up auto pay.**
- **Commanders/Quartermasters/Officers: please make sure that your dues are paid on time and processed before National removes you from office. Once you are removed by National you may not hold a position for the remainder of the administrative year pursuant to the By-Laws and Rituals as you are no longer a "Member in Good Standing" once your dues expire.**
- **Ensure that you are conducting your meetings in accordance with the By-laws. Ensuring that your meeting is conducted with organization and structure, this will help keep your retention rates.**
- **Follow up with new members after they attend your meeting. Ask them what they thought of the meeting.**
- **When obligating new members, let them read the Oath of Obligation before you have them recite it. Explain to new members what it means. Explain to them how we wear our cover and when we do not wear our cover (example: when eating), and what the different colors mean, etc.**
- **Mentor your new members. Explain to them when they can bring up good ideas for the Post in a meeting (Good of the Order). Explain to them why and what a motion is.**
- **Follow up on emails sent by the Membership Director or your District Commander for new members.**
- **Consistent communication is key!**



**It's not the price you pay to become a member.  
It's the price you paid to become eligible.**

The Bear Facts

Visits to the VA Hospitals and Wisconsin Veterans Home tops the list of activities that your Line Officers, Hospital Chairman Madge Murphy and I have done in recent weeks. We will visit the Minneapolis VA next spring. Homeless Veteran Outreach, Women's Health Care and Hoptel are a few of the areas designated for our donations. Madge and I would like to thank everyone for their participation. Our VAVS Reps and Deputies are providing great care and comfort to our veterans. There is always a need for more volunteers — have you considered becoming a Hospital volunteer? Please contact Chairman Madge if you would like more info.

Helen Stearns  
Department  
President  
920-485-4352  
hlstearns1021@gmail.com



The Big Ten Fall Conference in Bloomington, Minnesota was well attended. There were twenty-one Wisconsin Auxiliary members present. The training was very rewarding and the Membership Skits were very entertaining, with important messages conveyed in recruiting and retaining members. Membership and Leadership Chairman Linda Moran is working diligently as we continue to retain our current members and recruit new ones. Have you recruited five new or rejoined Auxiliary members? If so, please remember to complete the paperwork for your "Catch Five" baseball mitt pin. Membership is the life-blood of our organization and should be our top priority as we continue to serve our veterans.

With the beautiful weather in the air, the CAFE (Celebrating America's Freedom Event) in Yorktown, Virginia was very inspirational. It was great to be part of the parade and the special ceremony where each of the Department Presidents from across the United States was introduced in front of the Monument dedicated to the Battle of Yorktown. The days following this event were filled with the Homecoming Celebration honoring our National President Dee Guillory in Williamsburg.

A visit to the VFW National Home for Children finished out the month of October as the group from Wisconsin dressed up as Crayola Crayons. We also had a doctor, a pirate and a few pumpkins in the group. As always, the children's costumes were oh-so-cute!! If you have never been there, please consider it for next year, as Wisconsin will be the host for the 2018 Fall Festival.

By the time this paper reaches you, we will have held our Fall Council of Administration meeting and training in Horicon. The training sessions within the council encouraged all on how to welcome our new members and make them feel more included in our Auxiliary. We were also reminded of the many ways to promote Patriotism.

On the Ways and Means front, "SOBIG" bear is waiting for your donations! Thank you to all who have sent their money to Dept. Treasurer Lenore Otto so far. Remember: the deadline for the contest against VFW Bear "ROAR" is **January 31, 2018**. Keep collecting those donations and mail them in as soon as possible. The "winner" will be announced at the Mid-Winter Conference in Wisconsin Rapids, February 2-3, 2018.

And speaking of bears, have you purchased your "bear" President's pin? The cost is \$3.00 and it is also one of our Department fundraisers. Contact your District President to get your pin before they are gone!

Thank you for all you do in helping our Veterans attain their best quality of life. "It is because of you, they are; it is because of them (the Veteran) we can be!" Let us remain vigilant as we "Stand Together with Veterans and Family" and "Catch the Dream for Our Veterans." Have a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving.

Membership & Leadership — Beary Good News

In the past months, millions of people have been affected by natural disasters which caused a great deal of damage. Our organization has stepped up to help those affected by these disasters. But in order to continue to help those in need we need to make sure we have strong Posts and Auxiliaries with plenty of members willing and able to help. We need to invite and sign up every eligible person for the VFW Auxiliary.

Linda Moran,  
PDP  
Membership  
Chairman  
920-337-9922  
dacqukid@aol.com



There are some great tools on the National Auxiliary website (vfwauxiliary.org) that can help — see the [Program & Publicity Resources Page](#). Check out the following fliers that give quick facts which can help in getting potential members:

- Facts Leaflet
- Elevator Speech / What We Do
- National Talking Points
- Local Talking Points

MALTA is up and running. If you haven't sent a dues notice yet—WHY NOT!—our membership year is 5 months along and you should have most of your dues collected.

Congratulations to the 11 Auxiliaries in our Department that are 100% or better. We have many that are so close — just a little push and you should accomplish your goals. Department was at 79.23% as of this writing in mid-October, down a little from last year. Working together we can do it. Until next time —



"NO" VEMBER

- NO self-hate
- NO being lazy
- NO excuses
- NO pain, no gain
- NO to unhealthy food (in large quantities)
- NO soda, drink water instead
- NO regrets
- NO quitting

That being said, get out there and **RECRUIT, RENEW and RETAIN**. Keep up the great work and remember, it all starts with each of us recruiting "Just One." God Bless everyone — have a great Holiday Season as we **Stand Together With Veterans and Family and Catch the Dream For Our Veterans**.

AUXILIARY

Celebrating America's Freedom Event



Soaking up the beautiful fall weather in sunny Virginia are (front row, L to R) Department President Helen Stearns, Josie Bowers, (back row L to R) PDP Rita Byers, PDP Linda Moran and Renee Bowers. (Renee and Josie are Linda's daughter and granddaughter respectively.) The occasion for the trip was the Fifth Annual Celebrating America's Freedom Event (CAFE) at the Yorktown Battlefield in Yorktown, VA, followed by the National President's Homecoming celebration in Williamsburg, VA. The CAFE replaces the long-time birthday celebration at the Statue of Liberty, previously held each October. Each year's celebration is selected by the incoming National Auxiliary President, with the September 2018 event details to be announced early next year.

Submitted by PDP Rita Byers.



VFW WAYS & MEANS  
'ROAR' & 'SOBIG'

Introducing "ROAR" and "SOBIG," our competition bears. Now here is how this works — we have VFW members and Auxiliary members that have a highly competitive spirit when it comes to: **who does more for our Veterans**.

Well, there is no way that the VFW has a chance to win the bragging rights for this! Right? "Roar" is the VFW bear. All fundraising monies that are raised by the VFW will go in his picnic basket. "Sobig" is the Auxiliary bear and all fundraising monies raised will go into her picnic basket. At our Mid-Year Conference, we will announce whose basket is the fullest and that bear will be victorious. The victor will chose a program to receive their basket's donations. Monies from the "second place" bear's basket will go into the Ways & Means Fund.

We are asking you to have a fundraiser for this project on the Auxiliary level. Make it fun — exciting — involve the community. Have a breakfast, bake sale, game night, salad luncheon, pie and ice cream sale — the possibilities are endless! District Presidents: you may want to have a picnic

basket at your District meeting to accept donations. The VFW will just have to figure out their own way of raising funds. Don't give them ideas or help them! We need to show them where the bear . . . well you know the rest of that phrase!

Let's see who will **roar** . . . or who will be **so big**! The competition begins NOW! All money collected must reach the Department Treasurer's office by **January 31, 2018. NO EXCEPTIONS!** Send checks earmarked: Ways & Means "SOBIG" and we will let the VFW know that their checks are to be sent to our Department Treasurer earmarked: Ways & Means "Roar". Mail to: Lenore Otto, 1383 W. Wisconsin Ave., Oconomowoc, WI 53066.

There will be a drawing for everyone who sends in a donation to win "Roar" and "Sobig." This will also take place at our Mid-Winter Conference.

Have fun! Questions? Call or email us!  
Dan and Vicki Newbauer  
Dept. Ways & Means Chairmen  
715-453-1926  
vnewbauer1950@gmail.com



## DRAPING OF THE CHARTER

District	Name	City	Auxiliary	
1	Nancy Poulson	Racine	1391	
2	Carolyn M. Kujawski*	Waukesha	721	
	Mildred Tardiff*	Waukesha	721	
	Clarice Breidenbach	Fort Atkinson	1879	
	Mary Haack*	Fort Atkinson	1879	
	Nell Gerth*	Watertown	3709	
	Carol Hurtt*	Watertown	3709	
	Gloria Sobrolske-McInturff*	Watertown	3709	
	Dorothy Kusch	New Berlin	5716	
	Irene Stieglitz*	Sussex	6377	
	Mildred Wille	Middleton	8216	
3	Catherine Brabender*	Marshall	10510	
	Alice Jasper*	Richland Center	2267	
4	Margaret Aschenbrenner*	Milwaukee	1691	
	Linda Casper	Milwaukee	1691	
	Caroline Neassen	Milwaukee	9469	
	Theresa Anderson	Milwaukee	10519	
6	Jean Widder*	Sheboygan Falls	5612	
	Charlotte Wiltkopp	Plymouth	5612	
7	Donna M. Dupuis	Waupaca	1037	
	Rose Spagnola*	Waupaca	1037	
	Agnes Boxrucker*	Colby	2227	
	Harriet Hazeldick	Colby	2227	
	Mary Ann Zynda*	Elderon	8068	
	Roberta Johnson	Westfield	8718	
	Sandra Oliva	Mosinee	8733	
	8	Martha C. Braun	Mountain	2119
		Jeanne Harris	Mountain	2119
	9	Joyce Basteyns	Green Bay	7534
Suzanne Walschinski		Green Bay	7534	
Jean Lewis		Bellevue	9677	
Joan Miller		Eau Claire	305	
10	Mabel O'Neill	Eau Claire	305	
	Margaret Erickson	Chippewa Falls	1038	
	Jean Todahl	Strum	6550	
	Margaret Eklund*	Augusta	8478	
	Irma Benson*	Clear Lake	5828	
	Anna Mayer	Westboro	8216	
	Ailene Premeau	Westboro	8216	
	Carol Pease*	Barnes	8329	
	Margaret M. Loka	Eagle River	8637	
	Joann Lueck	Eagle River	8637	

\*LIFE MEMBER

A note to Auxiliary Treasurers: If you are entering deceased members into the MALTA System, PLEASE remember to send or e-mail a copy of the MEMBERSHIP UPDATE FORM to Department Treasurer Lenore Otto, so that files can be pulled and the deceased members' names recorded for the Draping of the Charter and the State Convention Memorial Books. We do not want to miss recognizing any of our members with these final tributes. Thank you for your assistance!

## Auxiliary 388 Supports Wausau Fire Dept.



The Auxiliary to Burns VFW Post 388 presented a \$1,000 donation to the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin, in support of the 'Better Rest, Better Rescue' project for the Wausau Fire Department. The funds will be used to purchase much needed new mattresses and bedding for the Fire Department personnel that protect the surrounding areas. Shown here are (l to r): Auxiliary Jr. Vice President Dee Dennis; Auxiliary Sr. Vice Kathy Miller; Auxiliary President Deb Spatz; "Better Rest, Better Rescue" Project Coordinator Romey Wagner; Community Foundation Executive Director Jean Tehan; and Firefighter Paramedics Shane Woller; Quinn Ambrosius and Dylan Pries.

Submitted by Auxiliary 388 Jr. Vice President Dee Dennis.

## Auxiliary 6279 Donates to Tomah VA

In addition to regular monthly donations of \$50 to the VA Medical Center at Tomah, the Auxiliary to Adams-Friendship VFW Post 6279 recently donated approximately \$500 worth of items including personal care miscellaneous; new socks and underwear; bath sheets; word search books; lap blankets and a case of coffee.

Shown here with the donations are (l to r): Auxiliary Jr. Vice President Judy Hatlevig; Patriotic Instructor Dorothy Sparby and President Rosemary Bredesen. Word has it the group made a day of it — stopping for lunch and doing a little shopping at the Amish store on the way home from Tomah. Way to go!

Submitted by Auxiliary 6279 Treasurer Debi Beck.



# TWO FER TUESDAY

Date	Ticket	Name	City	Prize
Oct. 2	714	Rick Neville	Marshfield, WI	\$25
Oct. 3	79	Susan Blanchard	Delafield, WI	\$50
Oct. 3	175	Harrison Anhalt	Elkhorn, WI	\$50
Oct. 4	837	Gerald Niedbalski	Plover, WI	\$25
Oct. 5	295	Jill Sireno	Jefferson, WI	\$25
Oct. 6	364	Sara Knilans	Edgerton, WI	\$25
Oct. 9	1340	Char Wyles	Tomahawk, WI	\$25
Oct. 10	1261	Rhonda Cassell	Augusta, WI	\$50
Oct. 10	598	Sue Ahrens	Germantown, WI	\$50
Oct. 11	148	Katie Nelson	Oxnard, CA	\$25
Oct. 12	339	Noel Niehausen	Fort Atkinson, WI	\$25
Oct. 13	1092	Rhonda Hopkins	Bonduel, WI	\$50
Oct. 16	970	Bonnie Vogel	Whitelaw, WI	\$25
Oct. 17	951	Janice Dahlke	Denmark, WI	\$50
Oct. 17	1080	VFWA #2063 Crivitz	Crivitz, WI	\$50
Oct. 18	1462	Mike Neumann	Sparta, WI	\$25
Oct. 19	58	Jodi Clarson	Richland Center, WI	\$25
Oct. 20	725	Charlene Woller	Merrill, WI	\$25
Oct. 23	622	Luanne Berghammer	Hartford, WI	\$25
Oct. 24	1449	Marie Meyers	LaCrosse, WI	\$50
Oct. 24	1243	Melody Peterson	Durand, WI	\$50
Oct. 25	1344	Mike Spencer	Tomahawk, WI	\$25
Oct. 26	447	Karen Ann White	Arena, WI	\$25
Oct. 27	140	Pearl Gurney	Janesville, WI	\$25

## Dates to Remember

November 21	Grenada Campaign ended in 1983.
November 23	Thanksgiving Day
December 5	Somalia Campaign began in 1992.
December 7	National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
December 8	War declared on Japan in 1941.
December 10	Human Rights Day
December 11	Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S. in 1941.
December 12	Hanukkah begins.
December 15	Iraq War ended in 2011.
December 15	Bill of Rights Day
December 16	Battle of the Bulge began in 1944.
December 20	Panama Campaign began in 1989.
December 21	Winter solstice – first day of Winter
December 25	Christmas Day
December 31	Official end of WWII in 1946.
December 31	Kosovo Campaign ended in 2013.
January 1	New Year's Day
January 2	Operation Bolo began in Vietnam in 1967.

# Cootie Corner

**The Year of the MOOSE  
(Massive Obstruction of  
Seriousness Established)**

**Wayne  
Woodman**  
WI Grand  
Commander  
608-498-1202  
h2boifvet@yahoo.com



I have had a very busy year. I have visited six Pup Tents, two Veterans Homes, and two VA Hospitals. At each I have had a very lousy time. My visit to Tomah VA had to have been the worst of them all. This year we had more MOC / MOCA members in attendance than I have ever seen. The MOC / MOCA made donations to the Tomah VA to help restore the Alzheimer Memorial Garden off Building 403. A small group of women have taken on this project, but they didn't have funding to do all that needs done. They are the Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) from Fort McCoy.

On Saturday night, we all went to Sparta VFW for a Cootie family dinner. The disappointing turnout was the largest group that I have seen at the meal for Tomah Days. Congratulations to MOCA member Kathy Johnson for winning the free banquet meal at the Cootie Mid-Winter, which is coming up in January at Three Bears Lodge and Resort in Warrens, Wisconsin. Sunday morning, we held the Grand Scratch, which resulted in 2 steps forward and 1 step back — or is it the other way around? The MOOSE were out on the loose during the weekend, and some of them took advantage of it. The herd grew by over 20, including six from the Fort McCoy's PWOC.

The veterans at Tomah are still talking to me about our BBQ and Bingo. I am lucky enough to have first-hand knowledge at Tomah, as I am employed there. As I walk down the halls, the veterans see me and tell me that they had a great time during our visit with them. I now have the nickname of The Head Cootie. I am having the worst time of my life being able to visit all of the veterans in the hospitals and Veterans Homes. I cannot say how much it means to me to hear the veterans tell me about the fun they have when the Cooties are here doing Bingo, be it with the Grand or just with my local Pup Tent.

As I write this article, I will have only two more VA Hospitals and one Veterans Home left to visit — Zablocki in Milwaukee, Middleton in Madison, and Chippewa Falls Veterans Home. I'm working on setting them up now.

We in the Grand need to take a moment to send out our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of our latest Cootie that we have lost this year, our Brother Cootie Patrick Nowlin, who we lost to a tragedy in October. He will be deeply missed at all of our outings and the VFW Conventions. Rest in peace, my dear friend.

I am looking forward to seeing all of the Cooties and Auxiliary at the Mid-Winter Testimonial in January 2018, up at the Three Bears Lodge and Resort. Let us have the biggest turnout for this, as you all might get the chance to ROAST the Grand Commander and Grand President Madge Murphy. Show the Grand Officers how LOUSY we really are during this great time.

LOTCS  
W 8105-7105  
Grand Commander 2017-2018  
808-498-1202



MOCA Members,  
Thank you for allowing me to represent you at the hospital visits which I just completed.

**Tomah VA Medical Center:**  
MOC and MOCA met with staff who gave us an overview of Tomah, followed by a tour of the greenhouse and information about the greenhouses to be built in the future.

MOC and MOCA donated to the Memory Gardens to restore the gardens to their original beauty.

**Iron Mountain VA Medical Center:**  
The VFW, VFWA, MOC, and MOCA met with the Director who updated us on the Medical Center and new programming. Staff gave a tour of the facility; we also distributed Canteen Books to members.

MOCA donated to the Homeless Veterans Fund.

**Madison VA Medical Center:**  
The VFW, VFWA, and MOCA met with the new Director, who discussed changes he sees for the future.

MOCA donation went to the Craft Room for model planes.

**Milwaukee VA Medical Center:**  
The VFW, VFWA, and MOCA met with the Director we discussed the needs for the Hoptel and the list of supplies the Center needed to update the rooms. All donations went to the Hoptel.

**King Veterans Home:**  
I participated in the King Day activities. Donation was made to the Treat Cart.

I will be traveling to the National Home for Fall Festival in October, to Arlington, VA, for Tomb Trek in November, and the National Home in December for the Christmas Party. Hope to see MOC and MOCA members at these events.

**"Over The Rainbow To Support Our Veterans"**

Madge Murphy  
2017-2018 MOCA Grand President  
madgemurphy@charter.net  
608-754-1230



**Madge Murphy**  
MOCA Grand  
President  
608-754-1230  
madgemurphy  
@charter.net

# COOTIE CORNER

## MOC and MOCA Tomah Days



**ABOVE: Grand of Wisconsin Military Order of the Cootie and Auxiliary members pose for a quick picture after serving the Tomah VA patients a great BBQ and spending time with them playing Bingo.**

Submitted by MOC Grand Historian Tracy Woodman.



**LEFT: MOC Grand Commander Wayne Woodman calls Bingo at the Tomah VA while grandson Michael (wearing his favorite Moose clothing!) offers his assistance.**

Submitted by MOC Grand Historian Tracy Woodman.

## Military Order of the Cootie & Auxiliary Mid-Winter Conference and Testimonial

January 19-21, 2018

Three Bears Resort  
701 Yogi Circle  
Warrens, WI 54666  
Phone: 608-378-2500

Room rates: \$99/night + tax (Double Queen)  
\$119/night + tax (Family Suite)

**DEADLINE for the room block is December 20, 2017**

Call the hotel directly for room reservations.  
Mention Military Order of the Cootie when reserving to receive special rate.

REGISTRATION for Tour and Banquet  
**DEADLINE for these events is January 5, 2018**

Cranberry Discovery Tour: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Sat., Jan. 20, 2018 - 10:00 am - 12 noon

Saturday Banquet: \_\_\_\_\_ Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Pork @ \$26 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pup Tent/Aux: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ST/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: MOC Grand of Wisconsin

Send to:  
Ken Patterson, Grand CCDB  
W11624 Hwy. 64, Withee, WI 54498



# HONOR FLIGHT HUBS

## Military Order of the Cootie & Auxiliary Mid-Winter Conference and Testimonial

Schedule of Events  
January 19-21, 2018  
Warrens, WI 54666  
Phone: 608-378-2500

### Friday, January 19

4:00 pm - ? Hospitality Room Open  
(Food will be available)

### Saturday, January 20

10:00 am - 12 noon Cranberry Discovery Center Tour  
204 Main St., Warrens  
\$10 per person — see registration form

Cranberry Discovery center is fully handicap accessible with a gift shop, seating area and museum on 2 levels. Coffee and a cranberry treat and an optional scavenger hunt are included. The gift shop features a wide variety of items for sale.

2:00 - 4:00 pm BINGO at Close to Home, Inc.  
1211 Mark Ave., Tomah, WI

Bingo will be held at two different locations across the street from each other; at the same time if enough helpers attend.

4:00 pm Hospitality Room closes until after  
the Banquet and Testimonial

5:30 pm Social Hour/Cash Bar

6:30 pm Testimonial Banquet  
(Cash Bar closes at 7:00 pm)

### Sunday, January 21, 2018

8:30 am MOC / MOCA Scratch  
(Meeting Rooms to be announced)

See Registration form for hotel information and event deadlines!

## Green

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“One of the biggest programs Mr. Green is involved with is the Unmet Needs Program in St. Croix County,” Landgraf continued. “The Program has become so self-sufficient financially in part by their independently funded donated vehicle program, which Mr. Green worked with local Senators to craft legislation and is now Wisconsin law. Salvaged and donated cars, as well as impounded vehicles are sold and a large percentage must be returned to local veterans and family members as unmet needs donations. Finding ‘non-traditional methods’ of financial support for the VFW and other VSOs in Wisconsin for years to come.”

In addition to his work with VFW Post

10818, David Green is also a St. Croix County Veterans Service Commissioner. CVSO Landgraf’s remarks concluded, “I can’t stress the amount of time and energy that Mr. Green gives to the veterans of Wisconsin and St. Croix County. David does this because advocacy for his fellow veteran is at his core. He cares. In my time working in the CVSO profession, I have not found an individual who is more deserving of this award. Mr. David Green is truly a compassionate advocate and I hope you will help me in thanking Dave for everything he does for veterans. We need more like him!”

Congratulations to Dave Green – what a wonderful recognition of a very hard-working, deserving individual. Keep up the GREAT work!

## COOTIE DATES TO REMEMBER

December 2, 2017	Cootie Christmas at the VFW National Home for Children, Eaton Rapids, MI
January 19-21, 2018	MOC/MOCA Mid-Winter/Testimonial/Roast – see General Orders and November issue of WI VFW NEWS for more info and forms.
April 20-22, 2018	MOC/MOCA Annual Convention - see General Orders and future issues of WI VFW NEWS for more info and forms.

Keep 'em smiling in beds of white.

## Flights

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- Korean War: June 25, 1950 – January 31, 1955, and;
- Vietnam War: February 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975.

If you served ANYWHERE at ANY TIME, in ANY BRANCH, and in ANY COMPONENT (Active, Reserves, or National Guard) during the above dates, you are considered a Veteran of that war/conflict.

To date, the Wisconsin Honor Flights — Badger (Madison area); Freedom (La-Crosse area); Never Forgotten (Wausau area); Northland (Northwestern WI/Northern MN); Old Glory (Eastern WI) and Stars and Stripes (Southeastern WI) — have made over 170 Honor Flights combined, serving over 17,000 Veterans.

All of the Honor Flight Hubs gladly accept donations to sponsor Veteran trips on future flights. And many Posts, Auxiliaries and other organizations in our community continue to hold a variety of fundraising events to benefit their area’s Honor Flight. Please see below for contact information for all six of the Wisconsin Honor Flight Hubs. And thank you for all you are doing to ensure that our Heroes can continue to make “the trip of a lifetime” with their comrades!

### Wisconsin Honor Flight Hubs

Wisconsin’s Veterans are served by five Honor Flight Hubs based in our state as well as one in Northern Minnesota. Please contact the Honor Flight near you for more information on how to apply for an Honor Flight and how you can donate to support Veterans’ trips to Washington, D.C.



**Badger Honor Flight, Inc.**  
PO Box 258066, Madison, WI 53725  
608-616-0243  
www.badgerhonorflight.org



**Freedom Honor Flight**  
PO Box 505, LaCrosse, WI 54602-0505  
608-784-1015  
www.freedomhonorflight.org



**Never Forgotten Honor Flight**  
4404 Rib Mountain Dr., #234,  
Wausau, WI 54401  
715-573-8519  
www.neverforgottenhonorflight.org



### NORTHLAND

**Honor Flight Northland**  
PO Box 7229, Duluth, MN 55807-2473  
218-409-6110  
www.honorflightnorthland.org



**Old Glory Honor Flight**  
4650 West Spencer Street,  
Appleton, WI 54914  
888-635-9838  
www.oldgloryhonorflight.org



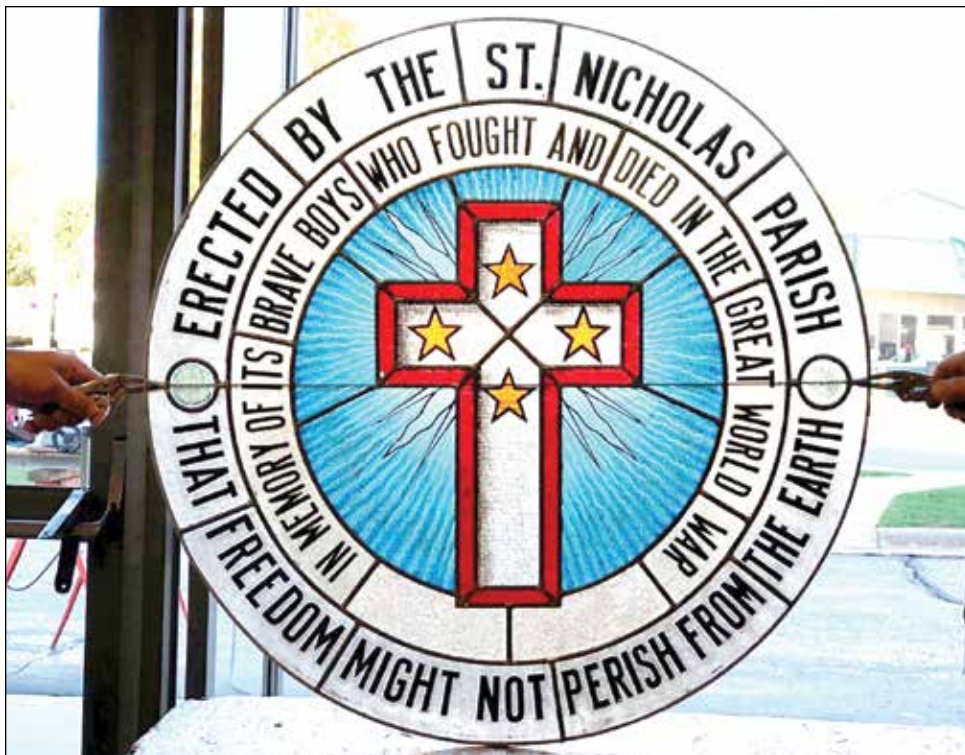
**Stars and Stripes Honor Flight**  
PO Box 636,  
Port Washington, WI 53074  
262-238-7740  
www.starsandstripeshonorflight.org

## Volunteers Needed

to distribute the VFW News  
in your part of the state.

If you are interested,  
please contact Marla Morgan  
at [wivfweditor@gmail.com](mailto:wivfweditor@gmail.com)  
or (715) 384-2500.

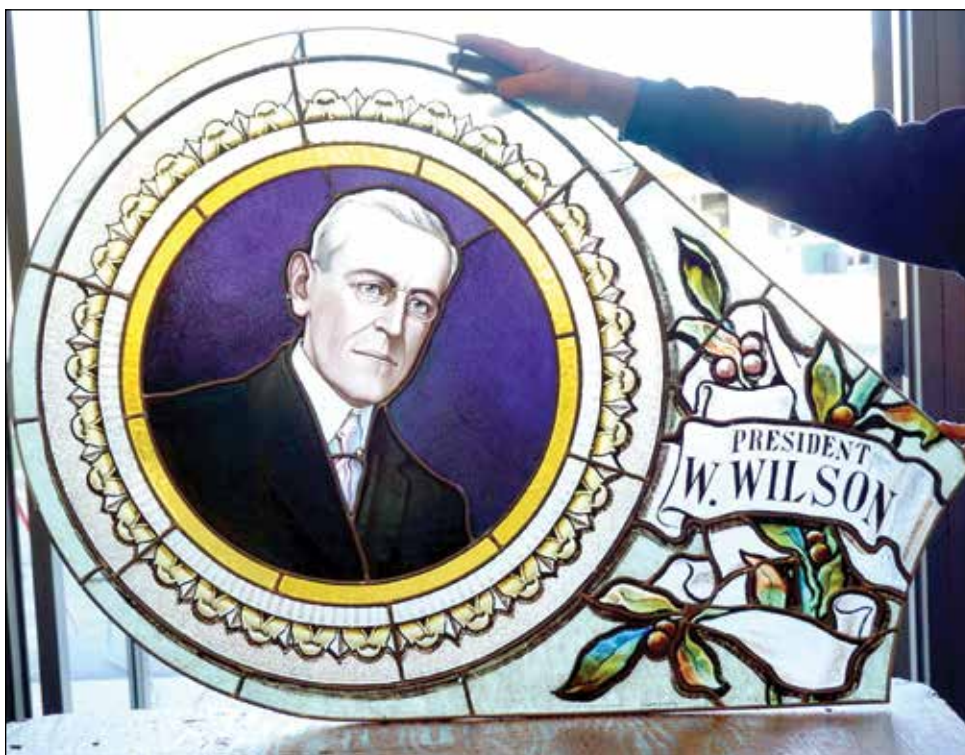
HONORING FREEDOM



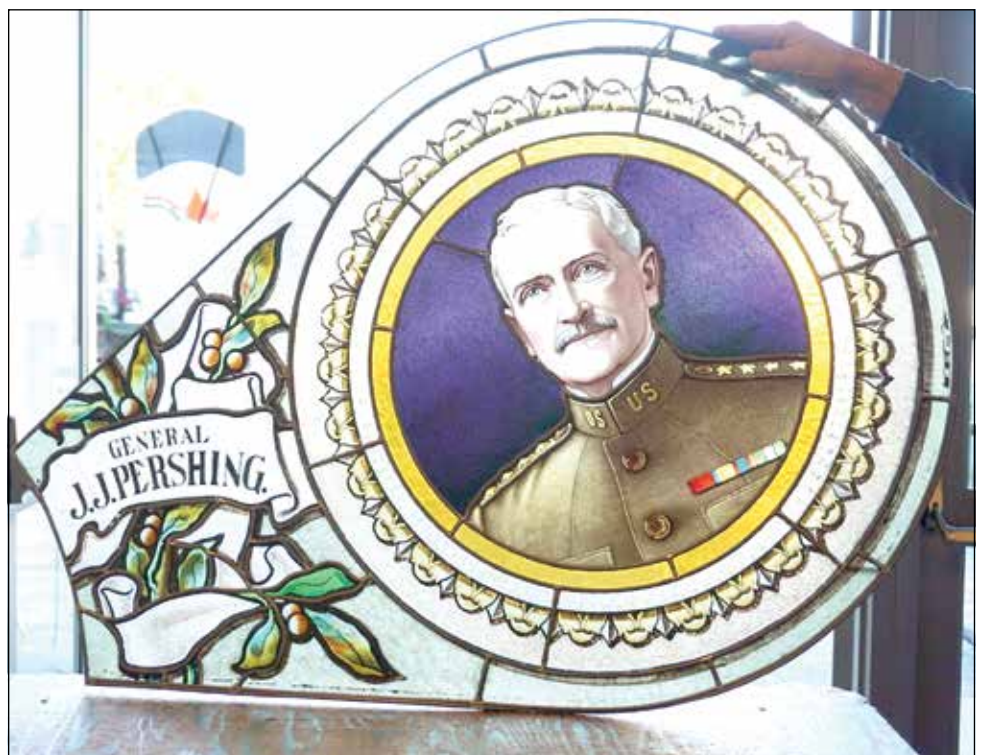
The center pane.



The Country Petal.



The President Woodrow Wilson Petal.



The General J.J. Pershing Petal.

# Honoring Freedom – the St. Nicholas Parish Rose Window

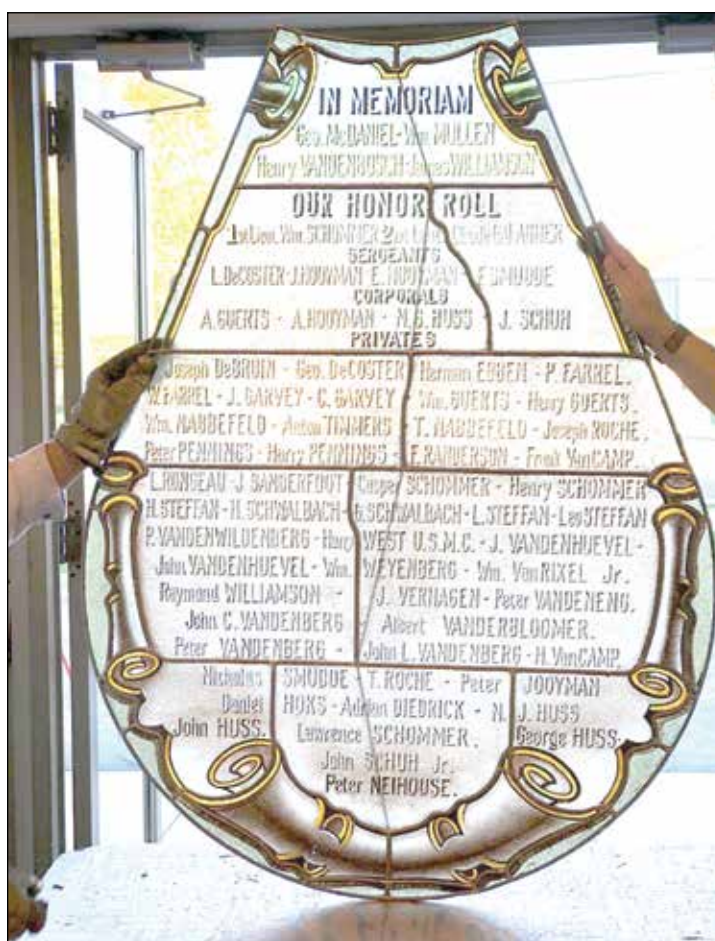
The beautiful center reads, “Erected by the St. Nicholas Parish, in memory of its brave boys who fought and died in the Great World War, that freedom might not perish from the earth.” It’s certainly a bit of a rarity, but the location is even more precious: The steeple of St. Nicholas Catholic Church, in Freedom, Wisconsin. Honoring freedom indeed.

Built in 1919, the expansive church building replaced a previous building lost to fire in 1917. The new church was outfitted with a number of beautiful stained glass windows due to the generosity of many donors. Other windows honor the Four Evangelists, the Blessed Mother, Jesus and a number of other biblical events and notables. The Rose Window however, is a more poignant secular reminder of “The Great World War”.

The “Memorial Rose Window” is high above the church’s front entrance; inside it is behind the organ pipes in the “choir loft” at the rear of the church. Unfortunately, while the tall pipes obscure the lower half of the window from general view, we are fortunate to be able to examine the individual portions of the window, thanks to a recent stained glass window restoration project, concluded at the church this past summer.

As reported in the *Appleton Evening Crescent* on Thursday, April 3, 1919:

Freedom – St. Nicholas congregation has received and placed its beautiful memorial Honor window in memory of the boys who fought and died in the service of their country. The window, which is ten feet in diameter, consists of nine separate panels, the center being circular and the outer



The Honor Roll Petal.

ones oblong with apex toward the center. The center panel is three feet in diameter and contains a cross in the center with four gold stars.

The article continues with an explanation of each “petal” of the rose, beginning

with the “Goddess of Liberty” at the “12 o’clock” position on the circle and continuing clockwise around the window with the Country, General Pershing, Wisconsin, Honor Roll, United States, President Wilson and Security tributes. All can be viewed



The ten foot in diameter Memorial Rose Window, erected in the steeple of St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Freedom, Wisconsin in 1919, following ‘the Great World War.’

in closer detail on these pages.

Each petal is quite beautiful in its own right, part of a magnificent tribute to many of the things we hold so dear in the United States.



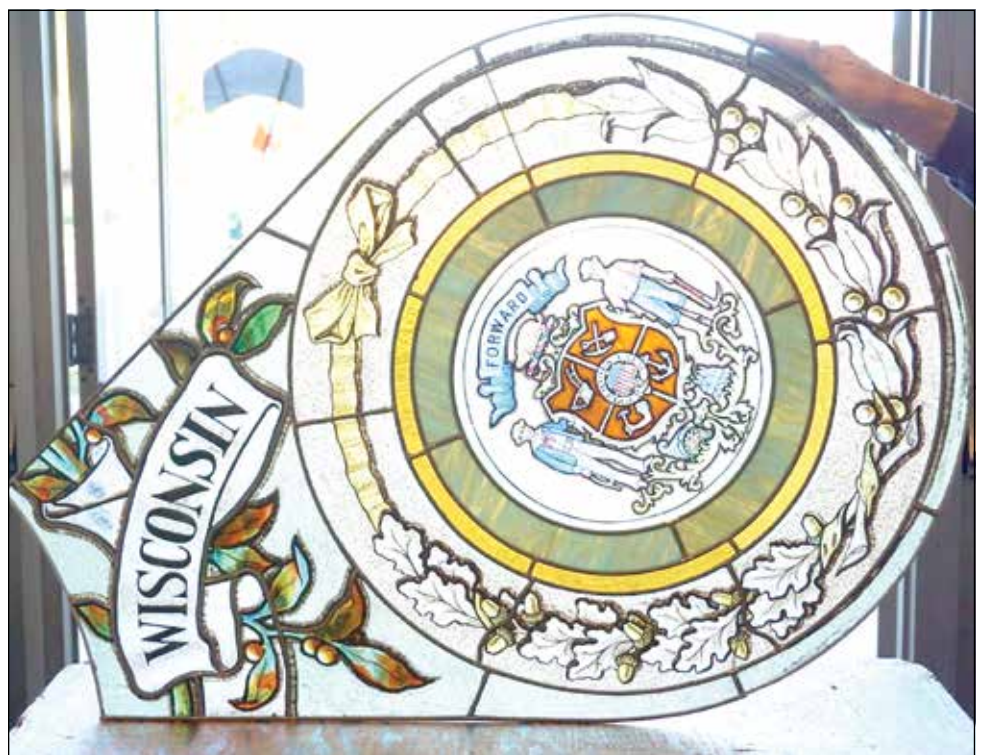
The Liberty Petal.



The Security Petal.



The United States Petal.



The Wisconsin Petal.



## Honoring Freedom

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

The Honor Roll portion at the “6 o’clock” position lists all of the St. Nicholas “boys” who fought in the “Great War”, with four names at the top “In Memoriam”. The Roll is just as stirring to read today as it must have been for the citizens of 1919, following “the war to end all wars”.

If your future travels will take you anywhere near the intersection of Cty. Hwys. S and E in Freedom, Wisconsin (in Outagamie County, just a short distance southwest of Green Bay), you will surely want to take some time to detour your route

a bit and view this magnificent historic stained glass window in all of its beautifully restored glory.

Honoring freedom indeed.

With sincere thanks to Clyde Baumgart, Army Veteran, “friend” of Freedom VFW Post 7692 and longtime member of St. Nicholas Church, for sharing the story of the Memorial Rose Window. Blessings to you for your service, then and now. And deepest gratitude to Cortney Curran, Business Manager at St. Nicholas Parish and Michelle Wagner of MW Portraits in Freedom for your invaluable assistance in securing the photos.



**TOP RIGHT:** Clyde Baumgart, Army Veteran and ‘friend and General Nuisance’ to VFW Post 7692 in Freedom relaxes near a 4-foot by 4-foot oil painting reproduction of the Rose Window, completed by Freedom High School Art Students in 2010. The culmination of three years of work by 15 National Art Honor Society students, the painting allows a much closer look at the beautiful detail of the window than can usually be viewed from its placement high up in the St. Nicholas Church steeple. Unveiled at the parish’s 150th Anniversary in September of 2010, it now hangs in the narthex of the church. Artist Dawn Bombinski also created a separate larger detail of the Honor Roll ‘petal’ for better viewing of the names of ‘the boys who fought.’

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** A thin, flat ‘bunk bed-type’ ladder is nailed to the wall for access to the upper, open portion of the steeple interior, below the Rose Window. (THIS would have been nice to climb!)

**TOP LEFT:** Removal of this standard wall panel in the choir loft gives access to the rear of the loft and the Rose Window.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Clyde Baumgart demonstrates the body contortions one must perform to get through the tight opening to the interior of the steeple. (The slightly claustrophobic Editor declined to attempt entry.) A native of Little Chute, Clyde’s service in Germany in 1964-66 does not make him eligible for VFW membership, but he stays active as a ‘friend to Post 7692,’ coordinating various events; performing Funeral Honors and more. He also serves St. Nicholas Parish in a number of capacities.

Editor photos.





Part of the car wash crew takes five while waiting for their next customer. From left are: Post 7591 Past Commander Scott Groff (NICE LOOK!); Auxiliary member Fran Garcia; Auxiliary Guard Phyllis Borgrud; Trustee Cheryl Woodards and Auxiliary President Linda Fonger. The yellow rain hat is an extra-nice touch, Linda!

## Auxiliary 7591 Holds 'Topless' Car Wash

Well no, not exactly, but we got your attention didn't we? Like all Posts and Auxiliaries, the Auxiliary to Day VFW Post 7591 in Madison is always looking for new, exciting and unusual ways to raise money to support veterans.

As Auxiliary President Linda Fonger explained it, "Sometimes an idea springs from someone saying 'what if' such as, what if we have a car wash? What if we all wear 'bikini tee shirts?' What if we call it a 'topless' car wash, since we're not tall enough to wash vehicle roofs?"

And that is exactly what the Auxiliary did this past September. Their willingness to look silly and work hard as they washed 30 vehicles paid off in \$442.00 in donations. September was Suicide Awareness Month and all funds raised will be used to support these programs.

While the car wash was happening, Military Order of the Cootie Pup Tent 41 hosted a brat feed. By combining the two events, everyone benefitted. GREAT JOB! Photos and info submitted by Auxiliary 7591 President Linda Fonger.

Well OK, so the 'topless' part was false advertising – on several levels. While Auxiliary Member (and Department Chaplain) Linda Schluter wipes down the top of the car at right, Rose Stuvetraa (far left) and Linda Nellen do their part to provide help with the finishing touches.



We're hoping that this vehicle's owner was a BIG tipper! Our guess is that VFW Member 'Woody' Woodards gave generously – of course! Sharing the labor are Cheryl Woodards (left) and Linda Schluter.

A lot of soap and a little elbow grease make those summer bugs disappear! Giving it their all are (from left): Auxiliary member (and Dept. VAVS Rep.) Rose Stuvetraa; Post 7591 Past Commander Scott Groff; Auxiliary Secretary Celia Groff and Auxiliary member Fran Garcia.



Kienow-Hilt VFW Post 1621 Commander Bill Murphy (at right) accepted the BIG CHECK on behalf of the Department from Jeff Kersten and Tricia Mazza.

Submitted by Post 1621 Commander Bill Murphy with thanks to Anthony Wahl, Photographer and the Janesville Gazette for the photo and info.

## Edgerton Liberty Fest Supports WI Unmet Needs

The first Annual Liberty Fest held in Edgerton has benefitted the Dept. of Wisconsin's Unmet Needs Fund in a big way. The all-day family event held in early August at Thresherman's Park featured live music from two bands; food; a beer tent; games; train rides; local vendors and more.

Co-organizers Tricia Mazza, Mrs. Janesville Royalty International, and Jeff Kersten of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP didn't have a particular financial goal in mind when they started planning the event earlier this summer, only the goal of raising awareness of veterans in need and boosting that awareness with donations from Liberty Fest attendees and sponsoring businesses.

The result? Over 750 attendees and

\$10,150 in proceeds, presented to Wisconsin Unmet Needs.

*Editor's note: The Edgerton Liberty Fest is another success story for the Dept. of Wisconsin VFW Foundation. Using the Foundation's 501(c)(3) status, Liberty Fest organizers were able to funnel all donations for the event to the Foundation, with all sponsors and donors able to receive, in turn, an IRS tax deductibility letter from the Foundation. The Foundation then paid all required expenses associated with the event. This "pass-through" process was again a big factor in attracting corporate support of the event. If you are interested in utilizing the Wisconsin VFW Foundation for your next fundraiser, please contact Past State Commander Bill Hustad at wfhus1@tds.net or 608-527-2942.*



Shown here (left to right) displaying the photo reproductions are: Sawyer County Assistant Veterans Service Officer Mike Skinner; VSO Gary Elliot; Assistant VSO Renee Brown; Post 7233 Commander Rich Richter; Post Member Steve Lynch and Post QM/Adjutant Arvid Vallem. Arvid is displaying one of the 12 original photo folders he received.

## Post 7233 Donates WWI Photo Books

Musky Capital VFW Post 7233 of Hayward found the perfect place to receive four folders of authentic reproduction photos from World War I – the Sawyer County Veterans Service Office. Post QM/Adjutant Arvid Vallem was the recipient of the original 288 photos taken by the Signal Corps. Dorothy Mueller donated the 12 original folders, filled with photos showing the machinery of the war including ship-building; manufacturing of trucks and airplanes;

training camp layouts; a variety of naval vessels including battle ships, destroyers and submarines; transport convoys and railways and much more. Advance Printing of Hayward prepared the photo reproductions for Post 7233.

*Terrell Boettcher photo and story submitted by Post 7233 QM/Adjutant Arvid Vallem, with permission to reprint from Paul Mitchell, General Manager of the Sawyer County Record. Thank you for your support of Post 7233!*



## Vietnam Veterans Memorial Turns 35



Honoring the men and women who served in the controversial Vietnam War, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial chronologically lists the names of more than 58,000 Americans who gave their lives in service to their country. Highly controversial at the time of its dedication in November 1982, the Memorial also includes more traditional additions to the highly polished black gabbro rock wall sections. 'The Three Soldiers' bronze statues were dedicated in 1984 and the Vietnam Women's Memorial was dedicated in 1993 to the service of women in Vietnam, mostly as nurses.

## DISTRICT 2 UPDATE

It's the time of the year when the weather starts to change, football is in full swing, and everyone is getting ready for the snow to start coming down. Here in District 2, we are in full swing as well. We have a lot of activities going on within the Posts in District 2 and we have had a lot of fun events already happen.

Madison VFW Post #8483 had an outstanding Car Show at their Post. All-State Commander Mike Wenger and crew had a great spread of food for everyone. The cars were out in full force and they had a great display of Military memorabilia. Along the way they were able to raise money and donate to the Badger Honor Flight and Homeless Veterans. Great Job Post #8483!

Mukwonago Post #7221 had an outstanding turnout for their Maxwell Street Days. The Post was put to the test when Post Commander Jim Paar felt ill during the event, but the Post officers and members covered down and were able to complete the task. The money they raised will be used to help local Mukwonago Veterans.

We also had Fort Atkinson #1879 dedicate a new War Dog Memorial to honor our fallen K-9 Veterans. Post Commander Harold Thom helped to coordinate donations that came in from across the state and nation. Commander Thom also found the time to interview and support Vietnam Veteran, Mark Fox, who was hiking the Ice Age Trail on his Warrior Expedition.

I also want to take the time to mention

that Operation Ruck 22 took place on October 28th. This is the second time that this was held to bring awareness to the 22 Veterans who commit suicide a day in the United States. This was coordinated by VFW Post #1318 and it was supported by the other two Posts in Madison, #7591 and #8483. All three of these fine Posts did a great job supporting the ruck and we look forward to it again next year.

With all of the great things that happened within our District, we unfortunately experienced a great tragedy. Post Commander Pat Nowlin from Stoughton VFW #328 passed away. He will be remembered as a great Post Commander and a friend to all within the VFW. His loss can never be replaced. All of District 2 will be there to help our Comrades at Stoughton #328 through this time.

We have so many other Posts doing great things in their communities. I would need 2-3 pages in the paper to get them all down. District 2 Posts will continue to support our communities and the Veterans within them. We will continue to support all of our comrades and even though we are the 2nd District within the state, WE ARE SECOND TO NONE!

All The Way!  
Cory L Geisler  
Commander - District 2  
corygeisler@hotmail.com  
262-853-1811

## ATTENTION DISTRICT 7

## Honoring Those Who Serve Our Veterans

Bob Munro was a dedicated son of the Seventh District, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Wisconsin, who served tirelessly on behalf of all Veterans.

He served our organization in many capacities, rising through the ranks, leading the Seventh District and ultimately serving as State Commander (1993-94). He knew that our task requires the support and encouragement of not just our members, but also our friends in the community at large.

The purpose of this award is to honor those among and around us in District 7 (only) who go above and beyond ordinary efforts in support of Veterans, Active Duty Troops and their families. At our District Mid-Winter meeting, we will present two awards: One to a VFW Member or group of members for their service as members, and one to an individual or group that, although ineligible to belong to our organization or its Auxiliary, nonetheless has demonstrated excellence in supporting our goals. Please note: the nominees MUST reside



The deadline for the award is Jan. 6

within the 7th District. Nomination forms are available from District 7 Commander Don Kozlowski (715-573-3208) or Award Chairman Russ Iwen (715-432-7188). The deadline is 6 January 2018. Mail completed forms to: Russ Iwen, District 7 Bob Munro Award Chairman, 404 Tyler St., Merrill, WI 54452.



Pausing at the State Capitol following testimony to the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities are (from left): Jason Johns, VFW State Legislative Committee Co-Chair; State Senator Leah Vukmir (R-Brookfield), Author of SB 410/AB 512; Captain Russell Simonis, WI Army National Guard Education Benefits Officer; Major Bart Droessler, WI Army National Guard Education Benefits Officer; Carter Mahnke, WI Army National Guardsmen and Civil Engineering student at UW-Madison and State Representative Mike Kuglitsch (R-New Berlin), Author of AB 512/SB 410.

Submitted by VFW State Legislative Committee Co-Chair Jason Johns.

## Johns Gives Testimony on NG Tuition Bills

VFW State Legislative Committee Co-Chair Jason Johns recently testified in support of AB 512/SB 410 in the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities. The bills clarify the tuition grant amount awarded to eligible Wisconsin National Guard members who complete higher education courses and modify provisions relating to administration of the tuition grant program.

Under current law, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) awards tuition grants to National Guard members to reimburse them for higher education tuition costs, if certain eligibility criteria and other requirements are satisfied. Grant applications must contain information required by DMA to establish that the applicant qualifies for the grant. They must also contain the signatures of the Guard member and a representative of the Guard member's school, certifying course completion and the required minimum Grade Point Average (GPA). The amount of the tuition grant payment is equal to 100 percent of the actual tuition charged by the Guard member's school, or 100 percent of the maximum resident undergraduate tuition charged by the University of Wisconsin-Madison for a comparable number of credits, whichever amount is less.

Current law also authorizes the Board of Regents of the UW System to establish differing tuition for different classes of students enrolled in educational programs, commonly referred to

as differential tuition. Although current law does not define differential tuition, the Board of Regents adopted a policy describing differential tuition as tuition that is added to the base tuition level for the purpose of supplementing services and programming for students within a UW System institution. Differential tuition, which can be institution-wide or program-specific, must be approved by the Board of Regents and, after approval, may be incorporated into the institution's tuition schedule. For example, the Board of Regents has approved program-specific differential tuition at UW-Madison for students in engineering and business programs.

AB 512/SB 410 clarifies that differential tuition, as applicable, must be included in calculating the maximum resident undergraduate tuition charged by UW-Madison when DMA determines the amount of tuition grants to award to eligible Guard members. The bill also removes the requirement that grant applications contain the signatures of the Guard member and the school's representative certifying course completion and compliance with GPA requirements. The bill requires DMA to rely on a qualifying school's certification in determining that an applicant has achieved the minimum GPA to be eligible for a tuition grant. The bill also requires DMA to make payment of the tuition grant not later than 30 days after receiving this certification.

## WISCONSIN VFW NEWS PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

Month	Issue Vol/No	Deadline to Editor
January	Vol. 35 / No. 4	December 13, 2017
<b>Mid-Winter February 2-3, 2018</b>		
March	Vol. 35 / No. 5	February 21, 2018
May	Vol. 35 / No. 6	April 18, 2018
<b>Convention June 13-16, 2018</b>		

# TAPS TAPS TAPS TAPS TAPS TAPS TAPS

Post	Name	City	Post	Name	City	Post	Name	City
305	Howard Boetcher	Altoona, WI	2115	Bruce Ostenson	Tucson, AZ	6823	Demetrio Verich	Laona, WI
305	Donald Brill	Chippewa Falls, WI	2119	Lawrence Harris	Lakewood, WI	7233	Gail Davis	Hayward, WI
305	Warren Craker	Eau Claire, WI	2119	Reginald Klawitter	New Berlin, WI	7300	James Berka	New Lenox, IL
305	Leroy Dickerson	Rochester, MN	2219	William Mallon	Doylestown, WI	7300	Robert Bucheger	Butternut, WI
305	Willis Foster	Eau Claire, WI	2241	Earl Erickson	Neillsville, WI	7300	John Huber	Glidden, WI
305	Arthur Rogers	Eau Claire, WI	2260	Gregory Rosandich	Minneapolis, MN	7300	Harold Joseph	Mellen, WI
328	Edward Johnson	Fitchburg, WI	2260	Howard Scheunemann	Watertown, WI	7300	Ronald Lepkowicz	Butternut, WI
328	Patrick Nowlin	Stoughton, WI	2260	Henry Wagner	Oconomowoc, WI	7300	Andrew Maier	Glidden, WI
328	George Robyn	Mansfield, MA	2260	David Wolter	Holcombe, WI	7308	Albert Ruffolo	Kenosha, WI
388	Willis Bonnell	Taylorsville, NC	2306	Enrique Gonzales	Mineral Point, WI	7345	Forrest Erickson	Dodgeville, WI
388	Harold Koenig	Wausau, WI	2336	Martin Berning	Baraboo, WI	7485	Joseph Skowron	West Bend, WI
388	Charles Matsche	Wausau, WI	2373	Charles Koltz	Port Charlotte, FL	7485	John Socha	Milwaukee, WI
659	Allan Drobka	Manitowoc, WI	2373	Edward Olsen	Marco Island, FL	7591	William Burke	Madison, WI
659	Daniel Holsen	Manitowoc, WI	2490	Donald Lippert	Ingram, WI	7591	Donald Fine	Cottage Grove, WI
659	Greg Meidl	Valders, WI	2653	Glenwood Gilbert	Elcho, WI	7591	Robert Ganiere	Cambridge, WI
659	Henry Ospedale	Manitowoc, WI	2653	Eugene Kolz	Antigo, WI	7629	Eldon Hird	Dodgeville, WI
664	Kenneth Krueger	Two Rivers, WI	2723	Lyle Maltbey	Shawano, WI	7817	Theodore Schmidt	Westboro, WI
664	Laverne Molitor	Clintonville, WI	2723	Marshall Moede	Clintonville, WI	7929	John Breske	Amery, WI
664	Richard Rohlf	Clintonville, WI	2723	Robert Schneider	Bonduel, WI	7929	Donald Nelson	Amery, WI
690	John Chaich	Richmond, VA	2732	Francis Hintzke	New London, WI	8021	Arthur Rudrud	Sun Prairie, WI
721	Allen Congdon	Rotonda West, FL	2925	Robert Krause	Berlin, WI	8068	James Schwalbach	Elderon, WI
1037	Ty Turrubiates	Waupaca, WI	2925	Robert Morris	Waukeago, WI	8171	Jack Verburgt	Muskego, WI
1038	William Berg	Chippewa Falls, WI	3032	John Eumurian	Sycamore, IL	8216	Joseph Kane	Peoria, AZ
1038	Eugene Farley	Chippewa Falls, WI	3143	Patrick Brown	Rhineland, WI	8314	Peter Funk	Krakov, WI
1038	Raymond Smith	Altoona, WI	3143	Raymond Zastrow	Rhineland, WI	8314	Armin Kuehl	Green Bay, WI
1039	Arthur Dana	Menomonie, WI	3143	Raymond Zettler	Harrisburg, PA	8342	Richard Burns	Schofield, WI
1039	Donald Hintzman	Menomonie, WI	3153	Jerome Casper	New Holstein, WI	8478	Dennis Schamm	Osseo, WI
1163	Alden Krueger	Horicon, WI	3153	Herbert Keuler	New Holstein, WI	8483	Robert Irving	Madison, WI
1163	Junior Loeck	Horicon, WI	3153	Harold Schneider	Mount Calvary, WI	8718	Donald Smith	Westfield, WI
1163	Donald Neuert	Beaver Dam, WI	3589	Earl Horn	Madison, WI	8834	Martin Hetzel	Elkhart Lake, WI
1163	Eugene Vohen	Beaver Dam, WI	3635	Robert Neuens	Niagara, WI	8834	Jerome Kenealy	Hartford, WI
1382	Martin Fekete	Vesper, WI	3709	Everett Nass	Johnson Creek, WI	8834	Melvin Lubbert	Hartford, WI
1382	Gary Peardot	Tomah, WI	5158	William Hargarten	Hartland, WI	8834	Robert Spuhler	Hartford, WI
1391	Frank Nicotera	Racine, WI	5158	Kenneth Le Roy	Hartland, WI	8834	Stanley Wagner	Hartford, WI
1393	Harold Roecker	West Bend, WI	5158	David Ordway	Hartland, WI	9156	Donald Grzezinski	Sheboygan, WI
1465	Edward Karpowicz	Milwaukee, WI	5276	George Vore	Durand, IL	9298	Arno Brendemuehl	King, WI
1530	Robert Leisgang	La Crosse, WI	5278	William Prelwitz	Ripon, WI	9298	Robert Winkers	Bloomington, IL
1530	Earl Lovell	Minneapolis, MN	5373	William Rathsack	Fredonia, WI	9336	Earl Bennett	Arena, WI
1621	Frederick Adams	Janesville, WI	5716	Harvey Becker	Yuma, AZ	9336	William Ruppert	Monticello, WI
1621	Dawn Fryda	Janesville, WI	5716	Herbert Brahm	New Berlin, WI	9336	Terry Severson	Arena, WI
1621	Joseph Richardt	Janesville, WI	5716	Williams Loshuertos	New Berlin, WI	9336	Deverne Simpson	Mazomanie, WI
1621	Thomas Shelton	Janesville, WI	5716	Casimer Miller	Muskego, WI	9336	Allen Wiedenbeck	Lone Rock, WI
1621	Donald Squire	Janesville, WI	5780	Terry Busch	Rice Lake, WI	9336	Harold Ziebarth	Arena, WI
1621	Marvin Thurner	Janesville, WI	5780	Herman Clegg	Brodhead, WI	9387	Dustin Meeker	Baraboo, WI
1638	Roger English	Merrill, WI	5780	Roland Wilsey	Minneapolis, MN	9403	Thomas McNally	Milton, WI
1638	Joseph Lohff	Wausau, WI	6003	Clyde Porter	Montello, WI	9469	John Wiorek	Milwaukee, WI
1638	Robert Wetter	Merrill, WI	6201	Orville Mikelson	Nelson, WI	9511	Peter Eckstein	Mount Horeb, WI
1865	Joseph Cucunato	Kenosha, WI	6375	William Sigmund	Williams Bay, WI	9536	Ralph Tremmel	Mercer, WI
1865	Donald Rubadeau	Kenosha, WI	6455	John Salzmann	Deforest, WI	9948	Robert Karnopp	Sturtevant, WI
1866	Percy Bump	Marshfield, WI	6498	Roy Goeden	Cudahy, WI	9948	Teri Petersen	Racine, WI
1866	Melvin Schonfeldt	Marshfield, WI	6498	James Lowe	Milwaukee, WI	9948	Lee Stephens	Union Grove, WI
1879	Norman Schmaling	Fort Atkinson, WI	6498	Patrick O'Leary	Cudahy, WI	10231	Albert Bezemek	Nekoosa, WI
1908	Daniel Grubidge	Oshkosh, WI	6498	Leroy Rinzel	Wauwatosa, WI	10272	Virgil Lamb	Stoughton, WI
1916	Robert Blakeslee	Reedsburg, WI	6498	George Seltzer	Milwaukee, WI	10272	Leonard Tronnes	Brodhead, WI
1916	Theron Miller	Reedsburg, WI	6498	Joseph Staudt	Pewaukee, WI	10424	Robert Fischer	Stone Lake, WI
1959	Gerald Fox	Fairchild, WI	6498	James Stockheimer	Milwaukee, WI	10430	Robert Larsen	Janesville, WI
1959	Leland Frederick	Black River Falls, WI	6550	Vernon Engen	Eleva, WI	10441	Michael Hayes	Racine, WI
2112	Bernard O'Neil	Melrose, WI	6550	Gary Schultz	Eau Claire, WI	10818	John Wallesverd	Wilson, WI
2112	Holger Vaher	Rockland, WI	6614	Reginald Newton	McFarland, WI	11038	Clarence Wagner	Cudahy, WI
2113	Eugene Kolb	Green Bay, WI	6705	Wilbert Brey	Denmark, WI	15051	Eugene Diercks	Wisconsin Rapids, WI
2113	Richard Northway	De Pere, WI	6705	Russel Kriwanek	Green Bay, WI	15051	Norbert Theisen	Campbellsport, WI
2115	George Helgeson	Baldwin, WI	6823	Robert Jones	Crandon, WI			

The deadline for the January / February 2018 issue is December 13.

## The Highground Seeking Gold Star Input on Tribute



The Highground is looking for an alternate plan on the landscaped stars. Due to a bacterial contamination of the ground, the plants in the shape of the Gold Star will never flourish there.

The Gold Star Tribute at The Highground Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville has touched the hearts of Gold Star Families for years. Located east of the main plaza, the 125-foot, five-pointed star was originally planted with Juniper trees outlined with Dart's Gold Nine Bark Bushes. When the bushes had to be replaced, Sunkist Arborvitae was chosen.

Now, due to a bacterial contamination of the ground, the plants in the shape of the Gold Star will never flourish there. An alternate plan is needed and The Highground would like input from Gold Star Mothers and Families as to what they would like to see for a Gold Star Tribute. A number of suggestions have already been submitted and a volunteer

committee is in place to work on this project.

Any Gold Star Mother or Family member interested in participating in this endeavor are asked to contact Beth Martin, who is a USAF Veteran, Highground volunteer and Board Member leading the project. Calls, emails or texts are all welcome.

Additional information about the current Gold Star Tribute and other tributes at the Highground can be viewed at [thehighground.org](http://thehighground.org).

Beth Martin  
Call or text: 715-321-0536  
Email: [bemrtn@gmail.com](mailto:bemrtn@gmail.com)

Thanks to Tom Heiser and Beth Martin for the information.

# MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

## Mid-Winter 2018

February 2-3  
Hotel Mead & Conference Center  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

### VFW Agenda

Schedule of Events subject to change

#### Friday, February 2

9:00 am – 12:00 noon VFW Committee Meetings  
(Convention; Ways and Means; Veterans Service; VFW News;  
VFW Foundation; Loyalty Day)  
12:00 – 1:30 pm Past Commanders Luncheon – note change of time for this meal!  
1:30 – 2:30 pm VFW Finance Committee  
2:45 – 4:30 pm Council of Administration

#### Saturday, February 3

7:00 – 9:00 am Registration  
8:00 – 8:30 am Opening Ceremonies/Council of Administration  
8:30 am – 12:15 pm VFW Training  
(Membership; Mental Health Awareness; etc.)  
12:30 -1:45 pm Awards Luncheon  
2:00 pm Council of Administration reconvenes  
2:00 – 4:30 pm Guest Speakers, Committee and Line Officer Reports  
5:00 pm Cocktails (cash bar)  
5:45 – 6:15 pm Red Carpet Awards Reception (by invitation)  
6:30 pm Mid-Winter Conference Banquet

### VFW Auxiliary Agenda

Schedule of Events subject to change

#### Friday, February 2

10:00 am – 12:00 noon Sr. Vice President Kick-Off Work Session (by invitation)  
12:00 – 1:30 pm Dutch Treat Luncheon with National Rep. - note change of time for this meal! (This luncheon is open to all members – see registration & meals form)  
2:00 pm Auxiliary Council of Administration  
7:00 pm Membership presentation – Renee Simpson, National Recruiter/Trainer

#### Saturday, February 3

8:00 am – 12:15 pm Program Chairmen Reports  
12:30 – 1:45 pm Awards Luncheon  
2:00 – 4:30 pm Reports continue/Guest Speakers/etc.  
5:00 pm Cocktails (cash bar)  
5:45 – 6:15 pm Red Carpet Awards Reception (by invitation)  
6:30 pm Mid-Winter Conference Banquet

### Wisconsin VFW & Auxiliary Mid~Winter Conference

February 2nd & 3rd 2018



## HOTEL MEAD

451 E. Grand Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 • (715) 423-1500



### Hotel Room Reservation Form

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### Additional Names Sharing Accommodations

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### Rooms will be assigned at Check-In

Check In 4:00 pm - Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Out: 12:00 Noon - Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Hotel Room Rates

Single/Double: \$89.00 plus tax (2 people)  
Triple/Quad: \$99.00 plus tax (3 to 4 people)

To reserve accommodations include a **Full Deposit** for the first night.

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Or use a major credit card and Reserve by phone: (715) 423-1500.

• Reservations must be received by cut-off date of January 11, 2018.

• Request **VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW) Rate!**

• Reservations received after cut-off date are subject to space & availability.

Reserve by phone {Credit Card Only}: (715) 423-1500

Or Mail This Form with Deposit to

**HOTEL MEAD**

451 GRAND AVENUE, WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI 54494

### Wisconsin VFW & Auxiliary Mid~Winter Conference

February 2nd & 3rd 2018



## HOTEL MEAD

451 E. Grand Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 • (715) 423-1500



### VENDOR TABLE RENTAL RESERVATION

A Limited Number of tables are available to Vendors.

The price is **\$35.00** without electricity for one 8-foot table for the event.

The price is **\$45.00** with electricity for one 8-foot table for the event.

All rentals are based on first-come, first-served.

Setup: 8:00 am Friday, February 2nd.

Tear Down: 3:00 pm Saturday, February 3rd.

### VENDOR INFORMATION

Company/Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Product or Service being exhibited: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Electrical Needed?  Yes  No

Mail This Request To:

Debi Beck

1918 Deerborn Lane

Friendship, WI 53934

Table rental Payable to: **VFW Wisconsin** by Set-Up.

Pre-Payment is also appreciated.

### Wisconsin VFW & Auxiliary Mid~Winter Conference

February 2nd & 3rd 2018



## HOTEL MEAD

451 E. Grand Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 • (715) 423-1500



#### VFW MEMBER REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Post# \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Check here to register:  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Advance registration with this form is \$10. Registration at the door is \$15

#### AUXILIARY MEMBER REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Aux.# \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Check here to register:  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Advance registration with this form is \$10. Registration at the door is \$15

#### PAST COMMANDERS LUNCHEON ~ \$19

12:00 Noon Friday, Feb. 2nd

Check to select \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Choice 1**

Broiled Haddock Loins w/citrus beurre blanc, tossed salad,  
oven-baked rolls, chef's choice vegetable and potato.

**Choice 2**

Meat Lasagna w/sauce & Italian cheese, tossed salad,  
oven-baked rolls and chef's choice vegetable.

#### VFWA DUTCH-TREAT LUNCHEON ~ \$19

12:00 Noon Friday, Feb. 2nd

Check to select \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Choice 1**

Broiled Haddock Loins w/citrus beurre blanc, tossed salad,  
oven-baked rolls, chef's choice vegetable and potato.

**Choice 2**

Meat Lasagna w/sauce & Italian cheese, tossed salad,  
oven-baked rolls and chef's choice vegetable.

#### AWARDS LUNCHEON ~ \$16

12:30 pm, Saturday, Feb. 3rd

Check Here to make VFW Reservation  \$ \_\_\_\_\_ -DELI SANDWICH- Check Here to make AUX Reservation  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Chilled sliced roast beef; smoke-cured ham & turkey breast w/Wisconsin cheese, lettuce & tomato on white bread. Chips/pickle. Coffee, iced tea, milk.

#### MID-WINTER BANQUET ~ \$26

5:00 pm Cocktails, 6:30 pm Dinner, Saturday, Feb. 3rd

-ENTREE CHOICES-

Chicken Hotel Mead

Seared Chicken Breast served with creamy  
White wine sauce topped w/ sweet cranberries  
And a hint of thyme

Oven Roasted Pork Loin

Served with Marsala Sauce

Both choices include tossed green salad, chef's choice vegetable and potato. Coffee, Iced Tea or Milk.

VFW MEMBER \$ \_\_\_\_\_

AUX MEMBER \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Select 1 Entree:  Chicken  Pork

Select 1 Entree:  Chicken  Pork

VFW TOTAL DUE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

VFWA TOTAL DUE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Payment Due  
& Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Make all checks payable to:  
VFW DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Earmark: 2018 Mid-Winter

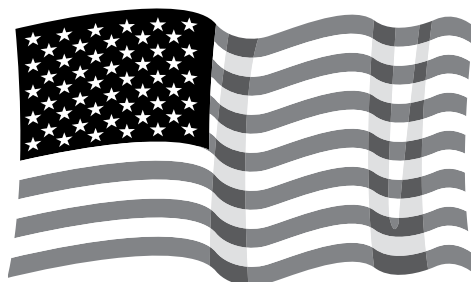
Mail to: DEBI BECK

1918 Deerborn Lane

Friendship, WI 53934

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- This form accommodates up to 1 VFW Member and 1 Auxiliary Member, for a total of TWO registrations. Use additional forms for more registrations.
- Cut-off date for meal registrations is January 19, 2018.
- Late meal reservations cannot be guaranteed. Unused meal reservations will not be refunded unless the missed meal is sold to another attendee.
- If you have special dietary needs, please let us know at the time you submit this form.
- If you have registered for a meal with entree choices, please make sure you have checked off your entree choice. Unspecified choices will be served the first item offered, without refund.



## Support Our Troops

# National Scholarship Update

By the time you receive this paper and read this article, our District Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Chairmen will be hard at work with the District Judging of our local Student Essay Contest winners. The deadline for all District Winners to be sent to State Chairman John Kleinmaus is December 15, 2017. John's address is below. As always, we will meet the top students and hear their entries at the Mid-Winter Conference in February. I can't wait to hear the thoughts of these exceptional young people!

As you know, the scholarship opportunities for our young adults don't end with Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy. The American Creative Patriotic Art Contest is open to all Grade 9-12 students, which includes public, parochial, home school, and those in a group home such as for

troubled teens. At the Department level, the First Place winner receives \$1,000, Second Place \$750, and Third Place \$500.

The First Place winning art is sent to the National Auxiliary Headquarters for an opportunity to win additional money up to a \$10,000 scholarship to be sent to the "artist's" school of choice. Applications and instructions are available on the National website at [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org) or the State website at [wivfwaux.org](http://wivfwaux.org). The Art brochures are available through the National Auxiliary without charge.

Please be sure that students are aware of all of these specifics regarding their artwork:

- Art must be on paper or canvas. Water color, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen-and-ink or oil may be used.
- Digital art and photography are NOT ACCEPTED.



'Goodbye, My Sweetheart' by Emily Esser of Cedarburg, WI, National First Place Winner of the 2013 Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest.

• Submit canvas entries on stretcher frames or canvas board; other entries must be matted on white.

• Do not frame.

• Art should be no smaller than 8" x 10" but no larger than 18" x 24," not including the matt.

• Complete entry form and attach to back of entry.

• Submit a typed explanation of patriotism expressed in art (150 words or less).

**Entries must be submitted to the sponsoring Auxiliary by March 31, 2018 for judging and sent to me by April 15, 2018.** Please call me if you need help or applications. At previous Conventions, Auxiliary members have been awed by the outstanding talent of our participants and this year it will be no different! Wisconsin hasn't had a National Winner in a couple of years - let's make this year! It isn't too late to get this info into the schools, but time is running out for these artists to design/work on their masterpieces.

In order for the students to receive one of these awards the Department needs donations of any amount! When sending your donation, make sure that your check is made out to "VFWA-WI" and mark "PATRIOTIC ART" on the memo line! Your generous donation can be taken from the Relief Fund and sent to Lenore Otto, 1383 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Oconomowoc, WI 53066.

Another scholarship opportunity is the **Continuing Education Scholarship** for those pursuing a college education OR a career direction at a vocational/technical school. Eligible applicants are: current VFW Auxiliary member (must have belonged for at least one year), or a spouse, son, or daughter of the current member. The deadline is **February 15, 2018**. Four \$1,000 scholarships are awarded, one for each of the Auxiliary Conferences (Eastern, Western, Southern and Big Ten). The application is also available on both websites and must be sent to the VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, 406 W 34th Street, 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111 by February 15, 2018.

Please contact me if you need any additional information about these outstanding scholarship opportunities!

Mary Brown  
Dept. Auxiliary Nat'l Scholarship  
Chairman  
W159 N11033 Legend Ave.  
Germantown, WI 53022  
262-251-9037  
[omamary16@gmail.com](mailto:omamary16@gmail.com)

John Kleinmaus  
State VFW Pen and Voice Chairman  
633 S. 14th Ave.  
West Bend, WI 53095  
[vfw-post1393@charter.net](mailto:vfw-post1393@charter.net)

## Raffle Calendar Winners

Date	Tickets	Name	City	Prize
Sep 01	31399	B. Cyert	Cochrane, WI	\$50
	09407	R. Matheson	Deerfield, WI	\$50
	32469	M. Zupke	Ashland, WI	\$50
	38396	R. Boyles	Portage, WI	\$50
	24497	D. Decramer	Kewaunee, WI	\$50
	29323	C. Cosgrove	Augusta, WI	\$50
	16213	R. & M. Warel	Sharon, WI	\$50
Sep 08	30279	D. Johnson	Woodville, WI	\$50
	26529	E. Jacobson	Rushford, MN	\$50
	13098	E. Beckman	Milwaukee, WI	\$50
	24455	M. Weigelt	Mountain, WI	\$50
	11434	J. Hall	Boscobel, WI	\$50
	21466	M. Gilles	Athens, WI	\$50
	39604	S. Schuster	Marshall, WI	\$50
Sep 15	17256	M. Duginski	Belgium, WI	\$1,000
	20291	G. Matthees	Plover, WI	\$1,000
	18264	A. Hickmann	Waldo, WI	\$50
	22441	A. Hawkinson	Hudson, WI	\$50
	22441	VFW Post 8770	Marion, WI	\$50
	05656	J. Mobais	Milwaukee, WI	\$50
	26696	M. Kasch	Waukesha, WI	\$50
Sep 22	38002	A. Shields	Reedsburg, WI	\$500
	24441	VFW Post 8642	Appleton, WI	\$50
	18423	J. Zimmerman	Lomira, WI	\$50
	01896	V. Rodriguez	Burlington, WI	\$50
	24391	S. Matuszewski	Laona, WI	\$50
	29776	P. Graham	Osseo, WI	\$50
	25528	M. Kieffer	Appleton, WI	\$50
Sep 29	39038	D. Buth	Germantown, WI	\$1,000
	04774	J. Murphy	Janesville, WI	\$50
	04629	R. Deelstra	Waxahachie, TX	\$50
	28763	J. Schiltgen	Woodbury, MN	\$50
	03933	D. Burrow	Evansville, WI	\$50
	13116	A-M. Schmid	Oak Creek, WI	\$50
	23029	D. Plautz	Shawano, WI	\$50
Oct 06	25029	S. Bero	Green Bay, WI	\$50
	25029	M. Anderson	Appleton, WI	\$50
	05669	Mike's Service	Waukesha, WI	\$50
	03569	J. Adams	West Bend, WI	\$50
	19129	J A Duppler	Verona, WI	\$50
	15261	M Geisler	Union, WI	\$50
	26450	T. Weckler	Sturgeon Bay, WI	\$50
Oct 13	22687	B. Ruffalo	Waupaca, WI	\$500
	11420	L. Reynolds	Phillips, WI	\$50
	18504	G. B.	Howards Grove, WI	\$50
	26301	S. Domnite	Two Rivers, WI	\$50
	36578	J. Degenhardt	La Crosse, WI	\$50
	18413	N. Heimermann	Brownsville, WI	\$50
	38907	T. & K. Mortensen	Oregon, WI	\$50
Oct 20	15384	D. Hale	Milwaukee, WI	\$50
	10462	T. Mabry	Marinette, WI	\$50
	26702	M. Suter	West Allis, WI	\$50
	30302	VFW Post 1039	Menomonie, WI	\$50
	36009	D. Ames	Viola, WI	\$50
	26369	N. Granger	Manitowoc, WI	\$50
	26261	R. Schuh	Newton, WI	\$50
Oct 27	26738	B. Wicka	Pulaski, WI	\$50
	37387	G. S.	Tomah, WI	\$50
	21618	J. & J. Bornbach	Marathon, WI	\$50
	11635	M. Knutson	Mineral Point, WI	\$50
	18771	L. Sullivan	Waupun, WI	\$50
	24417	D. Buschatz	Townsend, WI	\$50
	16298	C. Schmidli - C & C Tavern	Neenah, WI	\$50

Raffle Winners are also posted on the VFW State Website - [vfwwi.org](http://vfwwi.org) - following the Friday drawings at VFW State Headquarters. On the website home page, click on Resources, then scroll down to VFW Raffle Calendar News.

## Post 5158 Really Cooks at Union Grove



Marshall-Johnson VFW Post 5158 of Hartland has been cooking up some great meals at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove. Over the past two years, the Post has been supporting the efforts of Rhonda Bose and her group of volunteers that provides free meals to Veterans residing at Union Grove. Serving home-cooked quality food in a comfortable, homey setting is a labor of love three times weekly as well as several holidays per year. About 52 Veterans are served breakfast on Tuesdays and lunch on Thursdays, with the group recently adding Saturday morning breakfast to the schedule.

Shown here (from left) in a quick break from their tasks are: Sandra (Union Grove Aide); Chris Miller; Laurie Miller; Jeri Yates, Fay Tichy; Diane Tätzen; Rhonda Bose; Donna Czysz and Ron Tichy. It is easy to see from their smiling faces the love and joy that this group gives to our Union Grove Veterans. (And that is some mighty fine looking dessert in front of them too!) A job well done!

Submitted by Richard Kalashian, Post 5158 Service Officer & Veteran Advocate and Post 5158 Adjutant Ron Weber.





## Proud Eagle Scout Helps Post 305

**LEFT:** Will Verhaagh of Boy Scout Troop 30 in Eau Claire selected Eau Claire VFW Post 305 as the recipient of a beautiful new storage shed, constructed for his Eagle Scout project. Here, Will (at left) receives the VFW Eagle Scout Certificate from Post 305 Sr. Vice Commander Richard Freitag, and in turn, Sr. Vice Freitag received an Eagle Scout Mentor pin recognizing his role as an Assistant Scoutmaster to the Troop. Congratulations to both of you!

**Up She Goes! — ABOVE LEFT:** In true Boy Scout fashion, many hands make light work as “Will’s Team” of construction helpers build Post 305’s new, larger storage shed outside of the Post Home in Eau Claire. From left are: Troop 30 Assistant Scoutmaster (and Dad!) David Verhaagh; Will’s Uncle Kirk Kuhnert; Troop 30 Boy Scout Clay Lawton; Family friend Mark Winter; Eagle Scout Will Verhaagh and Assistant Scoutmaster Jim Owens.

**ABOVE RIGHT: Showing Off the New Shed —** Pictured with Eagle Scout Will Verhaagh in front of the completed shed are Auxiliary 305 members (from left): Dorothy Pfielsticker; Auxiliary Treasurer and Will’s Grandmother Carolyn Kuhnert; Auxiliary President Shirley Anderson, PDP; and Auxiliary Secretary Jeanette Stabenow.

*Submitted by Post 305 Quartermaster and Auxiliary Sr. Vice President Mary Ann Christopherson with many thanks to Will’s Mom Kristin Verhaagh for the photos and information.*

### From the Editor:

*We can’t all be heroes, because somebody has to sit on the curb and applaud when they go by.*

—Will Rogers

Another Veterans Day observance has come and gone; it is 99 years since the 1918 signing of the Armistice “at the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month” to end the hostilities of “The War to End All Wars.” Now a National Holiday to honor our Veterans of all conflicts and circumstances, please accept my deepest thanks and heartfelt salute for your service, then and now. My world is better because of the Veterans of this great state.

As we move toward the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I, I hope you pay special attention to the center pages of this paper, and put Freedom, WI on your travel list as soon as possible. The Memorial Rose Window at St. Nicholas Church is truly an awesome tribute. We are privileged to have this “up close and personal” look at this treasure.

By the time you arrive at this column in the paper, you will no doubt have seen some other articles and items of note. Be sure to review the Tentative Agendas for the February 2-3, 2018 Mid-Winter Conference — there are some changes this time around! Hotel information and Meal Registration forms are included — don’t wait until their next publication in the January paper to save your place. As fast as the early fall has slid into “pre-winter,” January deadlines will be here before we know it! More about our National Representatives to Mid-Winter in the next issue.

The ever-delightful Cootie Corner has a wealth of info about the upcoming MOC/MOCA Mid-Winter and Testimonial in Warrens at the Three Bears Resort — note the deadlines for that event too.

By now, I hope you have visited a Burger King restaurant in your area to help their fundraising for the VFW Unmet

**Marla Morgan**  
Editor  
(715) 384-2500  
wivfweditor@gmail.com



Needs Program. You haven’t?! There is still time to do so. You have?! Well, visit again. And AGAIN! Feel free to share your Special Insert recognizing some of the Wisconsin franchisees that are so instrumental in contributing to Unmet Needs. Additional copies are available — just email wivfweditor@gmail.com.

I hope you enjoy the Who Knew? item on the back page of this paper. Really, who knew? I intend to feature other special Wisconsin Historical Markers in coming issues. Suggestions are welcome. Thanks again to Melinda Roberts of DePere for the use of her photo — be sure to visit her website at wisconsinhistoricalmarkers.com to check out other markers that you may encounter in your travels around our great state.

Finally, watch for information about the 2018 Publications Contest in the January paper. There will be a tight time frame in which to submit your best Post or District Newsletter of 2017, so start reviewing your work now.

As the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays approach, take time to realize that there is always something for which to be thankful. Spend as much time as possible with those who mean so much in your life. . . and don’t forget to tell them. Hold those you have lost close in your heart . . . they are always with you. Take a knee in thanks to your God; and stand with pride for this great country that is greater still because of YOU.

Inform. Inspire. Invite.

## Honoring Kevin G. O’Connell

Many folks are aware of “The Final Bridge” project of our State VFW Historian Steve Conto of Menasha. While he is not a Vietnam Veteran, Steve felt compelled to start documenting, in 2002, all individuals from Wisconsin who were killed in the Vietnam War. In his words, “My legacy work is called ‘The Final Bridge.’ I search and record the exact burial location of all the guys that were killed in action in the Vietnam War from the State of Wisconsin. It’s a bridge from their name on the wall to their final resting place. My purpose is to record each site — the section, row and column — to pinpoint the exact location so that families, comrades and friends can easily find them. There are 1,243 names on my list. They shall not be forgotten.”

This past summer, upon learning of their planned trip to Buffalo, New York, Steve asked VFW State Judge Advocate Bill “Knoot” Knudson and WI VFW NEWS Editor Marla J. Morgan to locate the final resting place of Pfc. Kevin G. O’Connell, who died June 29, 1967 in Thua Thien Province, Vietnam. He was serving with the Headquarters and Service



**Vietnam Veteran and VFW State Judge Advocate Bill “Knoot” Knudson places a flag at the grave marker of Marine Pfc. Kevin G. O’Connell, buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo, NY.**

*Photo courtesy of Mark R. Levandowski.*

Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, Third Marine Amphibious Force. He was only 19 years, 8 months old.

It was a deeply special privilege to visit Buffalo’s historic Forest Lawn Cemetery, Section 19, Lot 19, Space 50, to render honors to this fallen hero on behalf of “The Final Bridge.” RIP, Marine. You are not forgotten.

Editor’s note: Steve Conto has been able to accomplish

visits to over half of the final resting places of the Vietnam War Veterans on his list, but there are certainly sites all over the country that he may not be able to visit. If you are planning a trip to a far-flung part of our beautiful country, I urge you to contact Steve Conto to see if there is a “Final Bridge” tribute that you can pay to a fallen hero in the area you are visiting. It is an honor and privilege you will never forget.

**America's Wars**

<b>American Revolution (1775-1783)</b>	
Total U.S. Servicemembers <sup>1</sup>	217,000
Battle Deaths	4,435
Non-mortal Woundings	6,188
<b>War of 1812 (1812-1815)</b>	
Total U.S. Servicemembers	286,730
Battle Deaths	2,260
Non-mortal Woundings	4,505
<b>Indian Wars (approx. 1817-1898)</b>	
Total U.S. Servicemembers (VA estimate)	106,000
Battle Deaths (VA estimate)	1,000
<b>Mexican War (1846-1848)</b>	
Total U.S. Servicemembers	78,718
Battle Deaths	1,733
Other Deaths (In Theater)	11,550
Non-mortal Woundings	4,152
<b>Civil War (1861-1865)</b>	
Total U.S. Servicemembers (Union)	2,213,363
Battle Deaths (Union)	140,414
Other Deaths (In Theater) (Union)	224,097
Non-mortal Woundings (Union)	281,881
Total Servicemembers (Conf.) <sup>2</sup>	1,050,000
Battle Deaths (Confederate) <sup>3</sup>	74,524
Other Deaths (In Theater) (Confederate) <sup>3,4</sup>	59,297
Non-mortal Woundings (Confederate)	Unknown
<b>Spanish-American War (1898-1902)</b>	
Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	306,760
Battle Deaths	385
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	2,061
Non-mortal Woundings	1,662
<b>World War I (1917-1918)</b>	
Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	4,734,991
Battle Deaths	53,402
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	63,114
Non-mortal Woundings	204,002
<b>World War II (1941-1945)</b>	
Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	16,112,566
Battle Deaths	291,557
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	113,842
Non-mortal Woundings	670,846
Living Veterans <sup>5</sup>	1,711,000
<b>Korean War (1950-1953)</b>	
Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	5,720,000
Total Serving (In Theater)	1,789,000
Battle Deaths	33,739
Other Deaths (In Theater)	2,835
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	17,672
Non-mortal Woundings	103,284
Living Veterans	2,275,000

<b>Vietnam War (1964-1975)</b>	
Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide) <sup>6</sup>	8,744,000
Deployed to Southeast Asia <sup>7</sup>	3,403,000
Battle Deaths <sup>8</sup>	47,434
Other Deaths (In Theater) <sup>8</sup>	10,786
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) <sup>8</sup>	32,000
Non-mortal Woundings <sup>9</sup>	153,303
Living Veterans <sup>5,10</sup>	7,391,000
<b>Desert Shield/Desert Storm (1990-1991)</b>	
Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	2,322,000
Deployed to Gulf	694,550
Battle Deaths	148
Other Deaths (In Theater)	235
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	1,565
Non-mortal Woundings	467
Living Veterans <sup>5,10</sup>	2,244,583
<b>America's Wars Total (1775-1991)</b>	
U.S. Military Service during Wartime	41,892,128
Battle Deaths	651,031
Other Deaths (In Theater)	308,800
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	230,254
Non-mortal Woundings	1,430,290
Living War Veterans <sup>11</sup>	16,962,000
Living Veterans (Periods of War & Peace)	23,234,000

**Global War on Terror (Oct 2001-)**  
The Global War on Terror (GWOT), including Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), are ongoing conflicts. For the most current GWOT statistics visit the following Department of Defense Website: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/casualties.xhtml>

- NOTES:
- Exact number is unknown. Posted figure is the median of estimated range from 184,000-250,000.
  - Exact number is unknown. Posted figure is median of estimated range from 600,000-1,500,000.
  - Death figures are based on incomplete returns.
  - Does not include 26,000 to 31,000 who died in Union prisons.
  - Estimate based upon new population projection methodology.
  - Covers the period 8/5/64-1/27/73 (date of cease fire)
  - Department of Defense estimate
  - Covers period 11/1/55-5/15/75
  - Excludes 150,341 not requiring hospital care
  - Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) estimate, as of 4/09, does not include those still on active duty and may include veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.
  - Total will be more than sum of conflicts due to no "end date" established for Persian Gulf War.
- Source: Department of Defense (DOD), except living veterans, which are VA estimates as of Sept. 2010.

**Last Surviving...**

**American Revolution**  
Last Veteran, Daniel F. Bakeman, died 4/5/1869, age 109  
Last Widow, Catherine S. Damon, died 11/11/1906, age 92  
Last Dependent, Phoebe M. Palmeter, died 4/25/1911, age 90

**War of 1812**  
Last Veteran, Hiram Cronk, died 5/13/1905, age 105  
Last Widow, Carolina King, died 6/28/1936, age unknown  
Last Dependent, Esther A.H. Morgan, died 3/12/1946, age 89

**Mexican War**  
Last Veteran, Owen Thomas Edgar, died 9/3/1929, age 98  
Last Widow, Lena James Theobald, died 6/20/1963, age 89  
Last Dependent, Jesse G. Bivens, died 11/1/1962, age 94

**Civil War**  
Last Union verified Veteran, Albert Woolson, died 8/2/1956, age 109  
Last Confederate verified Veteran, Pleasant Crump, died 12/21/1951, age 104  
Last Union Widow, Gertrude Janeway, died 1/17/2003, age 93  
Last Confederate Widow, Maudie Hopkins died 8/1/2008, age 93

**Indian Wars**  
Last Veteran, Fredrak Fraske, died 6/18/1973, age 101

**Spanish-American War**  
Last Veteran, Nathan E. Cook, died 9/10/1992, age 106

**World War I**  
Last Veteran, Frank Buckles, died 2/27/2011, age 110

**World War II Survivors**

VA estimates the number of living World War II U.S. veterans will be:\*

9/30/21	223,727	9/30/29	37,017
9/30/22	177,734	9/30/30	29,757
9/30/23	141,416	9/30/31	23,955
9/30/24	112,692	9/30/32	19,311
9/30/25	89,934	9/30/33	15,589
9/30/26	71,878	9/30/34	12,601
9/30/27	57,531	9/30/35	10,200
9/30/28	46,116	9/30/36	8,267

\* Estimates have changed based on new population projections.

**WDVA Grants Available for Non-Profits Serving Vets**

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Secretary Dan Zimmerman has announced that the WDVA is accepting applications for grants up to \$25,000 from registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that provide financial assistance or other services to Wisconsin veterans and their families. Non-profits interested in applying for this grant opportunity must submit their completed applications by November 30, 2017.

"We are proud to be part of a veterans community that works together to make sure that veterans and their families have access to a wide range of programs and services," Secretary Zimmerman said. "With this grant, our non-profit partners have been able to provide services ranging from sending children of fallen soldiers to camp, and providing career skills training, to purchasing medical equipment, giving disabled veterans the opportunity to hunt and trap, and more. We look forward to working again with these very important organizations to help improve the quality of life for Wisconsin's veterans."

The following criteria will be evaluated as part of the grant application:

- Background and organizational history
- Organizational qualifications and past performances
- Experience working with veterans and their families
- Need for grant funding
- Outreach and screening plan
- Program implementation timeline
- Monitoring and program evaluation
- Program goals and objectives
- Past working relationships with Veterans Service Organizations
- Integration of outreach and employment services

Application materials for this grant are available online at [www.WisVets.com](http://www.WisVets.com). Applications and questions about the grant application process should be directed to: Chad McCafferty at email [vetsbenefitsgrants@dva.wi.gov](mailto:vetsbenefitsgrants@dva.wi.gov) or by phone at 608-266-3028 or 1-800-WIS-VETS.

**U.S. Veterans and Dependents on Benefits Rolls as of April 2017**

	Veterans	Children	Parents	Surviving Spouses
Civil War	-	1	-	-
Spanish-American War	-	40	-	44
Mexican Border	-	2	-	6
World War I	-	1,434	-	1,055
World War II	120,240	8,920	9	167,378
Philippines	1,548	150	3	2,366
Korean Conflict	172,837	2,165	20	75,717
Vietnam Era	1,544,274	4,682	1,032	266,807
Gulf War <sup>1</sup>	2,160,897	4,927	1,935	28,586
Peacetime	726,238	1,373	667	36,793
Non service-connected <sup>2</sup>	281,501	9,653	-	190,960
Service-connected <sup>2</sup>	4,444,533	14,041	3,666	387,792

1. For compensation and pension purposes, the Persian Gulf War period has not yet been terminated and includes Veterans of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring, and New Dawn.  
2. This total includes peacetime veterans receiving benefits.

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## PDP Marie Skic Celebrates 90th Birthday

The Auxiliary to Schmitt-Manecke-Donner VFW Post 1638 would like to congratulate our dear Sister and 67th Department of Wisconsin Auxiliary President Marie Skic on her 90th Birthday. We are a better organization because of you! Your theme was 'Wisconsin Cares' and we want you to know how much we care for you. You have given your life in service both in the Auxiliary and in our community and are an example for all of us to follow. We are proud to call you our Sister - Happy Birthday, Marie!

Submitted by Auxiliary 1638, Merrill.



## Post 1866 Visits the Central WI Fair



Mueller-Hintz VFW Post 1866 and its Auxiliary again participated in the Central Wisconsin State Fair, held annually each Labor Day Weekend in Marshfield. Both the Post and Auxiliary signed several new members at the six-day event, distributed information and conducted fundraisers to support a number of programs.

Here, Fair Exhibitor Terry Clayton of Minnesota (at left) receives the remote control to the 42" LED HD television he won in the Grand Prize drawing of the Post Raffle from Post 1866 Commander Dale Weinfurter, while Auxiliary 1866 President Nancy Morrow looks on. Congratulations, Terry, and thank you for your support!

Submitted by Post 1866 Past Commander and Fair Co-Chairman Phill Mauritz.

## 50th Anniversary of Oath Observed



On September 11th, Wisconsin VFW Past State Commander Joel Walker (2000-2001) had the privilege of taking the oath of obligation from Lt Cmdr Richard Jarchow, Jr., USN, 50 years to the day when he entered active duty with the Navy on September 11, 1967. Commander Jarchow and his staff at the MEPS Center in Milwaukee graciously offered to conduct the ceremony. As PSC Walker stated, 'It sort of brings my life full circle.'

After a variety of pictures others posted on Facebook, Joel also shared pictures of himself working as an aviation ordnanceman while deployed aboard the USS Oriskany during the Vietnam War, as well as the sinking of the aircraft carrier Oriskany in 2006 off the coast of Pensacola, Florida, which he attended. The Oriskany, the largest vessel of its kind to be sunk at the time, is now a fishing reef for scuba divers to explore.

Many thanks to Lt Commander Jarchow and Master Petty Officer Chief Ralston for taking the time out of their busy schedules to make the event happen. 'It was a very humbling and thought provoking event,' said Walker. Also in attendance was Joel's wife Virginia and current Wisconsin VFW State Commander John Schultz.

Respectfully submitted by PSC (and WI VFW NEWS Chairman!) Joel Walker.

## Auxiliary 1879 Donates to Zablocki VAMC



The Auxiliary to Edwin Frohmader VFW Post 1879 of Fort Atkinson recently donated nine Sensory Activity Pads to the Dementia Care Unit at Zablocki VA Medical Center. The multi-sensory items provide a variety of tactile sensations and tasks such as lacing, buckling, zipping, etc. to keep dementia patients active. Displaying the donated items are (from left) Hospital Volunteer Di Anna Sheridan; Auxiliary 1879 President Kathy Kakuschke; Kathy Dahl, Dept. VAVS Representative at Zablocki VAMC and Auxiliary 1879 Treasurer Marilyn Young.

Submitted by Auxiliary 1879 Treasurer Marilyn Young.

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# Who knew?

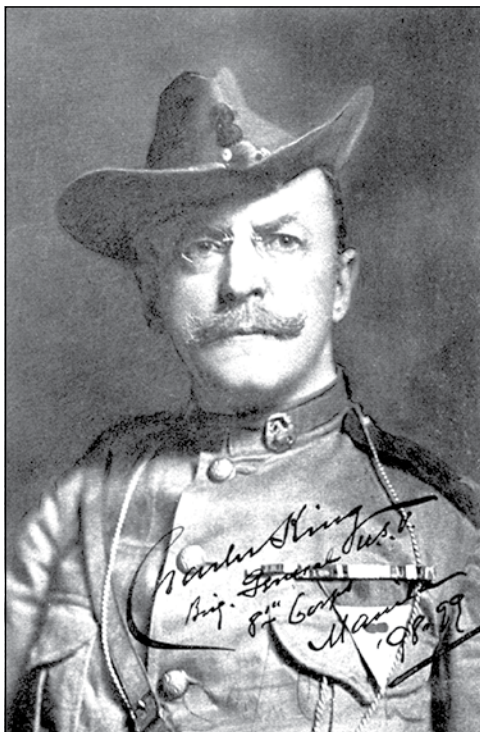
How many times have you been to the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King? Once, twice, dozens of times? Have you ever noticed the Wisconsin Official Historical Marker located on Hwy. QQ, between the Marden Ave. and Bell Ave. entrances to WVH King, near the large parking lot on Hwy QQ?

If you never noticed, do NOT feel bad! I am confident that you are not alone. But I know you will want to pay special attention to it the next time you visit King.

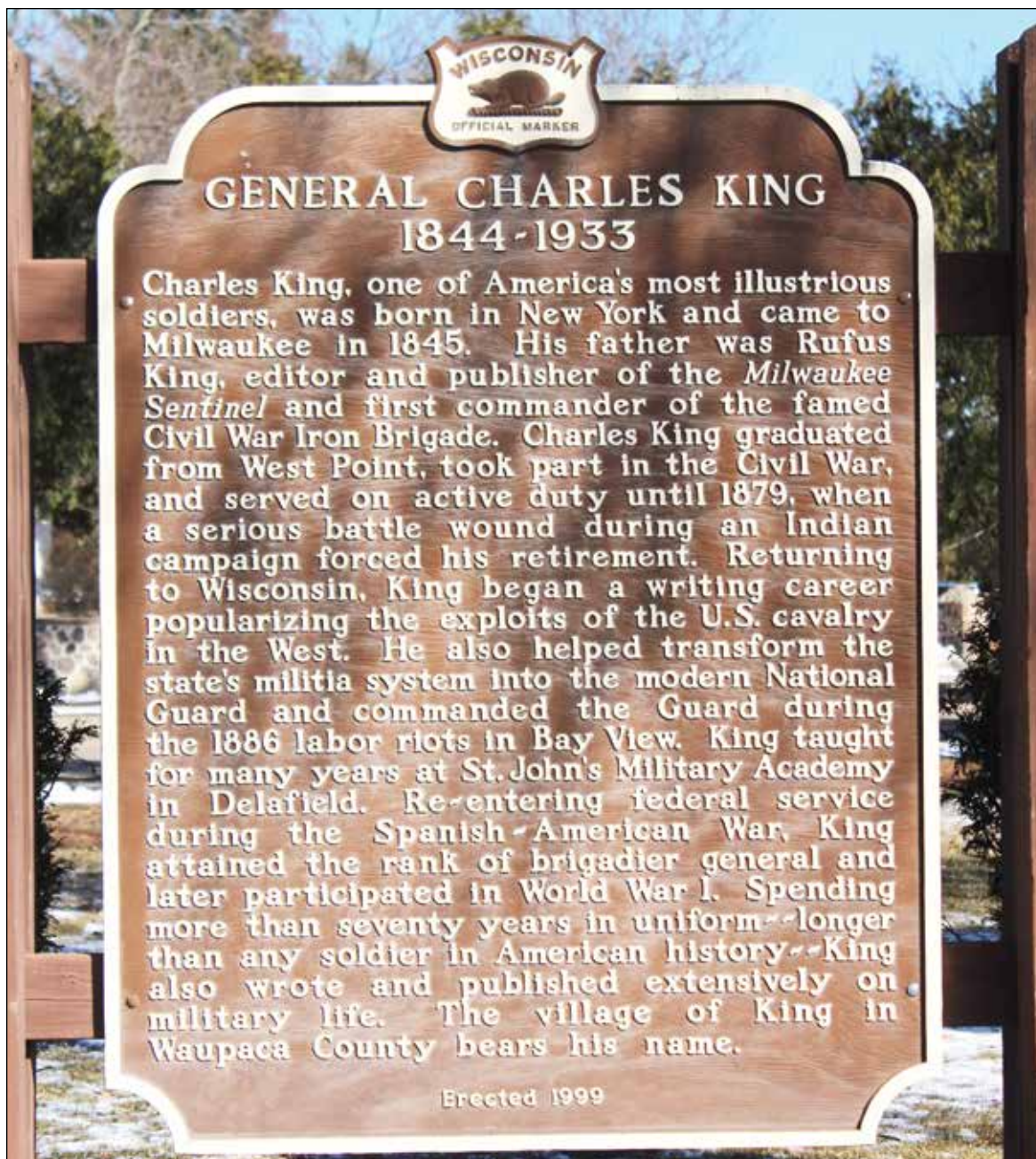
General Charles King spent more than 70 years in uniform, serving in the Civil War; the Indian Wars; the Spanish-American War and the Philippine-American War. Oh, and his father was Civil War General Rufus King; his grandfather Charles King was President of Columbia University in New York and his great-grandfather Rufus King was one of the signers of the United States Constitution in 1787. Charles King is buried in Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee. But don't look for a large, imposing grave marker. His is a very small, white marble marker, shorter than those typically found in National Cemeteries.

Who knew? Now we all know!

Marker photo courtesy of Melinda Roberts, M.A. Roberts Consulting of DePere. Check out Melinda's fascinating story and journey to all 532 Wisconsin Historical Markers at [wisconsinhistoricalmarkers.com](http://wisconsinhistoricalmarkers.com).



General Charles King



This Wisconsin Official Historical Marker honors General Charles King.



Waterloo High School Patriots Club members form an Aisle of Honor with American flags at their annual Veterans Day Assembly.



The members of the Waterloo High School Patriots Club gather for a group photo at their recent Veterans Day Assembly. What a fine group of young Patriots – thank you for all you are doing to keep love of country and honor to Veterans alive and well!

## Waterloo Patriots Club Honors Veterans

The Waterloo High School Patriots Club had the honor and privilege of hosting their annual Veterans Day Assembly on Friday, November 10th. The program included speeches, poetry, and introductions of local veterans by members of the Club; song selections from the Waterloo High School band and choir; and a very special guest speaker – Gundel Metz, the State Sr. Vice Commander of the VFW.

The Patriots Club, founded in 1994, has been involved in a variety of activities over the years to show their patriotism and appreciation for those who have served. In addition to the Veterans Day Assembly, the club is very proud to raise money for a variety of worthy causes. Over the past few years the club has raised a considerable amount for

Honor Flight and has made the trip up to Madison to see the veterans returning from their trip to Washington D.C.

This year, they also participated in the "Jeans for Troops" day on Wednesday, November 15th to raise money for the GI GO Fund. Other fundraisers have included drives for troops stationed overseas, chili suppers and hat day. The Waterloo Patriots Club is very proud to show how much they appreciate and value the service of veterans and those who are currently serving and they continually strive to be involved in a variety of ways to show their patriotism.

Many thanks to our young Patriots!

Story and photos courtesy of Rachel Holden, Waterloo High School Social Studies and English teacher and Advisor to the Waterloo HS Patriots Club.



Area Veteran guests participate in the annual Veterans Day Assembly at Waterloo High School, hosted by the school's Patriots Club. VFW State Sr. Vice Commander Gundel Metz is seated third from left in the front row.