



VFW Post 5864 Newsletter

1842 Veterans Way, Greenwood, IN 46143 – Phone 317-888-2488

Greenwood Memorial VFW Post 5864 – January 2023 Newsletter

"It's not the dues you pay to be a member, it's the price you paid to be eligible!"

"Like us" on [Facebook -- Greenwood VFW 5864](#) and visit our [Website--greenwoodvfw.com](#)

2017 and 2018 VFW First Place Award winner in the District / Post level for "Large Frequency" Publications. 2019, 2021, and 2022 Silver Award winner at the District / Post level



Stacy Sims collects 726 pairs of socks

Stacy Sims, a Broker, and Realtor with Keller-Williams collected 726 pairs of men's, women's, and children's socks over a 30-day period beginning November 10. Her goal was to collect 250 pairs of socks. Her past clients, friends, family, and professional networks stepped up and told her "Yes, we want to help our Veterans." Stacy remarked "It's been so exciting to collect these socks!" She then called Greenwood VFW Post 5864 and asked if we would like to distribute them to needy veterans. The socks will go to HVAF, VA Domiciliary at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Volunteers of America and to a couple of areas in downtown Indianapolis where homeless people stay "on the streets." In the photo above, from left to right are David Sims, Stacy's husband, Stacy, and VFW Commander Steve Milbourn. David Sims is a Life Member of Greenwood VFW Post 5864. -- Photo courtesy of Mike Delaney

**Our VFW will begin Darts on Saturday, Jan. 7 at 7:30 p.m.
See page 17 of this newsletter for information. Thanks.**

Banquet Rentals



Are you or one of your relatives or friends looking for a place to host a wedding reception, meeting, birthday party, a Home-Owners Association meeting, training class or any get-together, please stop by and see our Banquet facilities.

OUR AMENTITIES INCLUDE

- Catering available
- Air conditioned & heated
- 16 – 8 ft. tables
- Kitchen not available due to liability
- 4 restrooms
- On-site management
- 41 – 6 ft. tables
- No alcohol allowed to be brought into VFW
- 170 parking spaces
- 13 – 5 ft. round tables
- Very inexpensive
- Seating for 140 to 280 individuals

See our *Rental Agreement and pricing on our website – greenwoodvfw.com. Be sure to stop by and look at our facility – you will be glad you did. Discounts are provided for veterans, members, and 501-C-3 organizations.*

Please call

Cindy Reinert – Bar and Banquet Manager at 317-966-9582

or e-mail her at latitudesbelize@icloud.com for an appointment



Greenwood Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5864

1842 Veterans Way ■ Greenwood, Indiana 46143 ■ 317-888-2488



A Message from the Commander . . .

Dear Members, Supporters, and Friends:

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

This past year, Greenwood VFW Post 5864, was able to make a lot of headway with what we are doing. For the last six months, we have been in need of two additional members for our House Committee – that is of course, working members.

We have been extremely fortunate to have our regular volunteers and some occasional volunteers to help us with moving the chairs and tables for the banquets and various events we have had in 2022.

Thanks to Don Harris, David Craggs, Gary Haws, Bill Clark, Sherri Jones, Mike Tomes, Mike Delaney and a few other people that I am sure I have forgotten. Once in a while the bartenders would put trash bags in the trash cans, move a table here or there, and help out where they could.

Bill Clark was elected to the Post's House Committee at the Dec. 6 meeting. He accepted the term which ends in 2023. We still have another position open. It is a great position for an individual who is retired, knows a little about construction, electrical, plumbing, heating and other things related to owning a building.

The Post has been extremely fortunate to have Dave Hogan and Dave Hogan, Jr. work with us. They have done some maintenance, construction, electrical work, etc.

We replaced the oldest beer cooler and then the smallest one (which was in the banquet room of the old building) went down and we were able to get it running and then a couple of weeks ago the other large beer cooler bit the dust.

These coolers run around \$3,000 each. The first one we gathered enough donations to get that one. This time we had to pay it out of the Post account. It was necessary to do this.

For a week we were putting beer in the salad bar carts, filling them with ice, and then the next morning the bartenders would drain most of the water out and put ice in again. That was wasted time and wasted ice, but it was necessary.

If anyone wishes to donate toward the cooler, let us know. You can use it as a tax deduction for this year's tax return. We will type you up a letter on our letterhead.

We are also trying to put enough money together to purchase a walk-in cooler. We have already had the wiring installed when we were building our facility and the space is set aside in the Post.

We could save several thousand dollars a year by purchasing more beer each time we order. The cooler, an 8 ft. x 10 ft. would also keep food refrigerated for the kitchen. The liquor room could be re-done and we would have more room there.

And lastly, our Banquet Room, weekly Bingo games and pull tabs have been doing quite well for us. As always, we need a few more volunteers to help out.

Remember, Saturday, January 7 at 7:30 p.m. will be the first night of our Dart games. Plan to stop in and cheer on those who are playing.

Make sure you read the news article about the kitchen on page 47. It is important.

I will see you next month.

Thanks.



Steve Milbourn
Post Commander

(Photo - May 1965 - 57 years ago)

Integrity

**Is Doing the Right Thing.
Even When No One is Watching.**

-- C.S. Lewis --

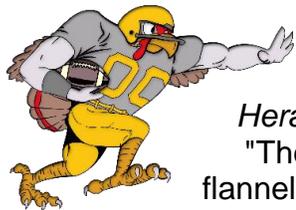


Sertoma Club members help wrap Christmas packages for Ray Skillman

Greenwood Sertoma Club members helped the Ray Skillman Automotive Group wrap numerous Christmas packages in early December. Those members who participated in this project were -- front row left to right: Mary Rusher, Miche Goben, Denny Rusher, Dave Everett -- Manager of Ray Skillman East Side Kia and part owner, and back row left to right: Chris Schultz, Jeff Goben, Kerry Kiesling, Cheryl Beeson, Dennis Allen, John Reames.

First Thanksgiving college football game played

On November 30, 1876, Yale defeats Princeton, 2-0, in Hoboken, New Jersey in the first collegiate football game played on Thanksgiving. Nearly 1,000 fans attend the game, played in cold, rainy weather. "The friends of both colleges mustered in good force," the *New York Times* reports. "Several carriages containing ladies were on the ground, and a goodly number of Alumni were there to cheer the contestants."



The football was oval and made of leather, the *Times* noted, "similar to those used in Rugby Union rules." The game resembled rugby more than a present-day football game.

Playing conditions were not ideal. "[T]he ground was so hard that terrific thumps and bruises were the rule and not the exception," the *New York Daily Herald* reported. But each team was superbly outfitted.

"The Yale team wore blue skullcaps, shirts, stockings of the same color and white flannel trousers," the *Daily Herald* reported. "The Princeton lads were gorgeous in their orange and black uniforms."

Play became ragged, with the game reportedly resembling Greco-Roman wrestling. Perhaps the *Daily Herald* noted the first example of college football trash talk. "Just wait awhile, and we will show these fellows something," a Princeton player was quoted.

The Yale-Princeton Thanksgiving game started a collegiate tradition. Later in the 19th century, the universities of Kansas, Missouri, Michigan, and others began playing football on the holiday.

On November 6, 1869, a little more than four years after the end of the Civil War, Rutgers defeated Princeton, 6-4, in the first college football game.

**VFW Post 5864 Auxiliary
hosts Bar Bingo throughout the year!**

Monday Night Bar



at 6 p.m. – Kitchen is open until 7 p.m.

◆ No tables reserved ◆ Limited seating

Bar Bingo continues to be a success. Those working must be listed with the Indiana Gaming Commission as a registered “Operator” or “Worker.” A list of individuals who are eligible to work in Gaming is posted behind the bar in the Canteen area. The Annual Bingo License, Annual Raffle License, and the Annual Charity Game Night License # is 002855. If you need help, please let Sherri Jones, 253-278-1980 or Steve Milbourn, 317-525-7291 know so they can get the information that is needed to place you on VFW Post 5864’s gaming license.

■ Public Welcome ■ Please sign the book at the door

■ No outside food or drinks – No exceptions

■ IGC Reference No. is 156963 / ■ License No. 002855

40 et 8 Voiture Locale 145 Chef de Gare's Corner . . .

I wish each Voyageur and their families a “Happy New Year.” May all go well with you and your family this coming Year.

Mark Your Calendars: Our next Promenade is January 30, 2023. We convene at 7 p.m.

Our December 12 Voiture's Annual Christmas get-together went very well I thought. Hope my fellow Voyageurs are of the same opinion. We had an even number of 50 attendees this year.

Two of our student nurses, both received scholarships under our Endowment with University of Indianapolis School of Nursing, were present. As well, the Dean and five other Officials of Ivy Technical University School of Nursing were also present.

Students there will begin receiving scholarships through our Endowment at Ivy Tech come this September semester.



Activities: Our Voiture donated \$600 dollars to a needy family at our November Promenade. This family fell victim to a series of problems that left the children little hope for a merry Christmas. Cheminot Joe Vidales brought this situation up and the Voiture responded immediately. This is what our organization is all about – helping our community, and fellow Veterans.

Note: Joe accepted the lead and is spear-heading the assistance to this family.

Voiture Membership: I want to extend my welcome to our new members **Al Kessinger and Raymond McDaniel.** You are what it takes to keep V-145 growing. We still need several new members to replace those who went to Voiture Everlasting in order to reach 100%. At present we stand at approximately 96%. There are plenty of eligible veterans out there. Let's get them on board.



Life Membership:

Have you thought about purchasing a Life Membership in the 40 et 8? Voiture 145 currently has a total of 13 Life Members. V-145 would like to work with you in obtaining that Life Membership. If you desire to become a Life Member, Voiture Locale 145 will reduce your annual dues to just \$18.50. This reduces the total cost for a Life Membership considerably.

Jay Collars
Chef de Gare

Front Row, left to right: Jean Pearson - Grande Directeur Nurses Training, Jeff Carrol - Grande Directeur Youth Sports, Art Parkhurst - Grande Chef de Gare Passe du Indiana, Norman Crawford - Grande Chef de Gare, Jay Collars - Chef de Gare V-145. Back Row, left to right: Jerry Hill - Grande Chef de Train; Dave Emily - Grande Directeur POW/MIA.

40 et 8 Voiture 145 sponsors three scout units

At a recent meeting with the Crossroads of America Council, Boy Scouts of America, Voiture Locale 145 learned that several Boy Scout units in the Greenwood, IN area were without a Corporate Sponsor.

Bringing this information to the next Promenade, the Voyageurs eagerly voted to become the Corporate Sponsor of three Boy Scout units.

At a subsequent meeting with Rae Cartee, Sr. District Executive, Crossroads of America, and the Scout Leaders of the three Boy Scout Units, Voiture Locale 145 signed the necessary papers to become the Corporate Sponsor of all three units: Scout Troop 265 for boys 10 to 17 years old; Cub Pack 265 for boys 5 to 10 years old; and the Venture Crew 316 is for older youth 14 to 20 years old

and is co-ed. Voiture Locale 145 continues to support the Child Welfare and Americanism Programs of the Voiture Nationale.



*Photo submitted by
Commissaire Intendant
Mike Delaney, V-145. Left
to right, front row – Chef
de Gare Jay Collars, V-145,
Andy Rusiniak, Leader
Pack 265, Rae Cartee, Sr.
Executive Director Cross-
Roads Council, Boy
Scouts of America, Jim
Lucia, Pack 265, Daniel
Simon, Troop 265. Left to
right, back row --
Commissaire Intendant*

Mike Delaney V-145, Chad Gilles, Leader of Venture Crew 316, Craig Koch, Leader Troop 265.

48 years in time separate two 40 & 8 Grande Chef de Gare's

During the recent Christmas get-together at Voiture Locale 145 du Indiana, the current Grande Chef de Gare Norman Crawford (2023), on the right, met Grande Chef de Gare Passe du Indiana Art Parkhurst (1975), who is on the left in the photo.

Art is a member of Voiture Locale 145 and is the oldest living Grande Chef de Gare Passe du Indiana.

Art was Grande Chef de Gare in 1975 and is 96 years young and a WW-II veteran.

Voiture 145 is proud to claim Grande Chef de Gare Passe du Indiana Art as one of their own.



Join the 40 & 8 -- \$25 a year – Honorable Military Service

1 – Daiwa 500 Shotgun

2 – Remington 870 Tactical



Greenwood VFW Post 5864



150 tickets @ \$10.00 each

When all tickets have been sold, the drawing will be held. The first ticket pulled will get his or her choice of the shotgun they want. The second ticket pulled will receive the remaining shotgun. The winner of the first shotgun will not be entered into the second drawing unless he or she has purchased two (2) or more tickets.

You do not have to be present to win either Shotgun.

Must be 21 years old to purchase tickets. -- Please ask the bartender for tickets.

■ IGC Reference No. is 156963

/

■ License No. 002855

Bill of Rights becomes law on December 15, 1791



U.S. # 1312 was issued for the 175th anniversary of the Bill of Rights. On December 15, 1791, Virginia became the 11th state to ratify the Bill of Rights, earning the three-fourths majority needed to add the first 10 amendments to the Constitution.

Following the 1787 Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, which led to the creation of the new nation's Constitution, each state had to ratify it individually. The first nine states approved the Constitution by June 1788. Although all that was needed to approve the Constitution was nine states, four others argued it provided too much power to the central government, which could easily abuse individual rights. They believed there should be a bill of rights to prevent such abuses.

U.S. # 2421 was issued on the 200th anniversary of the House and Senate's ratification of the Bill of Rights. Thomas Jefferson was among the critics who advocated a "Bill of Rights" enumerating individual rights. In December 1787, Jefferson, then the ambassador to France, wrote a letter to James Madison.

"A bill of rights," Jefferson wrote, "is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth, general or particular, and what no just government should refuse, or rest on inference."

Jefferson's position gained strength, and a compromise was reached. Individual state legislatures ratified the document with the understanding that the first national legislative meeting under the new Constitution would pass amendments guaranteeing specific individual liberties.



U.S. # 1099 – Religious freedom is included in the first amendment. James Madison was then tasked with drafting this Bill of Rights, though he initially opposed it. Madison crafted these amendments in part based on proposals he received from each state that wished to contribute.

He rejected proposals calling for structural changes in the government and kept others which created a series of amendments protecting civil rights such as free speech. Madison also drew inspiration from the Magna Carta and Virginia Declaration of Rights.

In June 1789, Madison presented nine articles with a total of 20 amendments. To his disappointment, the Senate removed several amendments and added one. On September 25, 1789, the U.S. House and Senate met in Congress Hall to ratify twelve proposals. Once passed there, they were submitted to the states on September 28.

U.S. # 1119 – Freedom of the press is also included in the first amendment. Then for over two years, the states voted on the articles. New Jersey was the first, ratifying 11 of the articles on November 20, 1789. They were followed by Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and finally Virginia.

As the 11th state to ratify some or all of the amendments, Virginia cemented the creation of the Bill of Rights on December 15, 1791. By the state's votes, articles three through twelve were passed, and these became the first ten amendments, known collectively as the Bill of Rights. (The other two specified a formula for the number of seats in the House of Representatives, and restricted when changes to payment could occur for members of Congress.



The second of these would later be ratified in 1992 as the 27th Amendment, more than 200 years after it was originally submitted.) Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson officially declared the ten accepted amendments as adopted on March 1, 1792.

The rights guaranteed by the amendments are freedom of speech, the press, assembly, religious worship, and to petition for redress of grievances. The right to keep and bear arms

Bill of Rights becomes law . . . ■ Continued from page 9

and restrictions on the quartering of soldiers in peacetime are also included. The amendments provide for protection from unreasonable search and seizure, cruel and unusual punishment, self-incrimination, and a guarantee of due process of law and a speedy public trial with an impartial jury.

In addition, all powers that are not specifically given to the federal government in the Constitution are reserved for the citizenry or states. And the listing of specific rights in the Constitution does not mean that other, non-specified rights do not exist.

VFW 5864 member Ralph “Tony” Shinn died Oct. 22

Ralph Anthony “Tony” Shinn passed away on Saturday, October 22, 2022, at the age of 76. Tony was born in Indianapolis on August 6, 1946, to the late William and Ruth (Freeland) Shinn. He married his wife of 51 years, Marjorie Frederick, on April 24, 1971.



Tony was a graduate of Cathedral High School and attended Marian (College) University before enlisting in the U.S. Army and serving in Vietnam. After his tour of duty was completed, he returned to Indianapolis where he worked for the U.S. Post Office. In 1972 he joined the Sheet Metal Workers Local 20 Apprenticeship program and became a Journeyman. He worked for Sink & Edwards Sheet Metal Company and retired from Bright Sheet Metal.

An avid golfer, Tony once played 132 rounds of golf in one year. He also enjoyed walking and participated in 10 Indianapolis Mini Marathons. Tony was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Mark and Kevin, and sister, Billie Jean Carr. Tony is survived by his wife; daughters, Michelle (Eric) Genneken of Palmetto, FL, and Jennifer (John) Vinters of Franklin, IN; sisters, Veronica Shinn, Mary (Jimmy) Shields, and Justina Wilmont; brothers, Tom (Stephanie), Jim (Cynda), Bill, Jr, and John (Nancee); grandchildren, Amanda, Amy, Jared, Emily, and Liliya; great-grandchildren, Jake, Jamey, and Austin.

A celebration of life was held at American Legion 497, on Guion Rd., Indianapolis.

“Tony” as those of us at Greenwood VFW Post 5864 knew him, stopped in with his wife Marge at the “old Post” across the street from the Greenwood Police Dept.

December 9, 1971

Paris peace talks break down after 3-1/2 years

For the first time since the Paris peace talks began in May 1968, both sides refuse to set another meeting date for continuation of the negotiations.

The refusal to continue came during the 138th session of the peace talks. U.S. delegate William Porter angered the communist negotiators by asking for a postponement of the next scheduled session of the conference until December 30, to give Hanoi and the Viet Cong an opportunity to develop a “more constructive approach” at the talks.



The U.S. side was displeased with the North Vietnamese, who repeatedly demanded that South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu resign as a prerequisite for any meaningful discussions. Although both sides returned to the official talks in January 1972, the real negotiations were being conducted between Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho, the lead North Vietnamese negotiator, in a private villa outside Paris.

These secret talks did not result in a peace agreement until January 1973, after the massive 1972 North Vietnamese Easter Offensive had been blunted and Nixon had ordered the “Christmas bombing” of Hanoi and Haiphong to convince North Vietnam to rejoin the peace negotiations.

Greenwood VFW Post 5864



Bingo Every Wednesday

\$1,000

Cover-All Pot 50 Numbers or Less *

\$500 or more!

Cover-All Guaranteed Pot *

Early-birds (Warm-ups) start at 6:30 p.m.

All games end around 10 p.m.

PUBLIC WELCOME!

BASIC STARTING PACKAGE -- \$17

- ◆ Large New Playing Room
- ◆ Social Distancing Is Practiced
- ◆ 2-3 Players Per 8 Foot Table!



Masks & Hand Sanitizer Available

Food and Beverages Available! -- Join the Fun!!!

Go east on Main St. in Greenwood past Interstate 65. Continue east past Road Ranger Truck Stop approximately 100 yards. Turn right on Commerce Parkway West Drive. If you go to the traffic light (Graham Rd.) you have gone too far. Follow the road to Veterans Way (about 300 yards). Phone 317-888-2488.

*** ABOVE COVER-ALLS PAID WITH 90 OR MORE PLAYERS**

■ **Absolutely no outside food or drinks**

■ IGC Reference No. 156963

■ Bingo License 002855

News and photo submission policy is announced

Members of the VFW and the Auxiliary are encouraged to submit news articles and photos to be published in the Post's monthly newsletter. Auxiliary members (formerly Ladies Auxiliary) should contact Carol Puckett via e-mail at carolbulpuck@yahoo.com, or by dropping off the information at the Post addressed to her.



All other news and photos can be e-mailed to Steve Milbourn. Information can also be dropped off at the VFW and given to the bartender on duty. It is important that you place your name and phone number on the item in case there are any questions. Ensure that names are legible. Your article may be edited for clarity.

All photos must have the following information with them: who, what, when, where, why, and how the photo was taken, and who is in the photo. Please submit all articles by the 17th of each month for the next month's publication. The Editor is Steve Milbourn, and his phone number is 317-525-7291 or steve.milbourn@aol.com. The deadline for the February newsletter is Thursday, Jan. 19 at 5 p.m.



OUR VETS NEED YOU!

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

The Roudebush VA Medical Center is looking for volunteers to transport VA patients to and from their appointments using Volunteer Transportation Network Vans (VTN).

Benefits Include:

- Breakfast and lunch allowance
- Free complete physical
- Free flu vaccination
- DAV & VA Medical Center Awards
- Awards Banquet
- Driver appreciation breakfast
- Opportunity to serve Veterans
- Social events
- Annual & other training opportunities

Please contact

Johnson County Coordinator Jan Pennington

at 317-475-5906 or the Indianapolis VTN Office 317-988-2472 / Room A-1106



Volunteers of America Services help all veterans

Do you have a spare, private room? That room could be a lifeline for a Veteran. Volunteers of America, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), uses rapid re-housing funds to assist Veterans struggling to find housing.

We are here to uplift struggling Veterans and set them up for success. The resources available to us include paying the first month's rent and any additional fees, case management, assistance in obtaining VA benefits, and accessing mainstream benefits.



If you are interested in helping those who served, please contact Andrew Noga at 317-447-0916.

If you have any news or photos of events that happened in the VFW or were connected to your organization, please send them to steve.milbourn@aol.com

Not a right

Visiting any VFW bar or “canteen” is a privilege

Many of the members of our nine (9) military groups, VFW, VFW Auxiliary, American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, the 40 & 8, VFW Riders, the Fleet Reserve, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Combat Riders, and other guests are more than likely not aware that visiting a VFW bar or “canteen” is a privilege and not a right.

The National VFW does not recognize bars or “canteens.” As such, an individual’s conduct in a bar or “canteen” is important. Although, we as a VFW always welcome new members and friends visiting with us to look at our facility and have something to eat and drink. Recently there have been some folks that were overheard making statements about things they know nothing about. They were not “top secret.”



Unless you know the facts, I would be reluctant to say anything. Some of them have been libelous in nature. These types of things can get you barred for two or three weeks or longer. Whether you are a member of our facility or member of another military group please be kind and considerate of everyone you come into contact with at our Post. We truly appreciate your business and look forward to seeing you again.

-- Steve Milbourn, Commander

December 12, 1937

USS Panay sunk by Japanese warplanes

During the battle for Nanking in the Sino-Japanese War, the U.S. gunboat Panay is attacked and sunk by Japanese warplanes in Chinese waters. The American vessel, neutral in the Chinese-Japanese conflict, was escorting U.S. evacuees and three Standard Oil barges away from Nanking, the war-torn Chinese capital on the Yangtze River.

After the Panay was sunk, the Japanese fighters machine-gunned lifeboats and survivors huddling on the shore of the Yangtze. Two U.S. sailors and a civilian passenger were killed, and 11 personnel seriously wounded, setting off a major crisis in U.S.-Japanese relations.

Although the Panay's position had been reported to the Japanese as required, the neutral vessel was clearly marked, and the day was sunny and clear, the Japanese maintained that the attack was unintentional, and they agreed to pay \$2 million in reparations. Two neutral British vessels were also attacked by the Japanese in the final days of the battle for Nanking.

U.S. ends internment of Japanese Americans

During World War II, U.S. Major General Henry C. Pratt issues Public Proclamation No. 21, declaring that, effective January 2, 1945, Japanese American “evacuees” from the West Coast could return to their homes.

On February 19, 1942, 10 weeks after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing the removal of any or all people from military areas “as deemed necessary or desirable.” The military in turn defined the entire West Coast, home to the majority of Americans of Japanese ancestry or citizenship, as a military area.

By June, more than 110,000 Japanese Americans were forcibly removed to remote prison camps built by the U.S. military in scattered locations around the country. For the next two and a half years, many of these Japanese Americans endured extremely difficult living conditions and poor treatment. During the course of World War II, 10 Americans were convicted of spying for Japan, but not one of them was of Japanese ancestry. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill to compensate each surviving internee with a tax-free check for \$20,000 and an apology from the U.S. government.



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary to VFW Post 5864

1842 Veterans Way ♦ Greenwood, IN 46143
317-888-2488

THE AUXILIARY IN PROGRESS

At the December 3 meeting, HVAF, guest speaker, Andrea Carlisle, informed the Auxiliary how their support is helping homeless veterans in Indianapolis and the surrounding counties. One in ten homeless Hoosiers are veterans. HVAF is currently serving 1,400 plus veterans. The Auxiliary and other organizations' support is helping HVAF to provide hope, housing, and self-sufficiency for all veterans and their families. The Auxiliary presented a \$500 donation to Andrea for HVAF.

The Auxiliary welcomed new member Joan Wood. Robin Wood delivered socks and homemade Christmas cards made by Southwest Elementary students to a local nursing home. Linda Kessinger, President, reported that the Auxiliary was awarded first place for 18 new memberships and third place in percentage of total annual memberships at the District 7 meeting.

Brenda Lippert read the changes made to the Standing Rules and the Auxiliary accepted the revisions. Brenda Lippert provided the third quarter financial audit report to members.

Bar Bingo at the Post - January 2, January 9, January 16, January 23, and January 30. Food is available for ordering. The kitchen closes at 7 p.m. Drinks at the bar are available until closing. Bingo starts at 6 p.m. Bingo consists of 8 regular games at \$2 per sheet, two coverall games at \$5 per sheet and one "M" game at \$5 per sheet. Come and join us for a fun night out.

November 28 - The Auxiliary provided a funeral lunch for the family of Don LaFontaine, past

Post Commander. The Auxiliary wishes to express their condolences to the family of this great man who went above and beyond for his country.

He will be sadly missed. The Post had a visitor on Don's special day. The eagle was perched in a tree and stuck around for a good period. Maybe this was Don's way of letting us know "all is well."



November 29 – Members of the Auxiliary met at the VFW Post to assemble 25 backpacks for the Homeless

■ **Continued to page 15**

VFW Auxiliary in Progress . . . ■ Continued from page 14

Veterans. Included were sweatsuits, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, blankets, ponchos, personal hygiene items, band-aid kits with antibiotic creams, nail clippers, books, snacks. Thanks to Trudy Umphrey for ordering all the items on-line and to all the members who helped pack the bags. Joe and Beth Vidales delivered the goods to HVAF.



Big thank you to Beth and Joe for volunteering to take on this big task. The Auxiliary appreciates your support.

Also, on this day, the Auxiliary members decorated the 9-foot Christmas tree located in the Post bar area and also a 6-foot tree in one of the banquet rooms.

December 7 – Trudy Umphrey, Brenda Lippert and Mary Canner met to order Christmas presents for the kids Christmas party that was held on December 18.

December 14 -- Trudy, and Mary met at the Post and wrapped presents for the kids Christmas party. Twenty-three kids signed up to attend.



December 15 6 p.m. – Auxiliary members gathered at Olive Garden in Greenwood for their Holiday outing. Eleven members attended. Each member brought a \$15 gift to exchange before dinner. It was a fun and enjoyable evening.

The Auxiliary welcomes the following new members: Diane Markle, Kelly Parrish, Joan Wood, John Springer-man, Deborah McCullen, Lisa Bridges, Tiffany Milbourn-Hall, Benjamin Morris, Heather Campbell, Abigail Daisey, Heidi Milbourn, Daniel Milbourn, Melanie Daisey, and Craig White.



Members can pick up their new membership packets at the

■ Continued to page 16

VFW Auxiliary in Progress . . . ■ Continued from page 15

next monthly Auxiliary meeting. This is also a good time to meet fellow members.

January 3 - Auxiliary Meeting – Social meeting starts at 6 p.m. The official meeting starts at 7 p.m. Please come and be involved. We need your help. Volunteer to be a chairperson of an event or be on a planning event committee. New members come and pickup your membership packet and get acquainted with others.

Help support your veterans by wearing a patriotic bracelet. The Auxiliary sells small (women) and large (men and women) bracelets for \$5 each. If you are interested in purchasing, contact Carol Bullock-Puckett, 317-714-7062, or Trudy Umphrey, 317-702-3290. These make nice gifts for friends and family, especially for birthdays.

Any member that did not pay their membership dues by December 31, 2022, your membership is now not in good standing. Membership dues are \$20 and can still be remitted until June 30, 2023. Make your check payable to VFW Auxiliary 5864 and mail to Brenda Lippert, 3111 Eastpointe Drive, Franklin, Indiana 46131. Please notify the Auxiliary if your address, email address, phone number change so we can keep accurate information in Malta.

Thank you for your prompt attention in paying your dues and avoiding your membership to lapse.

Effective October 1, 2021, a new rule allows more individuals to qualify for membership. We are seeking individuals to join our Auxiliary. Contact Trudy Umphrey for more information or to apply: 317-702-3290

Happy Birthday to all members who are celebrating birthdays in January.

For those members who are currently not well, please know you are always in our thoughts and prayers. We extend our sympathy to the families of any Auxiliary or Post member that have passed away recently.

**New Year – A new chapter, new verse, or just the same old story?
Ultimately, we write it. The choice is ours.**

**Happy New Year to All Our Fellow Auxiliary Members, Veterans and Their Families.
May the Year 2023 be a Year for Us to Prosper as One Nation Under God.**



The Auxiliary's common purpose is to improve the lives of veterans, service members, and their families, and our communities.

Officers of the Auxiliary

Linda Kessinger, President; **Trudy Umphrey**, Senior Vice-President.

Tammy Tingle, Junior Vice-President; **Brenda Lippert**, Treasurer; **Carol Bullock-Puckett**, Secretary



Darts at VFW Post 5864 will begin on **Saturday, Jan. 7 at 7:30 p.m.**

- **\$5 fee for each darter to enter for the evening**
- **Games are 75 cents each per person**
- **Double elimination**
- **Blind Draw for Teams**
- **Teams will consist of 2 Darters**
- **\$100 to the 2 winners -- \$50 for each team member**
- **\$50 to the 2 second place winners**
 - **\$25 for each team member**
- **\$30 to the 2 third place winners**
 - **\$15 for each team member**
- **Food, alcoholic, and non-alcoholic drinks available**
- **Non-smoking facility**
- **New Dart machines**

Please call Steve Milbourn at 317-525-7291 for info

It is important to follow the gaming rules –

Gaming workers cannot buy pull-tabs the same day

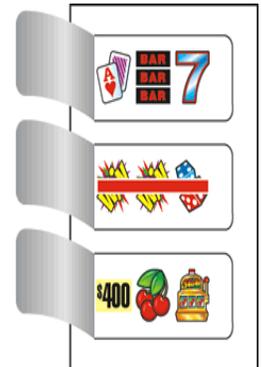
According to Kim Barnett -- Director of Operations of the Charity Gaming Division of the Indiana Gaming Commission, if you are working behind the bar and selling pull-tabs, a 50-50, or any other games of chance to customers, you cannot purchase tickets to any of the games the day that you worked. Operators may not receive remuneration (pay) for conducting or assisting in conducting any allowable event/activity. The only exception is the remunerated (paid) bartender(s) on an annual activity license.



An operator may never participate in charity gaming on the same day that they served as an operator. Indiana Code (IC) 4-32.3-5-11 (a) -- Example: Susie called bingo for ABC organization earlier in the day, she cannot go to the bar area and purchase pull tabs later that evening.

An individual may only serve as an operator on no more than three (3) qualified organization's licenses during a calendar month IC 4-32.3-5-10 (b) -- That includes a Bingo worker (volunteer). The VFW can be fined, having the Indiana Gaming Commission shut us down for a specific time, and/or our license can be taken away from us.

Bartenders and others who are volunteers with gaming of any kind or sort cannot become involved in gaming during the times and days mentioned above.



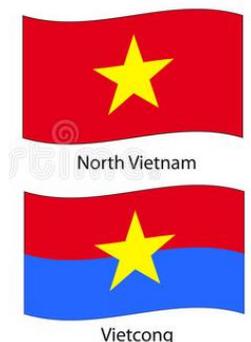
Linebacker II -- December 18, 1972

Nixon begins “Christmas Bombing” of N. Vietnam

Following the breakdown of peace talks with North Vietnam just a few days earlier, President Richard Nixon announces the beginning of a massive bombing campaign to break the stalemate. For nearly two weeks, American bombers pounded North Vietnam.

On December 13, peace talks between the United States and North Vietnam collapsed. The North Vietnamese and American negotiators traded charges and countercharges as to who was to blame. Infuriated, President Nixon ordered plans drawn up for retaliatory bombings of North Vietnam.

Linebacker II was the result. Beginning on December 18, American B-52s and fighter-bombers dropped over 20,000 tons of bombs on the cities of Hanoi and Haiphong. The United States lost 15 of its giant B-52s and 11 other aircraft during the attacks. North Vietnam claimed that over 1,600 civilians were killed.



The bombings continued until December 29, at which time the North Vietnamese agreed to resume the talks. A few weeks later, the final Paris Peace Treaty was signed and the Vietnam War came to a close, ending the U.S. role in a conflict that seriously damaged the domestic Cold War consensus among the American public. The impact of the so-called “Christmas Bombings” on the final agreement was difficult to assess.

Some historians have argued that the bombings forced the North Vietnamese back to the negotiating table. Others have suggested that the attacks had little impact, beyond the additional death and destruction they caused. Even the chief U.S. negotiator, Henry Kissinger, was reported to have said, “We bombed the North Vietnamese into accepting our concessions.”

Access to the pond in the rear of the VFW is illegal

If you are on VFW property without being invited by way of official written and signed authorization from VFW Post 5864, you are trespassing. If you have been invited by a member of one of the groups who have an office in the building, or are meeting at least once a month, you are good.

If you have been invited to come to the VFW for a party, a meeting, or for any other by an individual in one of the above groups, we welcome you.

If you wish to come onto our property to fish, we may take a photo of your vehicle and license plate and provide it to the Greenwood Police Dept. You could be arrested and charged with a Class A Misdemeanor or a Class D Felony. We do not condone anyone fishing. The pond does not belong to the VFW and if you enter from our property, there could be a certain amount of liability.

The VFW Post 5864 House Committee voted to post the above information on our property. Also, parking on the VFW's parking lot is not allowed unless you let us know what is going on.

Donations are needed for

VFW Post 5864's

Walk-In Cooler

A Walk-In Cooler would save the VFW a minimum of \$2.88 on each case of beer that we purchase. The reason is that we could store 4 times the amount of beer that we are currently purchasing. The Walk-In Cooler would also give us more space for large food orders.

The purchase cost and installation cost for the Walk-In Cooler could be around \$10,000 to \$12,000. When we built our new facility, we had the electrician install all of the necessary electrical wiring for a Walk-In Cooler.

Thanks much for your help! We appreciate you.

You are welcome to place money in the "jug" near the front door, write a check, or donate on a credit card. We will provide you with a receipt for use at tax time.

December 17, 1941

Commander at Pearl Harbor relieved of his duties

Rear Admiral Husband E. Kimmel was relieved of his command of the U.S. Pacific Fleet as part of a shake-up of officers in the wake of the Pearl Harbor disaster.

Admiral Kimmel had enjoyed a successful military career, beginning in 1915 as an aide to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He served admirably on battleships in World War I, winning command of several in the interwar period. At the outbreak of World War II, Kimmel had already attained the rank of rear admiral and was commanding the cruiser forces at Pearl Harbor. In January 1941, he was promoted to commander of the Pacific Fleet, replacing James Richardson, who FDR relieved of duty after Richardson objected to basing the fleet at



Pearl Harbor.

If Kimmel had a weakness, it was that he was a creature of habit, of routine. He knew only what had been done before and lacked imagination -- and therefore insight -- regarding the unprecedented. So, even as word was out that Japan was likely to make a first strike against the United States as the negotiations in Washington floundered, Kimmel took no extraordinary actions at Pearl Harbor.

In fact, he believed that a sneak attack was more likely at Wake Island or Midway Island, and requested from Lieutenant

General Walter Short, Commander of the Army at Pearl Harbor, extra anti-aircraft artillery for support there (none could be spared).

Kimmel's predictability was extremely easy to read by Japanese military observers and made his fleet highly vulnerable. As a result, Kimmel was held accountable, to a certain degree, for the absolute devastation wrought on December 7. Although he had no more reason than anyone else to believe Pearl Harbor was a possible Japanese target, a scapegoat had to be found to appease public outrage. He avoided a probable court-martial when he requested early retirement.

When *Admiral Kimmel's Story*, an "as told to" autobiography, was published in 1955, Kimmel made it plain that he believed FDR sacrificed him -- and his career -- to take suspicion off himself; Kimmel believed Roosevelt knew Pearl Harbor was going to be bombed, although no evidence has ever been adduced to support his allegation.

Damaged and retired U.S. Flag disposal ceremony

1. The flag should be folded in its customary manner.
2. It is important that the fire be large and of sufficient intensity to ensure complete burning of the flag.
3. Place the flag on the fire.
4. The individual(s) can come to attention, salute the flag, recite the Pledge of Allegiance and have a brief period of silent reflection.
5. After the flag is completely consumed, the fire should then be safely extinguished, and the ashes buried.
6. Please make sure you are conforming to local/state fire codes or ordinances.



Please call VFW Post 5864 at 317-888-2488 if you would like assistance on proper flag disposal.

New Veterans crisis phone number is 988 -- 24/7

Veterans now have the option to **Dial 988 then Press 1** to connect with caring, qualified responders for 24/7 crisis support.

In response to the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act designating the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, the Department of Veterans Affairs has made it more user friendly.



“During a crisis, every second counts,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “This new, shorter number makes it easier for Veterans and those who care about them to reach lifesaving support without having to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care.”

Reducing Veteran suicide is the top clinical priority for the Department of Veterans. Enhancing suicide prevention crisis services is a key component of the White House strategy on reducing Veteran suicide.

VA operates the Veterans Crisis Line through the 988 Lifeline’s national network and thus collaborated to accomplish the successful transition. During two years of preparation, the department has added hundreds of crisis line employees and responder staff, with still more hiring underway, and has strengthened call center infrastructure.

The Veterans Crisis Line is a critical component of the nation’s largest integrated suicide prevention network. It links to more than 500 suicide prevention coordinators across the VA health care system, ensuring coordination into follow-up services as part of a full continuum of care.

Individuals who call the Veterans Crisis Line are five times more likely to have less distress and less suicidal ideation from the beginning to end of the call.

While Dial 988 then Press 1 is a new option for contacting the Veterans Crisis Line, the original number: 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, remains available, and Veterans can continue to reach out via chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat or by text to 838255.



If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive free, confidential support and crisis intervention available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Dial 988 then Press 1, text to 838255 or chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat.

It is time for your 2022-2023 membership dues.

VFW Post 5864 -- \$35 per year

VFW Post 5864 Auxiliary -- \$20 per year

VFW Post 5864 Riders Group -- \$25 per year

40 & 8 Voiture (Post) Locale 145 -- \$25 per year

American Legion Centennial Post 1919 -- \$45 per year

American Legion Centennial Post 1919 Auxiliary -- \$35 per year

You can mail a check to the Post, or you can stop in the Post and pay by Check, Cash or Credit Card. The bartender will give you a receipt and you will get a card in about two weeks. Anyone who served one day of honorable service may join the American Legion or the 40 & 8.

Under PACT Act

VA to prioritize benefits to Veterans with cancer

National Cancer Awareness Day was last month. The Department of Veterans Affairs announced it will prioritize the processing of Veterans' benefits claims for cancers associated with the PACT Act. VA will expedite these claims to ensure Veterans with cancer are getting timely access to the care and benefits they need and deserve.

The PACT Act added presumptions of service connection for more than 20 new conditions, including various cancers. These presumptions help Veterans get their earned benefits by reducing the evidence necessary for VA to find that a condition was caused by burn pits or other toxic exposures. They also simplify the claims process by eliminating the need to establish a link between the Veteran's service and the claimed condition.

Since the PACT Act was signed into law August 10, Veterans have filed nearly 125,000 PACT Act-related claims. Of those claims, nearly 14,000 are for cancers covered by the PACT Act.

"We are working hard to get benefits to all Veterans who qualify under the PACT ACT as soon as possible, and Veterans living with cancer are at particular risk," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "Expediting claims for these Vets will ensure that they get the care and benefits they need and so rightly deserve."

This decision is a part of the Biden-Harris Administration's broader efforts to care for those with cancer and end cancer as we know it. In addition to prioritizing claims for Veterans with cancer, VA will continue to prioritize the processing of claims for Veterans with terminal illnesses and those experiencing homelessness.

VA will begin processing all PACT Act-related claims Jan 1, 2023. In anticipation of the surge in new claims, VA is hiring at 56 regional offices and 39 other special processing and call centers within the United States and Puerto Rico. Learn about the positions and how to apply.

For more information about PACT Act and how to file a claim, visit va.gov/PACT. If Veterans, their families, caregivers, or survivors have questions about PACT Act and wish to speak with someone to help, they may call 1-800-MyVA411 at any time.



988 Veterans Crisis Hotline: Veterans now have the option to **Dial 988 then Press 1** to connect with caring, qualified responders for 24/7 crisis assistance. "During a crisis, every second counts," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "This new, shorter number makes it easier for veterans and those who care about them to reach lifesaving support without having to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care." While Dial 988 then Press 1 is a new option for contacting the Veterans Crisis Line, the original number, 1.800.273.8255 and press 1, remains available, and individuals can make contact via chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat or by texting 838255.

December 5, 1964

Army Captain awarded first Medal of Honor in Vietnam

The first Medal of Honor awarded to a U.S. serviceman for action in Vietnam is presented to Capt. Roger Donlon of Saugerties, New York, for his heroic action earlier in the year.

Captain Donlon and his Special Forces team were manning Camp Nam Dong, a mountain outpost near the borders of Laos and North Vietnam. Just before two o'clock in the morning on July 6, 1964,



Cpt. Roger Donlon

hordes of Viet Cong attacked the camp. He was shot in the stomach, but Donlon stuffed a handkerchief into the wound, cinched up his belt, and kept fighting. He was wounded three more times, but he continued fighting -- manning a mortar, throwing grenades at the enemy, and refusing medical attention.

The battle ended in early morning; 154 Viet Cong were killed during the battle. Two Americans died and seven were wounded. Over 50 South Vietnamese soldiers and Nung mercenaries were also killed during the action. Once the battle was over, Donlon allowed himself to be evacuated to a hospital in Saigon. He spent over a month there before rejoining the surviving members of his Special Forces team; they completed their six-month tour in Vietnam in November and flew home together.

In a White House ceremony, with Donlon's nine surviving team members watching, President Lyndon B. Johnson presented him with the Medal of Honor for "conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism and intrepidity at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty." Donlon, justifiably proud of his team, told the president, "The medal belongs to them, too."

During the Vietnam War and in the following twelve months, 235 Medals of Honor were awarded and since 1978 a further 31 awards have been presented. Of the total of 266 awards, 178 were to the U.S. Army, 15 to the U.S. Navy, 58 to the USMC and 14 to the USAF.^[3] These totals do not include the award to the Vietnam Unknown Soldier.

The last actions to earn a Medal of Honor in this war were those of Bud Day, for actions as a prisoner of war from August 26, 1967 through March 14, 1973. Day and three others were presented with the Medal of Honor by President Ford at the White House on March 4, 1976. They were the last of the 235 servicemen awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War.

There are, however, restrictions

Regular card games can be played at the VFW

According to Kim Barnett, Director of Operations of the Indiana Gaming Commission, based on information provided to them indicates that a card game being played with no payment or wager and no prizes or payouts would not require a charity gaming approval.

If at any time, card games were being played beyond the information provided above, charity gaming approval would be necessary.

Also, anytime that anything would be used in place of money, that in itself would also be illegal and require a permit. In other words, if toothpicks, buttons, marbles, or if the card players are marking something down – that is illegal. If you are planning to play cards, you must notify the bartender and they can notify a member of the House Committee.

If the Indiana Gaming Commission were to visit the VFW and find that any individual or group was in violation of the rules, the VFW could be fined substantially.

First U.S. B-52 is shot down over North Vietnam

The United States loses its first B-52 of the war. On November 22, 1972, the eight-engine bomber was brought down by a North Vietnamese surface-to-air missile near Vinh on the day when B-52s flew their heaviest raids of the war over North Vietnam.

The Communists claimed 19 - B-52s were shot down to date.

Col. Dennis P. Harrington passed away Dec. 11

Dennis P. Harrington, 80, of Indianapolis, passed away in the early morning hours of Dec. 11, 2022, at Greenwood Health & Living after a courageous battle with his health. Dennis was born on January 7, 1942, in Blencoe, Iowa, to the late John Cletus and Margaret Mary (Ryan) Harrington. Dennis was a graduate of Lawton High School in Lawton, Iowa. Upon his graduation, he went on to graduate from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. Dennis received a bachelor's degree in Sociology.



Col. Dennis Harrington

A dedicated patriot to his country, Dennis enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1966 where he earned the rank of Staff Sergeant. Dennis' dedication to his country did not end after his service in the Marine Corps. Dennis went on to serve in the United States Air Force National Guard where he earned the honorable rank of Colonel. Dennis retired from military service in 1999 after 34 years of dedicated years to his country. Dennis was a proud lifetime member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5864.

An avid sports fan, Dennis loved to watch and coach sports. Dennis loved music but specifically listening to Johnny Cash, Neil Diamond, John Denver, and Anne Murray. If he was watching a movie, it was either John Wayne or anything patriotic. Dennis was a devoted Irish Catholic. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Msgr. M. Downey Council No. 3660 for 37 years. Dennis did not know a stranger, had a story for everything and had a zest for living life on his own terms. A true Irishman, Dennis will be remembered as a loyal and persistent man who was without a doubt dedicated to his country.

Along with his parents, Dennis was preceded in death by an infant son, Dennis Harrington; his brothers, Vincent, Gerald (Anne), Michael (Carol), and Paul Harrington; an infant brother, John Harrington; and Brother-in-law, Gus Rysavy.

Survivors include his children, Kathleen M. (Carlos) Zendejas, Patricia J. Sinovic, Eileen A. Harrington, John R. (Stephanie) Harrington, James M. (Lyndsy) Harrington, Colleen R. Harrington, and Kevin P. (Angela) Harrington; his previous spouse and the mother of his children, Mary Jane (Harrington) Harrington; his grandchildren, Michael, Corey, Ava, Caitlin (Dustin), Molly, Sean, Megan, Max, Bella, Jack, Will, Luke, Kate, Nolan, Liam, Finn, Marenn, Maeve, Holly, Ruth, and Cora; one great-grandchild, Sophia; his siblings, Raymond (Pat) Harrington, Joan Rysavy, Larry (Linda) Harrington, and James (Cathy) Harrington; sister-in-law, Nancy Harrington; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, and comrades.

Dennis' Celebration of Life visitation was held on December 19, 2022, at St. Barnabas Catholic Church. Dennis was laid to rest in the National Cemetery Administration, Crown Hill Columbarium Annex beside his comrades.

Individuals selling any product at VFW is not allowed

No food or drinks can be brought into the Post

Just a note to remind members and guests that **you are not allowed to bring food or drinks into the Post**. Our business is like many other businesses – we wish to make money by selling food, beer, liquor, and wine so that we can continue in business and help veterans who are down on their



luck or who simply need a helping hand for a brief period of time.

If you go to a public restaurant, they will not allow you to bring in your own food and drinks nor will they allow you to walk around and “bug” their customers selling them an item you may have. Whether you are a member or a guest, you cannot sell any items for another organization or yourself to make money. Depending on the circumstances, we may give you permission in case of health issues. Those requests must go through the House Committee.

December 4, 1917

Psychiatrist reports on phenomenon of shell shock

Well-known psychiatrist W.H. Rivers presents his report *The Repression of War Experience*, based on his work at the Craiglockhart War Hospital for Neurasthenic Officers, to the Royal School of Medicine, on this day in 1917. Craiglockhart, near Edinburgh, was one of the most famous hospitals used to treat soldiers who suffered from psychological traumas as a result of their service on the battlefield.

By the end of World War I, the army had been forced to deal with 80,000 cases of “shell shock,” a term first used in 1917 by a medical officer named Charles Myers to describe the physical damage



done to soldiers on the front lines during exposure to heavy bombardment. It soon became clear, however, that the various symptoms of shell shock -- including debilitating anxiety, persistent nightmares, and physical afflictions ranging from diarrhea to loss of sight -- were appearing even in soldiers who had never been

directly under bombardment, and the meaning of the term was broadened to include not only the physical, but the psychological effects produced by the experience of combat.

The most important duty of doctors like Rivers, as prescribed by the British army, was to get the men fit and ready to return to battle. Nevertheless, only one-fifth of the men treated in hospitals for shell shock ever resumed military duty. Rivers' patients included the poets Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen, who later wrote of his fellow inmates of Craiglockhart: *These are men whose minds the Dead have ravished/Memory fingers in their hair of murders/Multitudinous murders they once witnessed.*

Shell Shock has been known by many names since World War I. They include post-traumatic stress disorder, battle fatigue, combat disorder, combat fatigue, combat neurosis, and complete exhaustion.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is a mental health condition that occurs when someone witnesses or experiences a severely traumatic event. This can include war or combat, serious accidents, natural disasters, terrorism, or violent personal assaults, such as rape.

People with the disorder may experience PTSD symptoms such as frequent fear, stress, and anxiety stemming from the traumatic event. They may relive the event through flashbacks or nightmares and have intense, disturbing thoughts and feelings related to the event. They sometimes avoid people, places and situations that remind them of the trauma.

They may also experience increased arousal and reactive symptoms, such as feeling jumpy (startling easy), having problems concentrating or sleeping, being easily angered or irritated and engaging in reckless or self-destructive behavior.

Solid Start Act in effect for those leaving military

The President signed into law S. 1198, the Solid Start Act (Public Law 117-205), which permanently authorizes and expands the Solid Start program, a VA outreach program for veterans in their first year of separation from the military.

The law specifically requires the VA to coordinate with the Dept. of Defense to prioritize outreach to veterans who have accessed mental health resources prior to separation from the Armed Forces.

Transitioning from the military to civilian life can be stressful and navigating the VA health care and benefits systems can be difficult.

The Solid Start program has proven to be effective in assisting those separating from service and providing valuable outreach. In fiscal year 2021, the VA's Solid Start reached out to over 32,000 veterans who had mental health treatment prior to separation and successfully contacted over 24,000 transitioning service members.

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV), American Legion, and VFW were all part of making sure this law went into effect.

United States declares end to the war in Iraq, 2011

Pablo Martinez Monsivais / Getty Images

In a ceremony held in Baghdad on December 15, 2011, the war that began in 2003 with the American-led invasion of Iraq officially comes to an end. Though today was the official end date of the Iraq War, violence continued and in fact worsened over the subsequent years. The withdrawal of American troops had been a priority of President Barack Obama, but by the time he left office the United States would again be conducting military operations in Iraq.

Five days after the 9/11 attacks, President George W. Bush announced the “War on Terror,” an umbrella term for a series of preemptive military strikes meant to reduce the threat terrorism posed to the American homeland. The first such strike was the invasion of Afghanistan in October 2001, which began a war that continued for two decades.

Throughout 2002, the Bush Administration argued that Iraqi president Saddam Hussein was allied with terrorists and developing “weapons of mass destruction.” By all accounts, Hussein was responsible for many atrocities, but there was scant evidence that he was developing nuclear or chemical weapons. Behind closed doors, intelligence officials warned the case for war was based on conjecture -- a British inquiry later revealed that



one report’s description of Iraqi chemical weapons had actually come from the Michael Bay-directed action movie *The Rock*. The governments of the U.S. and the U.K., however, were resolute in their public assertions that Hussein posed a threat to their homelands and went ahead with the invasion.

The invasion was an immediate success insofar as the coalition had toppled Hussein’s government and occupied most of Iraq by mid-April. What followed, however, was eight years of insurgency and sectarian violence. American expectations that Iraqis would “greet them as liberators” and quickly form a stable, pluralistic democracy proved wildly unrealistic.

Though the coalition did install a new government, which took office in 2006, it never came close to pacifying the country. Guerilla attacks, suicide bombings and improvised explosive devices continued to take the lives of soldiers and civilians, and militias on both sides of the Sunni-Shia divide carried out ethnic cleansings.

The American public remained skeptical of the war, and many were horrified at reports of atrocities carried out by the military and CIA. Leaked photos proved that Americans had committed human rights abuses at the Abu Ghraib prison, and in 2007 American military contractors killed 17 civilians in Baghdad’s Nisour Square. Opposition to the war became an important talking point in Obama’s bid for the presidency.

On New Year’s Day 2009, shortly before Obama took office, the U.S. handed control of the Green Zone -- the Baghdad district that served as coalition headquarters -- to the Iraqi government. Congress formally ended its authorization for the war in November, and the last combat troops left the following month. Even by the lowest estimates, the Iraq War claimed over 100,000 lives; other estimates suggest that the number is several times greater, with over 205,000 civilian deaths alone.

Over the next three years, ongoing sectarian violence blossomed into a full-out civil war. Many of the militias formed during the Iraq War merged or partnered with extremist groups in neighboring Syria, itself experiencing a bloody civil war. By 2014 the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, which absorbed many of these groups, controlled much of Syria and Iraq. The shocking rise of ISIL led Obama to launch fresh military actions in the region beginning in June of 2014. Though ISIL has been driven out of Iraq and appears to be very much diminished, American troops are still stationed in Iraq.



VFW Post 5864 Auxiliary provides much needed items to veterans

The VFW Auxiliary placed the following items in the backpack and other sacks. There were backpacks, gloves, hats, scarves, flags, fleece blankets, ponchos, socks, sweatshirts, and pants. Also, personal hygiene items, books, protein snacks, candy canes, chap-stick, anti-biotic cream, band-aides, clippers, wipes, plus a few other miscellaneous items. The items were given to HVAF - Helping Veterans and Families. VFW Auxiliary members from left to right include Robin Wood, Brenda Lippert, Pam Bush, Linda Kessinger, and Trudy Umphrey. In the back row from left to right are Flo Fricke, Carol Puckett, Beth Vidales, and Mary Canner.



Linda Kessinger at HVAF

Andrea Carlile, the Helping Veterans and Families (HVAF) "Community Engagement Coordinator" is shown with Linda Kessinger, President of the VFW Auxiliary. Linda on behalf of the VFW Auxiliary presented Ms. Carlile a check for \$500.

You are welcome to join the Greenwood VFW Auxiliary for \$25 -- See page 39 for info



1,800 U.S. Marines storm Mogadishu, Somalia

On December 9, 1992, 1,800 United States Marines arrive in Mogadishu, Somalia, to spearhead a multinational force aimed at restoring order in the conflict-ridden country.

Following centuries of colonial rule by countries including Portugal, Britain and Italy, Mogadishu became the capital of an independent Somalia in 1960. Less than 10 years later, a military group led by Major General Muhammad Siad Barre seized power and declared Somalia a socialist state. A drought in the mid-1970s combined with an unsuccessful rebellion by ethnic Somalis in a neighboring province of Ethiopia to deprive many of food and shelter.

By 1981, close to 2 million of the country's inhabitants were homeless. Though a peace accord was signed with Ethiopia in 1988, fighting increased between rival clans within Somalia, and in January 1991 Barre was forced to flee the capital. Over the next 23 months, Somalia's civil war killed some 50,000 people; another 300,000 died of starvation as United Nations peacekeeping forces struggled in vain to restore order and provide relief amid the chaos of war.

In early December 1992, outgoing U.S. President George H.W. Bush sent the contingent of Marines to Mogadishu as part of a mission dubbed Operation Restore Hope. Backed by the U.S. troops, international aid workers were soon able to restore food distribution and other humanitarian aid operations. Sporadic violence continued, including the murder of 24 U.N. soldiers from Pakistan in 1993. As a result, the U.N. authorized the arrest of General Mohammed Farah Aidid, leader of one of the rebel clans. On October 3, 1993, during an attempt to make the arrest, rebels shot down two of the U.S. Army's Black Hawk helicopters and killed 18 American soldiers.

As horrified TV viewers watched images of the bloodshed -- including footage of Aidid's supporters dragging the body of one dead soldier through the streets of Mogadishu, cheering -- President Bill Clinton immediately gave the order for all American soldiers to withdraw from Somalia by March 31, 1994. Other Western nations followed suit. When the last U.N. peacekeepers left in 1995, ending a mission that had cost more than \$2 billion, Mogadishu still lacked a functioning government. A ceasefire accord signed in Kenya in 2002 failed to put a stop to the violence, though a new parliament was convened in 2004.

Executive Mansion is renamed the White House

On October 12, 1901, the Executive Mansion, the president’s official residence and workplace, was renamed the White House.

In 1792, President George Washington held a public competition to find a design for the president’s home and office in Washington, DC. Thomas Jefferson was among those that submitted designs, but James Hoban created the winning plan.



Hoban’s design incorporated features of several Irish and French country homes. The cornerstone was laid on October 13, 1792. Though Washington oversaw the building’s construction, he retired from the presidency before it was completed. On November 1, 1800, John Adams and his wife became the first presidential couple to live in the building, though it was still unfinished.

At this time, the building was often referred to as the President’s House. Over time, it would also be called the President’s Palace and the Presidential Mansion. Many opposed the use of the word palace because it had indicated royalty. The first known use of the term “White House” appeared around 1811.

In fact, there has been a popular myth that the building was first called the White House after the War of 1812. During that war, the British burned much of Washington, DC, including the President’s House. A common tale claimed that after American forces reclaimed the capital and worked on repairing it, they painted the building white to cover the burn marks. While there are records of the building being called the White House before the war, its use did increase after the war.

While some would start to call it the White House, the official name had been the Executive Mansion since 1810. This was the phrase that appeared on letterheads and official documents.

That name would remain in official use for over 90 years. Then on October 12, 1901, President Theodore Roosevelt decided to officially change the name to that one used for decades. He ordered that all White House stationary now read “White House – Washington.” Though the stationary would have a slight change, with Washington being centered under White House, the name has remained in use ever since.



Displaying Military Service Symbols

Military service flags, insignias, etc., should be displayed in the following order above (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and then Space Force.

POW / MIA Flag -- Official Display Days

Public Law 105-85 (Nov. 16, 1997) indicates the days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. Post Offices are required to display the POW/MIA flag. The days are: Armed Forces Day, May 15, 2021 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 31, 2021 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, Sept. 18, 2020 (third Friday in Sept.); and Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Dorie Miller awarded Navy Cross for valor in combat



U.S. # 4443 – from the *Distinguished Sailors* issue. U.S. sailor Dorie Miller died on November 24, 1943, during the Battle of Makin. He had previously survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, for which he'd earned a Navy Cross.

Doris "Dorie" Miller was born on October 12, 1919, in Waco, Texas. The third of four sons, he worked on the family farm, was a good student, and played fullback on his high school's football team. He eventually dropped out of school and joined the Navy on September 16, 1939.

At the time, few positions were open to African Americans, so Miller was made a Mess Attendant. He served aboard several ships early on, including the *Pyro* and the *Nevada*. In January 1940, Miller was part of the crew of the *USS West Virginia*, which was sent to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

December 7, 1941, began for Miller with a normal morning's work of collecting laundry. That changed suddenly as Japanese planes attacked the American fleet at Pearl Harbor. When the alarm for general quarters rang, Miller raced to his battle station, but a torpedo had destroyed the anti-aircraft gun there.

Miller was a large, strong man – he was the heavyweight-boxing champion on the ship. With his battle station ruined, he put that strength to use helping an officer carry wounded sailors to safety, including the captain of the *West Virginia*.

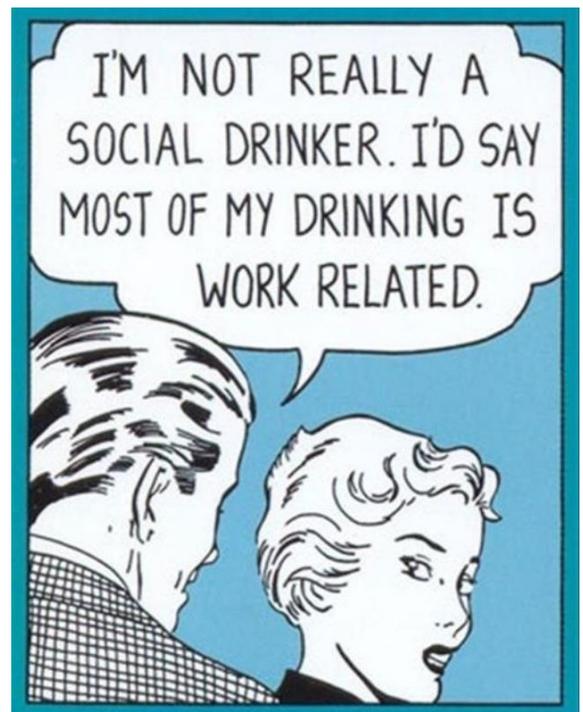
With no other wounded in sight, Miller then manned a .50-caliber anti-aircraft gun – even though he'd never been trained in its use. That didn't prevent him from shooting down three confirmed Japanese planes, with three more unconfirmed. As torpedoes blew through the deck, the crew was ordered to abandon ship. Miller dove overboard as the *West Virginia* settled to the harbor floor.

In May of the following year, Miller received a Navy Cross for his courage. He was the first African American to be awarded the medal and was called one of the "first US heroes of World War II."



U.S. # 5066 – *The Navy Cross is the second-highest Navy award for military valor in combat.* After receiving his award, Miller was promoted to Mess Attendant First Class. He then went on a war bond tour before returning to service in May 1943 to serve aboard the *USS Liscome Bay*. He was also featured on a U.S. Navy recruiting poster titled "Above and beyond the call of duty."

On November 20, 1943, Miller's ship participated in the Battle of Makin Island. Then on November 24, a Japanese torpedo struck the ship, leading the aircraft bomb magazine to explode a few minutes later. Of the crew of more than 900, only 272 survived. Miller was among the two-thirds of the ship's crew listed as "presumed dead." His family later held a memorial service in Waco. A number of memorials, buildings, and other sites have been named in Miller's honor.



**You can join American Legion 1919
for \$45 a year.**

Requires prior service in the U.S. military

End of Prohibition was on December 5, 1933



U.S. # 3184c – from the Celebrate the Century Series. On December 5, 1933, the 21st Amendment was ratified, ending prohibition after nearly 15 years. On January 16, 1919, the Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified. The temperance movement's followers believed alcohol caused immoral behavior and various social ills. The amendment was their greatest triumph, prohibiting the "manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquor" in the United States.

Tens of millions of Americans thought Prohibition would be a cure for the nation's poverty, crime, and violence. Evangelist Billy Sunday held a mock funeral for alcohol stating that "the reign of tears is over... we will turn our prisons into factories and our jails into storehouses and corncribs." Americans were so convinced that alcohol was the cause of almost all crime that some communities even sold their jails!

The facts turned out to be much different from the hopes and dreams, however. Prohibition actually led to an increase in crime, and the organization of crime. Many citizens broke the law, and as crime increased, the courts and prison systems were stretched to breaking. Instead of reducing prison populations, as those who supported Prohibition hoped, the federal expenses for prisons increased 1,000%. Worst of all, many found it easier to turn to substances like opium, cocaine, and other dangerous drugs for relaxation, starting yet another problem.

This crime wave was most evident in cities such as Chicago, where illegal bars, called "speakeasies," were a common sight. These bars were often protected by corrupt police officers, and thus patrons had little fear of being punished for their actions. Chicago's huge boom in organized crime was led by Al Capone. Capone was the leader of a \$60-million-a-year illegal liquor ring. This running of alcohol was often punctuated by violence. The most striking example of this was the St. Valentine's Day Massacre of 1929, when four members of Capone's gang, disguised as police officers, shot down seven members of a rival gang.

Because of these unintended results, public opinion began to change from prohibiting alcohol sales to legalizing them again. In 1933, America was in the midst of the Great Depression and Franklin Roosevelt became president. He knew the country needed immediate relief and a plan for recovery in the future. FDR pledged to help the "forgotten man at the bottom of the economic pyramid." His plan was known as the New Deal, and he began implementing it as soon as he came to office.

Beer stamps were first sold in 1866 to help the government recover from the Civil War. March 22, 1933, Roosevelt signed into law the Beer and Wine Revenue Act, which placed a federal tax on alcohol. He stated the law "was of the highest importance" as it would bring in needed tax dollars to help pay for the New Deal programs that were to help Americans during the Depression.

Just prior to this, in February 1933, Congress proposed the 21st Amendment, to repeal prohibition. The issue was then sent to the states, which each held their own state ratifying conventions. Michigan was the first state to ratify the amendment on April 10. On December 5, 1933, Utah became the 36th state to ratify the 21st Amendment, securing the 3/4ths majority needed to pass it. The repeal officially became effective 10 days later on December 15, but many people began openly drinking upon news of the ratification.

Fermented Juice stamp issued as a result of the Beer and Wine Revenue Act. After this, states were given the authority to make their own laws concerning alcohol sales. And the federal government increased its revenue by taxing all types of alcohol.

VFW dues are \$35 per year, or 9-1/2 cents a day

December 8, 1969

President Nixon announces Vietnam War is ending

At a news conference, President Richard Nixon says that the Vietnam War is coming to a “conclusion as a result of the plan that we have instituted.” Nixon had announced at a conference in Midway in June that the United States would be following a new program he termed “Vietnamization.”

Under the provisions of this program, South Vietnamese forces would be built up so they could assume more responsibility for the war. As the South Vietnamese forces became more capable, U.S. forces would be withdrawn from combat and returned to the United States. In his speech, Nixon



pointed out that he had already ordered the withdrawal of 60,000 U.S. troops. Concurrently, he had issued orders to provide the South Vietnamese with more modern equipment and weapons and increased the advisory effort, all as part of the “Vietnamization” program. As Nixon was holding his press conference, troops from the U.S. 25th Infantry Division (less the Second Brigade) began departing from Vietnam.

Nixon’s pronouncements that the war was ending proved premature. In April 1970, he expanded the war by ordering U.S. and South Vietnamese troops to attack communist sanctuaries in Cambodia. The resulting outcry across the United States led to a number of antiwar demonstrations -- it was at one of these demonstrations that the National Guard shot four protesters at Kent State.

Although Nixon did continue to decrease American troop strength in South Vietnam, the fighting continued. In 1972, the North Vietnamese launched a massive invasion of South Vietnam. South Vietnamese forces reeled under the attack but prevailed with the help of U.S. airpower.

Unfortunately, this did not end the war for the Vietnamese and the fighting continued until April 1975 when Saigon fell to the communists.

First U.S. helicopters arrive in South Vietnam

The ferry carrier, USNS *Core*, arrives in Saigon with the first U.S. helicopter unit on December 11, 1961. This contingent included 33 Vertol H-21C Shawnee helicopters and 400 air and ground crewmen to operate and maintain them. Their assignment was to airlift South Vietnamese Army troops into combat.

The first U.S. helicopter is shot down in Vietnam. It was one of the 15 helicopters ferrying South Vietnamese Army troops into battle near the village of Hong My in the Mekong Delta.

The major production Model 43 or H-21C (later the CH-21C) first took to the air in 1956. To the Army it was the Shawnee, built as a troop transport and cargo carrier. The CH-21C carried much of the load in the Army’s opening phase of involvement in South Vietnam.



Army aviators were laying the groundwork for later Army use of air-mobility by hauling ARVN troops to and from battle zones.

In Vietnam, Vertol’s tandem rotor trucks were equipped with wheels, floats, or skis, so as to accommodate a multi-role mission; however, the Shawnee was sluggish and therefore made a presentable target for Viet Cong gunners.

Attempts to arm the Shawnee saw .50 caliber machine guns mounted in the nose and doorways. A pair of .50 caliber machine guns was fashioned on skis beneath the fuselage. Another attempt at armament featured a ball turret from a B-29 mounted into the ventral side of the fuselage.

The blast effect was reputed to have damaged the undersides of the Shawnee and the idea was dropped. To limit potential losses, UH-1 Huey gunships were assigned as escorts. Total production amounted to 707 copies, of which 334 were C models.

Honorable Discharge – The “Ruptured Duck”

On November 29, 1944, the War Department officially adopted the honorable discharge emblem. Some of the earliest plans for a multi-service honorable discharge patch originated in 1919 following World War I. The purpose was to allow honorably discharged individuals to wear their uniforms for a period of time after leaving the service if they couldn't afford civilian clothes.



The original design was similar to the eagle on the Presidential Seal but was changed in 1943 by Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. Their new design pictured an eagle preparing for flight, called “The Eagle Has Flown.” This was meant to coincide with the first major Allied offensives against the Axis Powers in the Pacific and Atlantic. The Army and Navy officially adopted the honorable discharge emblem on November 29, 1944, with the issuance of War Department Circular # 454.

The emblem is also known by another name – “ruptured duck.” This name is credited to actress Hedy Lamarr, wife of Friedrich Mandl, the owner of several German arms factories. According to legend, Lamarr created countless revolutionary ideas that improved weapon design and production, which made her husband jealous. Fearing for her life, Lamarr fled to America where she described her escape as a hazardous flight on a “segeltuch gebrochen” or broken bird. The more literal translation of the phrase is “ruptured duck.”



Hedy Lamarr

When women working in the manufacturing plant that produced the honorable discharge pins heard Lamarr's story, they began labeling the boxes “ruptured ducks.” This was partially in honor of her story, and also because the policy at the time required that boxes be labeled something other than what they contained, to confuse enemy agents.

The emblem is worn above the right front pocket on all outer uniforms. Honorable discharge is awarded to those members of the armed forces who receive a rating between good and excellent for their service. An honorable discharge is usually given to those who complete their term of service, and do not get discharged due to misconduct.

VFW Post 5864 Silent Auction
Friday, January 20, 2023
Starting at 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

We will accept any items except clothing. If you have something you are not using, donate it to the VFW – we can use it to go toward a new walk-in cooler, or a number of other items that are badly needed.

Thank you!

Ed Bichaukas, 81, U.S. Army retiree died Dec. 14

Edward "Ed" Bichaukas, Jr., age 81, passed away December 14th, 2022. Ed was born May 26, 1941, to the late Edward L Bichaukas Sr., and Katherine R. Kershefski, in Wilkes Barre, PA. He moved to Indiana in 1980 when he retired from the U.S. Army. He had a 21-year career in the Army followed by a second career at the U.S. Postal Service in Indianapolis.

Ed was preceded in death by his wife, Mary (Glasser) Bichaukas. He is survived by his brother, Joe Bichaukas (Sharon); his sister, Connie Landmesser (Bob); his sister, Lenora Masters (Max); his daughters, Rose Bichaukas (David) and Kathy McDonald (Dennis), his son, Edward L. Bichaukas III; his step-daughter, Karen Sharp; his step-sons, Philip Glasser (Julie), Michael Glasser, and George (Greg) Glasser; his granddaughter, Megan Decker (Aaron); his grandson, Daniel McDonald; great-grandson, Eli Decker.



After retirement from the Postal Service Ed became an active member of American Legion Post 252, in Greenwood, IN., where he served as Adjutant for the last 12 years. He was also a member of the VFW Post 5864 in Greenwood, IN., a supporter of the Disabled Veterans National foundation and the Boys and

Girls Club of Indianapolis.

Ed was a natural leader and was loved and respected by all who knew him. He was a dedicated fisherman and a huge Notre Dame football fan. Visitation was held at the Indiana Funeral Care on Main Street in Greenwood on Dec. 26. Ed was interred at the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Madison, IN., on Dec. 27.

Ed had full military honors at Madison. The Greenwood Honor Guard posted his flags and performed a prayer and salute at the service.

American Legion flowers were ordered, and the VFW flag case was presented to his next of kin.

Paxlovid reduces risk of symptoms of Long COVID

The VA released a study showing the medication Paxlovid can reduce the risk of symptoms of "Long COVID," which affects millions of people in the U.S. and around the world. In the interest of public health, the study, "Nirmatrelvir and the risk of post-acute sequelae of COVID-19," was released before peer-review on the pre-print server medRxiv.

The study, which included more than 56,000 Veterans with a positive SARS-CoV-2 test, showed that those given the oral antiviral medication in the first 5 days of a COVID-19 infection had a 25% decreased risk of developing 10 of 12 different Long COVID conditions studied — including heart disease, blood disorders, fatigue, liver disease, kidney disease, muscle pain, neurocognitive impairment, and shortness of breath.

The decreased risk of long COVID associated with Paxlovid treatment exists regardless of whether it was a participant's first infection or a reinfection and regardless of whether the participant was unvaccinated, vaccinated or boosted.

"Paxlovid reduces the risk of severe COVID-19 in the acute phase, and now, we have evidence that it can help reduce the risk of long COVID," said Dr. Ziyad Al-Aly, chief of research and development at the VA St. Louis Health Care System, who led the study. "This treatment could be an important asset to address the serious issue of long COVID."

In December 2021, the FDA approved Paxlovid for COVID-positive patients at a high risk for severe COVID-19. Paxlovid is a combination of two medications -- nirmatrelvir and ritonavir. Paxlovid has been shown to lower the risk of hospitalization and death COVID-19 in infected patients. Paxlovid has to be prescribed within five days of symptoms, and it is important for individuals to contact their health care providers if they test positive for COVID-19 to see if they would benefit from being prescribed lifesaving oral antiviral treatments. Throughout the pandemic, VA has conducted ground-breaking research on COVID and Long COVID.

Flu Shots Near You

It's time to get an annual flu shot via VA healthcare

Getting a flu shot protects you, your family, and your community. And if you need, you now can safely get vaccinated for COVID at the same time you get a flu shot – one visit, two vaccines. (Call ahead to make sure your community provider has COVID vaccine available.)

Eligible Veterans can get a no-cost flu shot from a nearby VA clinic or within your community. To find a flu shot near you, visit our VA locator. You can choose a nearby VA facility, or an in-network pharmacy, or an urgent care location. Simply type in your zip code!



Flu Shots in Your Community

No-cost flu vaccines are available at retail pharmacies and urgent care locations **now through April 30, 2023**. Find an in-network community care provider by choosing a location in the drop-down menu of the VA locator. Choose from one of nearly 70,000 in-network retail pharmacies and urgent care/walk-in locations to get your flu shot.

The provider must be part of VA's community care network:

- Retail pharmacies include most supermarket and local pharmacies.
- Many urgent care locations offer walk-in care.
- Call ahead to see if a pharmacy participates in the VA flu shot program.
- Call ahead to see if a pharmacy offers a specific flu vaccine that you want.
- If you receive a flu shot from a non-network provider, you may be liable for the cost of the vaccine.

Who can get a flu shot at a community provider?

You are eligible to receive a flu shot at an in-network retail pharmacy or urgent care location if:

- You are enrolled in the VA health care system, AND,
- You received care from a VA provider or an in-network community care provider within the past 24 months.

How do I know if I am eligible?

- Call 800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) Select option 1 (urgent care information) Select option 3 (urgent care information) Select option 1 (check urgent care eligibility) The system will verify your eligibility for the community urgent care benefit, which includes the flu vaccination.
- Or call your local VA facility
- Your state may have age and health-related restrictions.

NOTE: Family members and beneficiaries are not eligible.

Where can I get a no-cost flu shot?

To locate a VA facility, in-network urgent care or retail pharmacy near you, use the **VA locator**,

- Enter the city, state, or postal ZIP code for your location.
- Choose a Facility Type from the drop down:
- Select VA health for VA medical center locations
- Select Urgent Care, for "All in-network urgent care"
- Select Community pharmacies (in VA's network)
- Click search
- Choose a provider

What should I know before I go?

Before you go:

- Call to ensure the urgent care provider or retail pharmacy offers the no-cost flu shot to Veterans and ask about the vaccine type you are seeking (some flu vaccines are for people aged 65 and older).
- Bring the billing information located **here** (print it or take a screenshot on your phone).

Get your annual flu shot . . .

■ Continued from page 35

When you arrive:

- Tell the provider you are a Veteran enrolled in VA health care.
- Tell them you would like to receive the flu shot paid for by VA.
- Show your government-issued ID and the billing information located **here**. (Pull up this page when you're getting your flu shot.)
- There is no cost to you if your visit is only for a flu shot.
- You should not pay a copay if you only get a flu shot.
- For assistance with in-network community flu shots, call 877-881-7618 or your local VA medical facility.

Who updates my medical record?

The community provider will send your flu shot information to VA. VA will update your medical record. You can also request a copy of your flu shot record and provide it to your VA provider.

VA launches largest liver cancer screening study

In 2023, the Department of Veterans Affairs will embark on a study to determine the most effective screening technique for liver cancer, a deadly cancer that can be cured if caught early. This is the largest clinical trial in history related to liver cancer screening.

The study will determine whether detecting liver cancer earlier with abbreviated MRI can make a difference for patients' risk of death. Better known as **PREMIUM** — **PRE**venting Liver Cancer **M**ortality through **I**maging with **U**ltrasound vs. **M**RI — the trial's objective is to determine whether screening with abbreviated magnetic resonance imaging is better than ultrasound, the current standard of care in reducing liver cancer deaths in Veterans.

"This type of large, multicenter trial could only be conducted in VA? the largest integrated health care system in the country," said Assistant Under Secretary of Health for Discovery, Education and Affiliate Networks Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D. "VA has a high prevalence of patients with advanced liver disease who could benefit from screening for liver cancer. The study has the potential to change clinical practice for tens of thousands of Veterans and non-Veterans alike, and it could answer key questions about liver cancer screening that have been debated for more than three decades."

This effort is a part of the Biden-Harris Administration's Cancer Moonshot to care for those with cancer and end cancer as we know it. Liver cancer is the sixth leading cause of cancer-related death in the U.S. The PREMIUM trial will recruit 4,700 Veterans with cirrhosis (liver scarring caused by several different conditions) from 47 VA medical centers.

VA's Veterans Health Administration is the largest health care provider in the U.S. for patients with cirrhosis, a leading risk factor for liver cancer. Enrollment will begin in 2023 and follow participants over an 8-year period. This is the first clinical trial to compare the two screening methods (ultrasound and MRI) for effect on patient death.

Ultrasound has long been the standard of care for liver cancer screening. However, its quality can vary significantly depending on the person doing the procedure and the body type of the patient. MRI is the gold standard for detecting liver cancer once a mass is detected on ultrasound. Abbreviated MRI, a much shorter procedure than standard MRI, has shown promise in detecting liver cancer at early stages.

The trial is led by co-chairs Dr. George Ioannou of the VA Puget Sound Healthcare System and Dr. Tamar Taddei of the VA Connecticut Healthcare System, sponsored by the VA Cooperative Studies Program, and coordinated by the West Haven CSP Coordinating Center.

For more information, visit the [PREMIUM clinical trial site](#).

Flying Tigers first combat was on Dec. 20, 1941

U.S. # 2187 was issued on Chennault's 100th birthday. On Dec. 20, 1941, the Flying Tigers engaged in their first battle.

The Flying Tigers were the brainchild of Claire L. Chennault, a retired U.S. Army Air Corps officer. Chennault had been working in China as Chiang Kai-shek's military adviser in 1937 when the Second Sino-Japanese War broke out. He then worked as director of the Chinese Air Force flight school in Kunming.



In this role, Chennault trained Chinese Air Force pilots and flew on occasional scouting missions. Up until the summer of 1940, the Soviet Union had provided fighter and bomber squadrons but withdrew them after that time. So that year Chennault returned to the U.S. to request that the U.S. provide pilots and planes to aid in the Chinese cause.

After President Franklin Roosevelt approved Chennault's request in April 1941, he spent several months overseeing the purchase of 100 Curtiss P-40 fighters and recruiting 100 pilots and 200 ground crew and administrative workers. Together, they would become the American Volunteer Group (AVG), nicknamed the Flying Tigers.

The pilots consisted of 60 men from the Navy and Marine Corps and 40 from the Army Air Corps. Each one was discharged from their service and hired by a private military contractor, though they would ultimately work closely with the U.S. Army.

Chennault set up a flight school for the pilots in China because it turned out some had lied about their flight experience and needed pursuit training. Chennault also pushed a different approach to air combat based on what he'd seen previously in China. He ordered his pilots to work in teams with an altitude advantage and use a "dive-and-zoom" technique.

By November, the pilots were all trained and most of the planes arrived in China. The pilots were divided into three squadrons – 1st Squadron (Adam and Eves), 2nd Squadron (Panda Bears), and 3rd Squadron (Hell's Angels). Their first mission was to protect the Burma Road, a vital supply route for China.

The Flying Tigers first saw combat on December 20, 1941, while protecting the Burma Road. Members of the 1st and 2nd squadrons encountered 10 Japanese bombers near Kunming. They shot down three of them and prevented them from bombing their target. And after that, the Japanese abandoned any further raids on Kunming. Three days later, the 3rd squadron entered combat defending Rangoon. Though the Japanese managed to bomb the city, the Flying Tigers shot down 35 enemy planes.

The Japanese then launched their Burma Campaign in January 1942. The Flying Tigers were largely outnumbered but managed to inflict high casualties on the Japanese. By January 24, the Flying Tigers had shot down 73 Japanese planes, while losing just five of their own. However, as the fighting wore on through February, the Tigers lost a number of planes and were down to just 38 aircraft. Even as their number of aircraft dwindled, the Tigers continued to harass the Japanese and even prevented an advance on Kunming.

Pappy Boyington was a member of the Flying Tigers and shot down at least three enemy planes. By June 1942, members of the new USAAF 23rd Fighter group began to arrive in China to replace the Tigers. The Tigers flew their last mission on July 4, the same day they were disbanded. **In all, the Tigers were credited with shooting down 297 enemy aircraft.**

Fourteen Tigers were killed in action, captured, or disappeared, two died of wounds from bombing raids, and six were killed in accidents. Because they served as part of the Chinese air force, they received Chinese awards – the Order of the Cloud and Banner and the Chinese Air Force Medal.

Fifty years after their service, the Flying Tigers were officially recognized as members of the U.S. military and awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, and all received a Distinguished Flying Cross.

December 20, 1989

The U.S. invades Panama to overthrow Noriega

The United States invades Panama in an attempt to overthrow military dictator Manuel Noriega, who had been indicted in the United States on drug trafficking charges and was accused of suppressing democracy in Panama and endangering U.S. nationals. Noriega's Panamanian Defense Forces (PDF) were promptly crushed, forcing the dictator to seek asylum with the Vatican in Panama City, where he surrendered on January 3, 1990.

In 1970, Noriega, a rising figure in the Panamanian military, was recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to assist in the U.S. struggle against the spread of communism in Central America. Noriega became involved in drug trafficking and in 1977 was removed from the CIA payroll.

After the Marxist Sandinista government came to power in 1979, Noriega was brought back into the CIA fold. In 1983, he became military dictator of Panama.

Noriega supported U.S. initiatives in Central America and in turn was praised by the White House, even though a Senate committee concluded in 1983 that Panama was a major center for drug trafficking. In 1984, Noriega committed fraud in Panama's presidential election in favor of Nicolás Ardito Barletta, who became a puppet president. Still, Noriega enjoyed the continued support of the Reagan administration, which valued his aid in its efforts to overthrow Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

In 1986, just months before the outbreak of the Iran-Contra affair, allegations arose concerning Noriega's history as a drug trafficker, money launderer, and CIA employee. Most shocking, however, were reports that Noriega had acted as a double agent for Cuba's intelligence agency and the Sandinistas. The U.S. government disowned Noriega, and in 1988 he was indicted by federal grand juries in Tampa and Miami on drug-smuggling and money-laundering charges.

Tensions between Americans in the Panama Canal Zone and Noriega's Panamanian Defense Forces grew, and in 1989 the dictator annulled a presidential election that would have made Guillermo Endara president. President George H. Bush ordered additional U.S. troops to the Panama Canal Zone, and on December 16 an off-duty U.S. Marine was shot to death at a PDF roadblock. The next day, President Bush authorized "Operation Just Cause"—the U.S. invasion of Panama to overthrow Noriega.

On December 20, 9,000 U.S. troops joined the 12,000 U.S. military personnel already in Panama and were met with scattered resistance from the PDF. By December 24, the PDF was crushed, and the United States held most of the country. Endara was made president by U.S. forces, and he ordered the PDF dissolved. On January 3, Noriega was arrested by U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency agents.

U.S. invasion of Panama cost the lives of only 23 U.S. soldiers and three U.S. civilians. Some 150 PDF soldiers were killed along with an estimated 500 Panamanian civilians. The Organization of American States and the European Parliament both formally protested the invasion, which they condemned as a flagrant violation of international law.

In 1992, Noriega was found guilty on eight counts of drug trafficking, racketeering, and money laundering, marking the first time in history that a U.S. jury convicted a foreign leader of criminal charges. He was sentenced to 40 years in federal prison, but after extradition to and incarceration in Panama, died in a Panama City hospital on May 29, 2017.



Link to VA Benefits for Disabled Veterans

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gW9Qc4>

VFW Auxiliary Eligibility



* Step – and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents, and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.

December 23, 1968

Crew of USS Pueblo released by North Korea

The crew and captain of the U.S. intelligence gathering ship *Pueblo* are released after 11 months imprisonment by the government of North Korea. The ship, and its 83-man crew, was seized by North Korean warships on January 23 and charged with intruding into North Korean waters.

The seizure infuriated U.S. President Lyndon Johnson. Later, he claimed that he strongly suspected (although it could not be proven) that the incident with the *Pueblo*, coming just a few days before the communist Tet Offensive in South Vietnam, was a coordinated diversion. At the time, however, Johnson did little.

The Tet Offensive, which began just a week after the ship was taken by North Korea, exploded on the front pages and televisions of America, and seemed to paralyze the Johnson administration. To deal with the *Pueblo* incident, the United States urged the U.N.'s Security Council to condemn the action and pressured the Soviet Union to negotiate with the North Koreans for the ship's release.

It was 11 long months before the *Pueblo's* men were freed. Both captain and crew were horribly treated and later recounted their torture at the hands of the North Koreans. With no help in sight, Captain Lloyd Bucher reluctantly signed a document confessing that the ship was spying on North Korea. With this propaganda victory in hand, the North Koreans released the prisoners and also returned the body of one crewman who died in captivity.

Some Americans criticized Johnson for not taking decisive retaliatory action against North Korea; others argued that he should have used every diplomatic means at his disposal to secure a quick release for the crew. In any case, the event was another blow to Johnson and America's Cold War foreign policy.

December 20, 1957

Rock and Roll star Elvis Presley is drafted

On December 20, 1957, while spending the Christmas holidays at Graceland, his newly purchased Tennessee mansion, rock-and-roll star Elvis Presley receives his draft notice for the United States Army.

With a suggestive style -- one writer called him "Elvis the Pelvis" -- a hit movie, *Love Me Tender*, and a string of gold records including "Heartbreak Hotel," "Blue Suede Shoes," "Hound Dog" and "Don't Be Cruel," Presley had become a national icon, and the world's first bona fide rock-and-roll star, by the end of 1956. As the Beatles' John Lennon once famously remarked: "Before Elvis, there was nothing."



The following year, at the peak of his career, Presley received his draft notice for a two-year stint in the U.S. Army. Fans sent tens of thousands of letters to the army asking for him to be spared, but Elvis would have none of it. He received one deferment--during which he finished working on his movie *King Creole* -- before being sworn in as an army private in Memphis on March 24, 1958.

After basic training -- which included an emergency leave to see his beloved mother, Gladys, before she died in August 1958 -- Presley sailed to Europe on the USS *General Randall*. For the next 18 months, he served in Company D, 32nd Tank Battalion, 3rd Armor Division in Friedberg, Germany, where he attained the rank of sergeant.

For the rest of his service, he shared an off-base residence with his father, grandmother, and some Memphis friends. After working during the day, Presley returned home at night to host frequent parties and impromptu jam sessions. At one of these, an army friend of Presley's introduced him to 14-year-old Priscilla Beaulieu, whom Elvis would marry some years later.

Founding of the Civil Air Patrol in December 1941

On December 1, 1941, the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), was established in Washington, DC. Unpaid volunteers formed the CAP, using privately owned aircraft and their own funds to support the military.

World War I pilot Gill Robb Wilson was one of the first to propose a civilian aviation organization to aid the military. After visiting Germany in 1936, he became convinced that a war was coming, and that such an organization could play an important role.



Two years later, Milton Knight created the Civilian Air Reserve (CAR) in Ohio, which was soon followed by other similar civilian aviation units that trained to defend American soil.

In 1941, Wilson brought his proposal for the Civilian Air Defense Services (CADS) to Fiorello LaGuardia, director of the Office of Civilian Defense. The proposal was approved by the Departments of Commerce, Navy, and War, and the Civil Air Patrol officially began operating on December 1, 1941. Existing units such as CAR and CADS were soon merged into the new national organization. CAP was publicly announced on December 8 and recruitment began.

It wasn't long before the CAP's services were needed. German submarines started attacking American merchant vessels on the East Coast in January 1942. With the military mobilizing to fight overseas, they couldn't spare forces to defend the coast. So, the CAP was called in to patrol the coast, reporting enemy activity and if necessary, intervening and defending against attacks. Between March 1942 and August 1943, the CAP operated 21 coastal patrol bases.

The CAP's activities didn't go unnoticed, and on April 29, 1943, President Franklin Roosevelt transferred the service from the Office of Civilian Defense to the Department of War. Over the course of the war, CAP flew a variety of missions including anti-submarine patrol and warfare, border patrol, and delivery services.

They flew an estimated 24 million miles, spotted 173 enemy U-boats, and dropped 82 bombs. In addition to coastal and border patrols, CAP conducted over 24,000 hours of search and rescue operations, transported over 1,500 tons of mail and cargo and military troops, transported blood for the Red Cross, supported war bond drives, and aided salvage collection drives. Over the course of the war, 68 CAP pilots lost their lives.



In 1946, President Harry Truman incorporated CAP as a nonprofit organization of "volunteers and declared to be of a benevolent nature, never again to be involved in direct combat activities." And on May 26, 1948, it was made the civilian auxiliary of the newly established U.S. Air Force. In the years after World War II, During the Cold War, CAP conducted search and rescue mission and its radio networks were used to respond to natural disasters. CAP also helped train the Air Force's Ground Observer Corps, tracked satellites, and monitored nuclear fallout.

In 1979, CAP's role was expanded again, flying military training route surveys and in 1985, it started going on drug patrols for the police. CAP also carried tissue and organ transplants for the Red Cross and worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency during several emergencies. The day after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, CAP's Cessna 172 took the first high-resolution photos of the World Trade Center site. With the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, CAP received increased funding and more technologically advanced equipment. In 2014, CAP's World War II members were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

Soviets attack Chinese policy toward Vietnam

Ton Dec. 22, 1971, the Soviet Union accused China of backing U.S. policies in Vietnam, an accusation that illustrates the growing rift between the two communist superpowers. China, which had previously taken a hard line toward negotiations between Hanoi and Washington, softened its position by endorsing a North Vietnamese peace plan for ending the war.

Although the peace proposal was unacceptable to the United States, the fact that China advocated negotiations between Hanoi and Washington was significant.

VALife to provide up to \$40,000 in insurance at a low cost

VA will launch new life insurance program to make life insurance available to more Veterans

On Jan. 1, 2023, the Department of Veterans Affairs will open enrollment for Veterans Affairs Life Insurance -- the first new VA life insurance program for Veterans in more than 50 years -- extending VALife access to millions of Veterans.

VALife will provide up to \$40,000 of whole life insurance for all Veterans, age 80 or under, with service-connected disabilities rated from 0-100%. Acceptance in the program is guaranteed, and no medical underwriting is required.

It will also allow Veterans to complete their application online, receive instant decisions, and perform self-service functions — including electronic payments and beneficiary updates.

“All Veterans deserve to know that their families will have financial support when they pass away,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “VALife is a critical step toward making that goal a reality, helping VA provide more life insurance to more Veterans than ever before in our nation’s history.”

VALife will increase Veteran access to life insurance in several ways:

- **There is no time limit to apply:** VA’s existing life insurance program for service-disabled Veterans, Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance, required most Veterans to apply for insurance within 2 years of receiving their disability rating. VALife has no such time constraint for Veterans aged 80 and under.
- **There is no health requirement to apply:** Under S-DVI, Veterans had to be in good health except for service-connected conditions. VALife has no medical evaluation tied to it.
- **Veterans are eligible for more coverage than before:** Under S-DVI, most Veterans could only receive up to \$10,000 of coverage. Under VALife, all Veterans are eligible for up to \$40,000 of coverage.

VALife premium rates are competitive with, or better than, similar coverage available in the private sector, and \$40,000 of coverage is more coverage than other like products offered. The policy will build cash value after the first two years of coverage when the face value goes into effect. If a Veteran passes away during this two-year waiting period, the named beneficiary will receive all premiums paid plus interest. Unlike S-DVI, Veterans will *not* be able to get a waiver for premiums.

VA currently serves nearly 6 million Veterans, service members and their families with more than \$1.2 trillion of insurance. Veterans currently enrolled in S-DVI will have the option to keep their current coverage or switch to VALife. These Veterans can apply for VALife at any time after Jan. 1, 2023; however, if they apply between Jan. 1, 2023, and Dec. 31, 2025, they can also retain coverage under S-DVI during the two-year waiting period for the VALife death benefit to go into effect.

Veterans will no longer be able to apply for S-DVI after VALife launches Jan. 1, 2023. However, eligible Veterans still have the opportunity to apply for the program between now and Dec. 31, 2022.

VFW allows authorized guests to attend meetings

The 2022 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Podium Edition of the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, effective September 2, 2021, allows guests to attend Regular, Special, and Committee Meetings.



Guests. Regular, Special, and Committee Meetings; Quorum; Authorized Attendees. With the approval of the Post Commander . . . any visiting member or guest may attend a Post / Committee meeting. Such visiting member or guest shall have no voice unless recognized by the Post Commander and shall have no voting privileges.

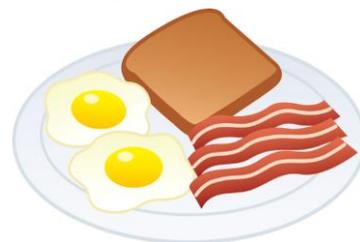
Greenwood VFW Post has had a few individuals attend a meeting for a specific reason, however, not to request money for a project they are working on.

Breakfast served at VFW on Saturdays at 8 a.m.

The VFW serves breakfast every Saturday morning from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. If you haven't been, you are missing a great meal, especially the biscuits and gravy.

A breakfast consisting of two (2) eggs, two (2) strips of bacon, one (1) biscuit and sausage gravy, and potatoes, and toast will cost \$9.

Sides, some of which have previously been included in the entire breakfast will cost -- Orange Juice or Milk, \$1.50 each; two (2) small Pancakes, \$3.25; two (2) eggs, \$3.00; three (3) Strips of Bacon, \$2.75; Sausage Gravy and two (2) Biscuits, \$3.25.



Western Omelets and Ham & Cheese Omelets are also available. It's a great way to start the day.

Through VA's Banking Program

More than 200,000 Veterans and beneficiaries have switched to safer, more secure payments

Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that its Veterans Benefits Banking Program has converted more than 200,000 Veterans and beneficiaries from paper checks to direct deposit for receiving their VA benefits payments.

Switching from paper checks to direct deposit helps protect Veterans and beneficiaries from fraud and ensure that they receive their earned benefits in a timely manner. Research has shown paper checks are 16-times more likely to be lost, stolen, or manipulated than a payment made through direct deposit. Paper checks are also 22-times more likely to have a "non-receipt" or "delayed receipt" claim, meaning the Veteran or beneficiary did not receive their payment.

Since VA began helping Veterans enroll in direct deposit in 2019, fraud has decreased by 93%.

"We at VA are heartened that so many Veterans and VA beneficiaries have made the switch from paper checks to direct deposit, but we won't rest until every Veteran has safe and timely access to their hard-earned benefits," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "I encourage all Veterans to work with us to connect with trustworthy financial institutions and make the switch to direct deposit."

Recognizing the need to help Veterans and their families access financial products and services, VA partnered with the Association of Military Banks of America to create the Veterans Benefits Banking Program in 2019. Through VBBP, Veterans have access to 43 participating financial institutions to provide low to no-cost checking and savings accounts.

VBBP also provides Veterans a free session with either an Accredited Financial Counselor® through the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education® or a credit counselor through the National Foundation for Credit Counseling.

Participating banks and credit unions can be found at [VeteransBenefitsBanking.org](https://www.veteransbenefitsbanking.org). Additional financial resources for Veterans include VetCents, a financial education program specifically designed for Veterans and their families that covers topics like budgeting, and Veteran Saves, an initiative that helps Veterans build financial resilience.

Veterans who already have a bank account and want to use direct deposit for their VA benefits may call 800-827-1000 or change their VA direct deposit information online.

VFW and Auxiliary meets 1st Tuesday at 7 p.m.

The VFW and VFW Auxiliary holds their membership meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The VFW meets in Room A and the Auxiliary meets in Room B or sometimes in the Day Room.

Website, Facebook, and e-mails keep members abreast of all VFW Post and Auxiliary activities

Greenwood VFW Post 5864's website has generated an average of just over 175 "hits" daily since the beginning of November 2015. The website is updated at the beginning of each month with the newest newsletter and calendar. Other changes are made throughout the month as needed.

The website has garnered 450,174 people viewing it for the past 86 months, or a total of 5,235 views per month. Commander Steve Milbourn remarked, "It is truly remarkable that just over 175 people per day, seven days a week are viewing our website."

4 5 0 1 7 4

For those of you who have not been on our VFW website, go to greenwoodvfw.com and

look through it. Our Facebook is updated daily. Cindy Reinert, Mary Blake, Sherri Jones, and Steve Milbourn place various news stories and photos to this media.

E-mails are sent out on an "as needed" basis and are sent via Blind Carbon Copy. The reason for this is so that individuals will not use your e-mail address to benefit themselves or a business.

If you think of something that needs added, or you have a news story or photo which you think needs to be shown, please e-mail it to Steve Milbourn at steve.milbourn@aol.com.

The Post's publicity has been stellar for the past seven years and we have received much notoriety and a number of awards for our newsletter.

VFW Post seeks volunteers for various events

Greenwood VFW Post 5864 is always looking for individuals who may be interested in putting in a few hours a week volunteering working at one or more of our events. The Post sponsors a number of different games and events. Any of the events that include gaming or "gambling" requires the volunteer be listed on the Post's Indiana Gaming License. The IGC Reference No. 156963 and the Indiana Gaming License is # 002855.

The Indiana Gaming Commission does not allow anyone volunteering or helping in a gaming capacity to be paid.

If you are interested in helping with Bar Bingo on Mondays, Bingo on Wednesdays, or Texas Hold-'em on Saturdays, you would need to provide the following information: your **Full Name, Birth Date, Driver's License or State ID Number, Address (no P.O. Boxes), Phone, Date Joined VFW Post 5864 in Greenwood, or the VFW Auxiliary**. If you have had a felony conviction within the last 10 years, you cannot be included on the Gaming License.

If you wish to sell raffle tickets, pull tabs or other type of games, you will need to be on the license. Contact Steve Milbourn at the Post or call 317-525-7291 or e-mail him at steve.milbourn@aol.com.



Richard Fairbanks was first official Postmaster

On November 5, 1639, Richard Fairbanks was made the first official Postmaster in an American colony. Many consider this to be the first public postal service in America.

In the early days of the colonies, many citizens attempted to keep in touch with people from their mother countries. When they sent letters to Europe, they could trust that their mail would be managed respectfully, passing through those countries' postal systems. The Massachusetts Bay Colony became the first to attempt to remedy this situation.

The colony's general court issued an ordinance that all letters that arrived in Boston from Europe or were to be sent from Boston to Europe, should be taken to Richard Fairbanks's tavern.

The Moscow-Washington Hotline, a direct line

On August 30, 1963, the first message was sent on the Moscow-Washington hotline. In the early 1960s, several people pushed for a direct line of communication between U.S. and Soviet leaders, two of the world's superpowers. There was some pushback from members of the U.S. State Department and military as well as the Kremlin, so no action was taken immediately.

Then, during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, the situation changed. While the U.S. and Soviet Union were locked in an intense standoff, official diplomatic messages between the nations could take six hours to arrive. Often, they turned to television news reporters to send their messages because it was quicker.

In fact, it took the U.S. almost 12 hours to receive and decode the initial 3,000-word message from Nikita Khrushchev. By the time they decoded it and wrote a reply, Khrushchev had sent another, more threatening message, urging the U.S. to remove its missiles from Turkey.

Both nations agreed they should establish better communications to avoid unintentionally starting a nuclear war. So, in June 1963, they signed the Hot Line Agreement. The first message sent over the hotline came from the U.S. on August 30, 1963. They sent the message "The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog's back 1234567890." This phrase was chosen because it included all the letters, numbers, and an apostrophe, to test that the keyboard and printer worked.

The first official message sent over the hotline was to announce President Kennedy's assassination on November 22, 1963. The Soviet's first official message came on June 5, 1967, during the Six-Day War.

Although it's called a hotline and has sometimes been dubbed the "red telephone," there is no phone. The hotline only transmits text, as speech could be misunderstood. The leaders of each nation would write a message in their own language, have it sent over the hotline, and then get translated on the other end.

The hotline is housed at the National Military Command Center at the Pentagon and is usually manned by a two-person team. A non-commissioned officer maintains the equipment while a commissioned officer that speaks Russian handles the translations. When messages arrive, they are marked "Eyes Only – The President."

When the hotline was first installed, it used Teletype. In the 1980s messages were sent by fax. And since 2008, messages have been sent by the computer.



***Dressed for the Season
Laura Cook, one of our bartenders
was recently ready for Christmas
with festive sweater and glasses.***

December 13, 1916

Soldiers perish in avalanche as World War I rages

A powerful avalanche kills hundreds of Austrian soldiers in a barracks near Italy's Mount Marmolada. Over a period of several days, avalanches in the Italian Alps killed an estimated 10,000 Austrian and Italian soldiers in mid-December. The avalanches occurred as the Austrians and Italians were fighting World War I and some witnesses claim that the avalanches were purposefully caused to use as a weapon. Though there is little evidence that this was the case with these avalanches, it is possible that avalanches were used as weapons at times during the war.

The Italians entered World War I on the side of Britain, France, and Russia against Germany and

■ ***Continued to page 46***

Soldiers perish in avalanche . . . ■ *Continued from page 45*

Austria-Hungary in late April 1915. Over the next three years, the Italian army engaged the Austrians in a series of bloody battles in the mountainous region along the Isonzo River near the Italian-Austrian border. The conditions in the mountains were often worse than the actual fighting. An Austrian officer once said, “The mountains in winter are more dangerous than the Italians.”

Hundreds of Austrian troops stationed in a barracks near the Gran Poz summit of Mount Marmolada were in particular danger. Although the camp was well-placed to protect it from Italian attack, it was situated directly under a mountain of unstable snow. On December 13, approximately 200,000 tons of snow, rock and ice plunged down the mountain directly onto the barracks. About 200 troops were pulled to safety, but 300 others died. Only a few of the bodies were recovered.

As the heavy snow and high winds continued over the next week, incidents like the one at Marmolada happened with disturbing frequency. Entire regiments were lost in an instant. The bodies of some victims weren't found until spring. The best estimate is that somewhere between 9,000 and 10,000 soldiers died by the end of December 1916 because of the avalanches.

December 24, 1972 – His ninth show

Bob Hope gives his last Christmas show in Vietnam

Comedian Bob Hope gives what he says is his last Christmas show to U.S. servicemen in Saigon. Hope was a comedian and star of stage, radio, television and over 50 feature films.

Hope was one of many Hollywood stars who followed the tradition of traveling overseas to entertain American troops stationed abroad. The 1972 show marked Hope's ninth consecutive Christmas appearance in Vietnam. Hope endorsed President Nixon's bombing of North Vietnam to force it to accept U.S. peace terms and received South Vietnam's highest civilian medal for his “anti-communist zeal.” Although some antiwar protesters criticized Hope for supporting government policies in Vietnam, the comedian said he believed it was his responsibility to lift spirits by entertaining the troops.



Also on this day: President Nixon suspends Operation Linebacker II for 36 hours to mark the Christmas holiday. The bombing campaign against North Vietnam had been operating since December 18, when Nixon initiated the campaign to force the North Vietnamese back to the Paris peace negotiations. On December 28, the North Vietnamese announced that they would return to Paris if Nixon ended the bombing. The bombing campaign was halted, and the negotiators met during the first week of January. They quickly arrived at a settlement - the Paris Peace Accords were signed on Jan. 23, and a cease-fire went into effect five days later.

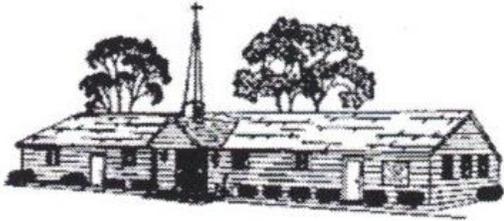
Trial by Jury in civil cases dates back to 2000 BC

On September 12, 1787, it was proposed that trial by jury in civil cases be included America's Constitution. There was extensive debate over the topic, and it was ultimately left out of the Constitution. It was finally made law as part of the Bill of Rights in 1791.

Trial by jury has been in practice for centuries, likely dating back to about 2000 BC in ancient Egypt. The Greeks and Romans had juries, and the Romans likely brought this practice to England with their Roman Conquest.

A major event occurred in 1215, with the signing of the Magna Carta. England's “Great Charter,” it guaranteed a trial by jury: “No man shall be taken, outlawed, banished, or in any way destroyed, nor will we proceed against or prosecute him, except by the lawful judgment of his peers and by the law of the land.”

Thank you for what you did!



Gospel Lighthouse

340 N. Hoosier St. ■ P.O. Box 337 ■ 812-597-5256
Morgantown, IN 46160

VFW Post 5864 Members:

We truly appreciate your thoughtful contribution of \$200.00 to Gospel Lighthouse's Raise the Roof fund to raise money for a new roof for one of our Morgantown community members, Marie York.

From your donation, we were able to raise funds to replace the roof within eight weeks. By replacing the roof, it has allowed the York family an opportunity to have a better quality of life without the worries of bad weather throughout the rainy and cold seasons.

Please consider this letter, a record for your donation that can be presented to the IRS for tax reporting purposes.

Sincerely,

Pastor -- Frank Criswell
Treasurer -- Jimmy Rainwater

Have you seen the signs?

Please do not enter kitchen unless you work there!

The headline above says it all.

Every day and night that the kitchen is open many people think they need to stick their head in the door and in a number of cases feel they need to go in to place an order or just use the kitchen as a "pass-thru." To these particular individuals and the rest of the customers who visit the VFW, it needs to be said – **the Kitchen is off limits.**

Unless you are actually working in the kitchen or volunteering to work in the kitchen, **no one should go into the kitchen.**

The kitchen normally has two to four individuals in it when it is working in prime time. If you come into the kitchen for any reason, you will be "jamming" the system up. They do not have as much room as they need – so before you attempt to go into the kitchen, think about this news article.

If you need to order something on Wednesdays or Fridays, there are normally two (2) servers. They will get to you. The bartender normally has menus on the bar. You can pick one up, look it over and then place your order with one of the servers.

A good thing to remember is that you should arrive 30 to 45 minutes earlier than you usually do, and it will be easier to get your food cooked and delivered to you. Sometimes when everyone arrives at the same time, it is more difficult to get everything completed in a timely manner. – *Thanks, Steve*

The fun-making organization

40 et 8 began in 1920 by soldiers serving in France

La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (The Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses), is an independent, invitation only, honor society of American veterans and service members; more commonly known as **The Forty and Eight**.

The Forty and Eight is committed to charitable and patriotic aims. Their purpose is to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, to promote the well-being of veterans, their widows, widowers, and orphans, and to actively participate in selected charitable endeavors, which include programs that promote child welfare and nurses training.

The titles and symbols of The Forty and Eight are derived from the experiences of U.S. troops during World War I. American soldiers were transported to the front on the French rail system.



Cramped into narrow gauge boxcars, each stenciled with “40 Hommes/8 Chevaux”, denoting its capacity to hold either 40 men or 8 horses.

This uncomfortable mode of transportation was familiar common experience for every Doughboy that fought in the trenches, a mutual small misery among American soldiers. Thereafter, they found “40/8” a lighthearted symbol of the deeper service, unspoken horrors and shared sacrifice that bind all who have endured combat.

The Forty & Eight was founded in 1920 by American veterans returning from France. Originally an arm of The American Legion, the Forty & Eight became an independent and separately incorporated veteran's organization in 1960. Membership is by invitation of honorably discharged veterans and honorably serving members of the United States Armed Forces.

The local unit of the Forty and Eight is the Voiture. It often covers a specific county or American Legion post. Above that is the Grande. Each state has its own Grande, as well as the District of Columbia, and there are Grande for Mexico, France, Latin America and several other locations where U.S. veterans make their homes abroad.



Grande Officers checking out the Christmas program at Voiture 145's Christmas dinner and wondering "What am I doing here?"

a *promenade* and has its own set ritual. The ceremony to initiate a new member, known as a P.G. for Poor Goof or *Prisoner de Gare* into the 40 & 8 is known as a wreck. Anyone wishing to enter The Forty and Eight must be wrecked, after which the initiate has earned the right to be referred to as a Voyageur Militair and a full member. Voiture 145, Forty & Eight covers Johnson and Marion Counties.

The Forty and Eight headquarters is located at 250 E. 38th St., Indianapolis, Indiana. Forty and Eight members refer to each other as *voyageurs*, in that all members have shared the demands and hardship of military service and have taken the same journey. They are also known as "Forty and Eighters".

The Forty and Eight is down significantly in membership numbers compared to years past, but it is still very much in existence with a membership of about 21,000 in 2019.

Although the Forty and Eight is not a secret society, much of the ritual is a secret to non-members.

A Voyageur can disclose that they belong to said organization, but not all of what goes on at its meetings. The Forty and Eight meeting is known as



40 & 8 Christmas party December 12

The annual membership fee is \$25, and you only need to have served in the military and received an honorable discharge.

From left to right are Student Nurse Jenna Miller, Jan Collars, unknown, and Student Nurse Seannah Backus.

Rib Eye Steak Dinner

Friday, Jan. 6 at the VFW



\$18

Includes

***Steak cooked as you want it,
baked potato, green beans, salad, and a roll***



Brand new 8 ft. Beer Cooler

Above is the new 8 ft. Avantco Beer Cooler being shown by Bar Manager Cindy Reinert, on the left, and Bartender Julie Leeds, on the right. The cooler arrived on Monday, Dec. 19.



New beer cooler arrives earlier than expected

The last of the two older 8 ft. coolers stopped cooling around Dec. 10. The Post originally had Dave Hogan, Jr. come out and evaluate the situation. They determined that it may need a capacitor and a new compressor. We then had a refrigeration company we have previously used come out look at the old cooler and get their “take” on everything.

They stated much of the same information and told us it would cost around \$2,400 for them to repair the old cooler plus their labor charges. In the meantime, while the House Committee was looking at various coolers, we had been using the two (2) salad bars to put beer in and then each morning draining the water and filling the salad bars up with ice.

Once the cooler was ordered, they stated delivery would be approximately 7 to 10 days. Fortunately, the company had a beer cooler in Madisonville, Kentucky – about 210 miles from Greenwood. They stated that it would be at the Post by Dec. 21. It showed up on Monday, Dec. 19.

The Post’s only job was to get it off the back of a semi, of course with an automatic lift. That turned into a task since it was 8 ft. long. Peterman Brothers were called to see if they could stop over with a forklift and help us get it off the truck. All of the “bosses” were in a meeting, and then we called Dunham Rubber. They called back in just a few minutes and were on their way with their forklift. We are incredibly lucky to have good neighbors like Peterman Brothers and Dunham Rubber. Once it was off the back of the semi, Laura Cook, our Monday Bartender, Steve, and Cindy were present, and we pushed and pulled it in the double doors by the offices. The truck driver helped too. After that, the three of us got it uncrated and moved into the bar room and then into the bar.

101st Airborne – “Battered Bastards of Bastogne”

General Patton relieves 101st and Allies at Bastogne

On December 26, 1944 General George S. Patton employs an audacious strategy to relieve the besieged Allied defenders of Bastogne, Belgium, during the brutal Battle of the Bulge.



Gen. McAuliffe

The capture of Bastogne was the ultimate goal of the Battle of the Bulge, the German offensive through the Ardennes Forest. Bastogne provided a road junction in rough terrain where few roads existed; it would open up a valuable pathway further north for German expansion. The Belgian town was defended by the U.S. 101st Airborne Division, which had to be reinforced by troops who straggled in from other battlefields.

Food, medical supplies, and other resources eroded as harsh weather and relentless German assaults threatened the Americans' ability to hold out.

Nevertheless, Brigadier General Anthony C. McAuliffe met a German surrender demand with a typewritten response of a single word: “Nuts.”

Enter “Old Blood and Guts,” General Patton. Employing a complex and quick-witted strategy wherein he literally wheeled his 3rd Army a sharp 90 degrees in a counterthrust movement, Patton broke through the German lines and entered Bastogne, relieving the valiant defenders, and ultimately pushing the Germans east across the Rhine.

National Guard founded in 1636 in Massachusetts

U.S. # 1017 – The National Guard is America's oldest military organization, with roots dating back to 1636. The National Guard traces its roots to the Massachusetts Bay Colony on Dec. 13, 1636.

Following the success of the Pilgrims in the early 1620s, more English Puritans wished to move to the New World (the Americas). In 1630, about 1,000 Puritans voyaged to America and settled the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Over time, the colonists began to clash with some of the Native Americans, particularly the Pequot nation. As the colonies grew, they established their own scattered militias, with no real connection to each other.



The Massachusetts Bay militia defended over 5,000 men, women, and children in their colony. Then, on December 13, 1636, the general court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in Salem called

on all able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60 to take up arms and join the militia. Ministers and judges were excluded from the decree, which established the North, South, and East Regiments. The overall goal was to increase the accountability of the militias to the colonial government and train them to be ready to respond immediately in the event of an attack. Each man would defend his community, join in nightly guard duty, and take part in weekly drills.

Not long after, other colonies followed the lead of Massachusetts Bay and established their own militias. By 1638, the colonists brought an end to the fighting with the Pequot, but the militias continued to grow and defend their communities. These militias, Massachusetts in particular, provided the majority of soldiers during the Revolutionary War. They were also the basis for state militias when the United States was established.

The term “National Guard” came a few decades later. When the Marquis de Lafayette visited the U.S. in 1824-25, one New York battalion called themselves the “National Guard,” honoring Lafayette's famous *Garde Nationale de Paris*. Then, in 1903, part of the Army was renamed the National Guard and set aside as a reserve force. During World War II, the National Guard accounted for 40% of the U.S. fighting divisions in France.

The National Guard became official in 1916 and was made up of 19 divisions during World War II. The National Guard consists of state-based military forces that are equipped, trained, and paid by the Federal Government. The president can call them to active duty in the regular armed services.