



VFW Post 5864 Newsletter

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

Greenwood Memorial VFW Post 5864 – December 2022 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



State VFW Commander Richard Leirer, on the left sitting with Greenwood Commander Steve Milbourn.

VFW State Commander visits Greenwood Post

VFW State Commander Richard Leirer visited Greenwood VFW Post 5864 for the first time on Saturday, Nov. 19. Richard is the 2022-2023 State Commander, and his home VFW is Carmel Post 10003.

The State Commander was taken on a tour of the facility by Post Commander Steve Milbourn. Leirer commented that he was really amazed by the size and layout of the Post.

Richard has served as the Commander of Post 10003 in Carmel earning the distinction as an All-American Post Commander, he has

■ **Continued to page 19**

Folds of Honor at VFW event

Since its inception in 2007, Folds of Honor has awarded nearly 44,000 scholarships totaling nearly \$200 million to the spouses and children of America's fallen and disabled service members.

And now, in their biggest announcement yet, they are expanding the Folds of Honor mission to incorporate America's first responders, including police, fire-fighters, EMTs and paramedics.

■ **Continued to page 33**



At left is Diane Markle, a Regional Impact Officer for the Folds of Honor. Karen Bultman of Folds of Honor is on the right.

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:

In just four short months it will be time for Post elections for 2023-2024.

Throughout the eight years I have been Commander there has always been members, and other individuals who come to the Post and they want to let us know there is a better way to do things. I have never doubted that everything changes periodically and normally for the best.

These same people want to tell you what you should be doing or they think what you are doing can be done better. I agree with them to some degree. The problem is, they do not want to get involved by holding a position whether it be elected or appointed.

They also do not wish to serve on a committee. They simply want to give you their advice, but most of the time, they do not know how to implement what they are telling us we should do.

Believe me, I am all for making changes if it will be beneficial to the Post. A case in point is that seven or eight years ago I felt that if we did not build a larger building that at some point we would not be able to generate the money necessary to operate the Post properly. We were fortunate to have members with foresight enough to want to move forward.

Our Bingo, Banquet Rentals and our other Gaming have done exceptionally well and those are the primary things that keep us going.

How many of you have actually chaired an event? How many of you have sold 50-50 tickets on a Friday night? How many of you have volunteered to work Bingo? Again, I am not complaining. I am merely pointing out that we do not have enough people helping to do what we need to do.

Please come forth and donate a few hours a week. Thank you and we appreciate you all. -- Steve



**Steve Milbourn
Commander**

- Customer Appreciation Day -

Greetings everyone –

On Friday, December 23, 2022, we will have our Second Annual Customer Appreciation Day. Last year, we, (the bartenders), paid for everything out of our pockets -- prizes, food, games, etc.

We are merely asking the groups or individuals in our building to help support us as we continue the event and tradition for 2022.

If you would like to make a cash donation, toward the food, decorations, plates, napkins, etc., please let the bartender on duty know and they will write you a receipt.

We play several games and also do a Dirty Santa game. Everyone had a great time last year. Please feel free to come by and participate from 4:30 p.m. until?? – **Everyone is invited!**

Cindy Reinert
Greenwood VFW Post 5864
Bar and Banquet Manager
317-966-9582 Cell
317-888-2488 Post

**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

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier dedicated Nov. 11, 1921

On November 11, 1921, President Warren G. Harding dedicated the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. Now the final resting place for three unknown soldiers, it is guarded 24 hours a day by members of the Army's 3rd Infantry Regiment.

After World War I ended, the U.S. and other Allied nations had a number of deceased soldiers that could not be identified. To honor their great sacrifices, each country created memorials to their unknown soldiers.

On March 4, 1921, the U.S. Congress approved a resolution to create a memorial and inter an unknown American soldier from World War I at the Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Amphitheater that Armistice Day. World War I veteran Edward Younger was then selected to travel to France to choose the unknown soldier to be interred. Fallen soldiers were selected from four different cemeteries – Aisne-Marne, Meuse-Argonne, Somme, and St. Mihiel. Younger selected one of these soldiers to be interred at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

That Unknown Soldier then lay in state for several hours as French and American soldiers came and paid their respects. The soldier was then transported to the U.S.S. Olympia, received honors along the way, and then began his journey home. The soldier returned to America on November 9, and lay in state in the U.S. Capitol, where he was again visited by thousands of patriotic Americans.



Then on Armistice Day (now Veterans Day), November 11, 1921, the soldier was removed from the Capitol at 8:30 a.m. and taken to the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery with a military escort. He was followed by a long and seldom-seen procession for a fallen soldier -- President Harding, the chief and associate justices of the Supreme Court, members of the Diplomatic Corps, Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, senators, congressmen, military generals, officers, state officials, and more.

Upon arriving at the tomb, the soldier received a simple but moving funeral. President Harding gave a speech and conferred upon the soldier the Medal of Honor and Distinguished Service Cross. Then members of other Allied governments from the war gave their highest military decorations. This was followed by three salvos of artillery and the playing of taps, ending the ceremony.

There was always a plan to place a structure on the site, but funding was not secured until 1926. The tomb was placed there without a formal ceremony on April 9, 1932. The simple structure has the Greek figures of Peace, Victory, and Valor, and the phrase, "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God."

Since July 2, 1937, a perpetual guard and the United States flag have stood sentinel over the Tomb of the Unknown. Selected from the Army's 3rd Infantry Regiment, the tomb guards are an elite group who stand sentinel around the clock, regardless of weather conditions. The guards are changed every 30-120 minutes, depending on the season and time of day, and the schedule does not change due to inclement weather. This dedication is incorporated into the Sentinel's Creed: "Through the years of diligence and praise and the discomfort of the elements, I will walk my tour in humble reverence to the best of my ability." During blizzards, hurricanes, and the quiet of a summer's night, the guards and the U.S. flag remain with the unknown soldiers, promising their sacrifices will never be forgotten by a grateful nation.

In 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower signed legislation to honor the unknown of World War II and the Korean War. Those soldiers were selected in similar ceremonies and awarded the Medal of Honor before being interred beside the World War I unknown.

In 1984, a Vietnam soldier was interred at the Tomb of the Unknowns. However, 10 years later a POW/MIA activist figured out who the soldier was. His DNA was tested and confirmed, and he was re-interred at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. The Vietnam Unknown tomb was changed to say, "Honoring and Keeping Faith with America's Missing Servicemen."

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

Down 11%

New data shows decline in Veteran homelessness since 2020 – biggest drop in more than 5 years

The Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness announced preliminary results of the 2022 Point-in-Time Count showing an 11% decline in Veteran homelessness since early 2020, the last time a full count was conducted. This is the biggest drop in Veteran homelessness in more than five years.

The data show on a single night in January 2022, there were 33,136 Veterans who were experiencing homelessness in the United States — down from 37,252 in 2020. Overall, this represents a 55.3% reduction in Veterans experiencing homelessness since 2010.

“One Veteran experiencing homelessness will *always* be one too many, but the 2022 PIT Count shows that we are making real progress in the fight to end Veteran homelessness,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “There is still a long way to go, but under President Biden’s leadership, we at VA, HUD and USICH will not stop until every Veteran has a good, safe, stable home in this country they fought to defend.”

“All Veterans deserve to have what they need to lead healthy, safe and successful lives — that starts with a place to call home,” said HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge. “The data released today shows we are closer than ever in ensuring that every Veteran in America has a home and challenges us to ensure that every Veteran — and every person in America — has a home.”

“Not only did we lower the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness, but we made this progress during a global pandemic and economic crisis,” said USICH Executive Director Jeff Olivet. “This proves that, even under the most difficult circumstances, we can take care of each other and address homelessness.”

The 2022 PIT Count is the first full PIT Count since 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic began. In 2021, many communities did not conduct unsheltered counts in order to stop or slow the spread of COVID-19, resulting in an incomplete picture of Veteran homelessness in America.

Notably, the results from the PIT Count do not reflect the additional efforts launched by VA, HUD and USICH in 2022, including VA’s goal to re-house 38,000 Veterans in this calendar year. Through September, VA has placed nearly 31,000 homeless Veterans into permanent housing — putting VA on track to meet, or even exceed its goal.

VA, USICH and HUD are making progress using the evidence-based “Housing First” approach, which prioritizes getting a Veteran into housing, then provides the Veteran with the wraparound support they need to stay housed — including health care, job training, legal and education assistance and more.

This progress has been made possible by the leadership of President Biden and the resources provided by Congress during the pandemic. With the passage of the American Rescue Plan, VA’s homeless programs received \$481 million in additional funding to support Veterans — including funding to expand the Shallow Subsidy Initiative, expand the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program to address legal barriers to housing and transform congregate transitional housing spaces into individual rooms with bathrooms and more.

If you are a Veteran who is experiencing homelessness or at risk for homelessness, call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at **877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838)**. Visit the VA Homeless Programs website to learn about housing initiatives and other programs for Veterans exiting homelessness.

Link to VA Benefits for Disabled Veterans

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWTa2IW9Qc4>

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

Incidents at the Post must always be reported

A recent incident during the Auxiliary’s Bar Bingo led to the individual being escorted out of the Post. The safety and well-being of our members and guests are very important.

First, the bartender on duty is in charge of the building and those people on our property.



Please do not interfere with the bartender’s duties. If the bartender requests your help or it appears the threat of the individual is greater than anticipated, you can advise the bartender you would be willing to help. We do not want any issue to escalate.

We have an Incident Report which can be completed by anyone witnessing the event. Please adhere to these rules and everything will work out.

If an individual is causing or creating trouble, the **bartender on duty** has the right to ask the individual to leave the Post property for the balance of the day. If the incident is of a proportion that it needs immediate attention, the House Committee may review it the next morning. An Incident Report must be written up from everyone who saw the event and given to a member of the House Committee. The House Committee will either convene a meeting to discuss this one item or they may wait until their regularly scheduled meeting to discuss the item.

If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to e-mail, or call Steve Milbourn at 317-525-7291.

No exceptions to this rule

Liquor, beer, and wine has to be bought at Post

The Post was recently approached by an individual who wanted to rent our facility and purchase their own liquor, beer, wine, and any type of alcoholic beverage and bring it to our facility.

A portion of the Post’s income is based on the sale of alcohol, food, and room rental. Because our prices are very low, we cannot allow anyone to bring these items to our property.

Also, if an alcoholic drink is purchased at our VFW, the drink cannot be taken off our property. That would require us to have a “carry-out” license, which we do not have.

If a renter is found to have any



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



Liquor, beer, and wine . . . ■ Continued from page 9

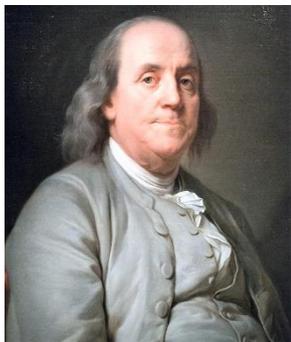
alcoholic beverages with them, they will be asked to leave immediately. It is ultimately the Post's responsibility to make sure that no alcohol is brought into the Post. However, according to our rental agreement, we will also hold the renter of record responsible for this act. We may even ask the entire party to leave our premises if the incident is widespread and no monetary refunds will be provided.

In addition, anyone who rents any part of our facility must sign an agreement with their correct contact information.

English newspaper *St. James Chronicle* announces Benjamin Franklin has joined rebellion in America

On November 14, 1776, the *St. James Chronicle* of London carries an item announcing "The very identical Dr. Franklyn [Benjamin Franklin], whom Lord Chatham [former leading parliamentarian and colonial supporter William Pitt] so much caressed, and used to say he was proud in calling his friend, is now at the head of the rebellion in North America."

Benjamin Franklin, joint Postmaster General of the colonies (1753-1774), and his son William traveled to London together in 1757. There, for the next five years, William studied law, and Franklin studied social climbing. They had remarkable success for a candle-maker's son and his illegitimate progeny.



Benjamin Franklin

By the end of their sojourn, William had become an attorney and received an honorary Master of Arts from Oxford University, while his father received honorary doctorates from Oxford and the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. The elder Franklin's plans for his son's advancement succeeded, and his son won the choicest of appointments, a royal governorship, in 1762.

Franklin then accompanied his son from London to Pennsylvania, only to return to London as Pennsylvania's agent in 1764, where he lobbied for the placement of the colony under direct royal control. He soon added Georgia, New Jersey and Massachusetts to the list of colonies for which he served as

spokesperson in Parliament.

In 1775, Franklin returned to America as the American Revolution approached; he served as a delegate to the Continental Congress and, in 1776, signed the Declaration of Independence.

Ironically, his son William came out on the side of the British during the War of Independence and was imprisoned while serving as the Loyalist governor of New Jersey.

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 January newsletter is Saturday, Dec. 17 at 5 p.m.

A Medicare Advantage plan created with you in mind

Did you know Humana Honor plans complement VA benefits?

If you're eligible for Medicare, you can enroll in a Humana Medicare Advantage (MA) plan without prescription drug benefits—and keep your VA health and drug benefits.*

Humana Honor (PPO) is available to anyone eligible for Medicare. If you're a veteran, it may help you save money on medical costs while enjoying extras you might not get from VA, such as:

- Part B premium reduction, for \$75 more in Social Security each month
- \$0 copay for SilverSneakers® fitness program
- Rewards for completing covered preventive health screenings, flu shots and healthy activities

Humana A more human way to healthcare™

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 **USAA® RECOMMENDED**



Call to RSVP for a meeting with a licensed independent sales agent



JOHN REISCHMAN

317-474-5375 (TTY: 711)

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

FRI.JOHN.REISCHMAN@GMAIL.COM

President Lincoln delivers Gettysburg Address

On November 19, 1863, at the dedication of a military cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln delivers one of the most memorable speeches in American history. In fewer than 275 words, Lincoln brilliantly and movingly reminded a war-weary public why the Union had to fight, and win, the Civil War.



The Battle of Gettysburg, fought some four months earlier, was one of the single bloodiest battles of the Civil War. Over the course of three days, more than 45,000 men were killed, injured, captured, or went missing. The battle also proved to be the turning point of the war: General Robert E. Lee's defeat and retreat from Gettysburg marked the last Confederate invasion of Northern territory and the beginning of the Southern army's ultimate decline.

Charged by Pennsylvania's governor, Andrew Curtin, to care for the Gettysburg dead, an attorney named David Wills bought 17 acres of pasture to turn into a cemetery for the more than 7,500 who fell in battle. Wills invited Edward Everett, one of the most famous orators of the day, to deliver a speech at the cemetery's dedication. Almost as an afterthought, Wills also sent a letter to Lincoln -- just two weeks before the ceremony -- requesting "a few appropriate remarks" to consecrate the grounds.

At the dedication, the crowd listened for two hours to Everett before Lincoln spoke. Lincoln's address lasted just two or three minutes. The speech reflected his redefined belief that the Civil War was not just a fight to save the Union, but a struggle for freedom and equality for all, an idea Lincoln had not championed in the years leading up to the war. This was his stirring conclusion: "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Reception of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was initially mixed, divided strictly along partisan lines. Nevertheless, the "little speech," as he later called it, is thought by many today to be the most eloquent articulation of the democratic vision ever written.

Transcript of Cornell University's Copy

President Lincoln delivered the 272-word Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863, on the battlefield near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

"Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war.

We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives, that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate -- we cannot hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract.

The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary to VFW Post 5864

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

THE AUXILIARY IN PROGRESS

At the November 1 meeting, members voted to donate \$250 to the VFW Post for the “November 12 free breakfast for veterans” sponsored by the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary also approved a \$150 donation for a fellow member who has endured a hardship. Another donation of \$100 was approved for Girls Inc. of Johnson County. The Auxiliary will reimburse the Post for a much-needed kitchen can opener. Member, Robin Wood, will contact Southwest Elementary School to see if the students could make Christmas greeting cards to give to veterans in some of the local nursing homes. Also, the Auxiliary would distribute socks to the veterans. An amount was approved to start purchasing items for the Auxiliary’s Homeless Veterans project. The Auxiliary will start planning early next year a “Mystery Bingo” that will consist of jewelry, iPad, etc. as prizes for each game played. The treasurer and trustees were reminded that the third quarter audit report is due November 30.

The Auxiliary ordered items for their annual homeless veterans’ project that will be delivered to Indianapolis HVAF in early December. The Auxiliary has ordered backpacks, hats, socks, gloves, blankets, sweat suits, scarves, ponchos, books, personal hygiene items and snacks. If you would like to donate an in-kind or monetary gift to this project, you may contact Brenda Lippert at 317-432-5146. Checks can be made payable to VFW Auxiliary 5864 and mailed to 1842 Veterans Way, Greenwood, IN 46143. Any support is appreciated.

Bar Bingo at the Post -- December 5, December 12, December 19, December 26. Food is available for ordering. Kitchen closes at 7 p.m. Drinks at bar 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.



VFW Auxiliary in Progress . . . ■ Continued from page 13

October 23 -- The Auxiliary hosted a Halloween party for the kids. There were approximately 16 children and 20 adults that attended. The kids received treat bags, a pumpkin with stickers to create a face and pictures to color with crayons. Games were played and food, punch and cupcakes were served. All the goblins who attended had a witchy, screeching enjoyable time.

November 5 -- Two of our Auxiliary members, Carol Bullock-Puckett, and Flo Fricke, volunteered to work for "Connecting with the Community." They handed out free shoes, coats, socks, hats, gloves, bras, and groceries for families in need. Some of the vendors donated their leftover items to the Auxiliary to be handed out to homeless veterans and veterans at the Hospital and Home. We appreciate their support of the Auxiliary's upcoming projects.



November 12 -- Approximately 32 veterans received a free breakfast funded by the Auxiliary. This was members of the Auxiliary's way of showing our veterans how much we appreciate their service and our freedom.

December 6 -- Auxiliary Meeting – Social meeting starts at 6 p.m. 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.



December 15 -- 6 p.m. – Auxiliary members will gather at Olive Garden in Greenwood for their Holiday outing. It was decided that each member will bring a \$15 holiday ornament or holiday decoration to exchange after dinner. Please RSVP to Carol Bullock-Puckett, 317-714-7062, if you plan to attend so we know how many to reserve a table for.



December 18 – 1 to 3 p.m. -- The Auxiliary will host their kids Christmas party. There are sign-up sheets in the hallways at the Post. Deadline for signing up your child will be December 11. Children 12 and under are invited to attend. Santa Claus will be handing out presents to children present. Food and drinks will be provided. Please contact Brenda Lippert, 317-432-5146, if you can volunteer to help with this event.

■ Continued to page 15

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

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 at Christmas.

Any member that has not paid their current year 2022 membership dues, needs to remit the dues by December 31, 2022. Membership dues are \$20. Make your check payable to VFW Auxiliary 5864 and mail to Brenda Lippert, 3111 Eastpointe Drive, Franklin, Indiana 46131. Failure to pay your dues by December 31 will result in your membership not being in good standing. 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.

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 December.

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 has passed away recently.

Christmas gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us.... our fond memories of a loved one, the many blessings we received throughout the year, our health, our freedom, and our troops that cannot be home for Christmas. We have so much to be thankful for. Merry Christmas to all our fellow members, our veterans and those military men and women currently serving our country elsewhere.

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

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.

Alternatives for veterans to file claims

VA claims for Service-Connected disabilities

People who have served in the U.S. military often are released from active duty and have certain health issues. Those issues need to be reported to a VA Hospital so that they can be “on the record” in case you need to file a claim for compensation. On occasion, a few health issues do not show themselves until well after the individual has been released from the military.

In other cases, such as Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, the VA Administration determines that some diseases are “presumptive.”

The “presumptive” diseases allow the claimant to be awarded compensation if the “soldier” can prove that he or she served in a specific area and that they were exposed to chemicals, smoke, etc.

In order to file a claim, the “soldier” will need the following information -- a copy of a DD-214; a marriage certificate, if you are currently married (this is if you receive 30% or more you would get additional money for being married); you will also need birth certificates for children under 18 or under 22 if they are living at home and attending college; a copy of a bank deposit slip; and if you have previously filed a claim, you will need all those documents.

All the above documents will be needed no matter who files the claim for you.

The Johnson County Service Officer is Seneca Harbin. He is located at the Courthouse Annex North, 1st Floor, 34 W. Jefferson St., Franklin, IN 46131. His phone number is (317) 346-4563.

They are open Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If you live in Johnson or Marion County, you can also go to the Federal Building in Indianapolis to file a claim. The VFW’s information is 575 N. Pennsylvania St., Suite # 374, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, and their phone number is 317-916-3629.

Steve Milbourn has been helping veterans with their claims for over 20 years. He will continue to listen to you, point the individuals in the right direction, and make sure you are on the right path.

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.

We are also looking for someone to oversee our Darts games, planned for Thursdays. If you wish to sell raffle tickets, pull tabs or any other type of games, you will also 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.



U.S. provides support to beleaguered Cambodians

As the fighting got closer to Phnom Penh, the United States stepped up its air activities on November 16, 1971, in support of the Cambodian government. U.S. helicopter gunships struck at North Vietnamese emplacements at Tuol Leap, 10 miles north of Phnom Penh.

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 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.

VFW State Commander visits Greenwood VFW

■ Continued from page 1

also served as the Commander of District 6 of Indiana earning All-American District Commander recognition. Richard has served on various National Committees representing Indiana VFW members. Richard is active in Veteran related legislative issues and enjoys working with other organizations striving to help Veterans.

In 2018 Richard was awarded the Veterans of Foreign Wars Dwight D. Eisenhower Leadership Award. Richard is also a member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and American Veterans service organizations. Having served as a board member on the Carmel Dads Club for many years and serving on Carmel Parks and Recreation Board. Now as a Commissioner on the Indiana Veterans Affairs Commission Richard continues to strive to serve Veterans.

Richard is a 10-year U.S. Army Veteran. Serving two combat tours in Vietnam with assault helicopter companies, tours in Germany and Korea plus multiple locations in the United States. After the Army, he began a career with Univac working as a computer engineer at Mississippi State University. Later moving to Washington DC to manage the companies support operation in the Caribbean and Panama Canal Zone. He was assigned as Engineering Project Manager for the U.S. Air Force Phase 4 project at the time the largest computer purchases ever made by the Air Force.

Richard and his family settled in Indiana in 1989 with Unisys as the Regional Environmental Sales Manager. In 1991 Richard started a computer networking company, the first of several successful entrepreneurial companies based on computer hardware/software/consulting technology. He is now the Vice-President of Sales and Marketing for Jaguar Software a computer technology firm.

Richard's proudest accomplishment is being a husband to Terri, the father of 5 children, their spouses and grandfather to seven beautiful granddaughters and the great grandchildren.

President Cleveland vetoes widow from pension

On June 5, 1888, President Grover Cleveland vetoes a bill that would have given a pension to war widow Johanna Loewinger, whose husband died 14 years after being discharged from the army.

Mr. Loewinger served in the Civil War, enlisting on June 28, 1861. He was discharged a little less than a year later for what the army surgeon's certificate called chronic diarrhea. He received his pension until his death in 1876.

After his death, his widow, Johanna, applied for a widow's pension, but was denied since her husband died from suicide by cutting his throat with a razor and not from any long-term disability caused by his military service. Johanna claimed her husband had suffered from insanity triggered by his military service and felt entitled to the benefits.

After failing to get the pension through military channels, Johanna appealed to a member of Congress to petition the president with the bill asking that her request for a pension be granted. After reviewing the matter, Cleveland declared all previous inquests into the former soldier's unfortunate death to be satisfactory and vetoed the bill.

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.

Also, VA beneficiaries

VA will offer abortion counseling; in certain cases – abortions to pregnant Veterans

Recently, the Department of Veterans Affairs submitted to the Federal Register an interim final rule that will allow VA to provide access to abortion counseling and — in certain cases — abortions to pregnant Veterans and VA beneficiaries. Specifically, VA will provide access to abortions when the life or health of the pregnant Veteran would be endangered if the pregnancy were carried to term, or when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest. VA beneficiaries enrolled in CHAMPVA will also have access to this care.

These services will be authorized immediately after the interim final rule is published, and the rule will be available for public comment for 30 days thereafter. Once the rule is published, VA will immediately prepare to provide these services in as many locations as possible.

“This is a patient safety decision,” said Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. “Pregnant Veterans and VA beneficiaries deserve to have access to world-class reproductive care when they need it most. That is what our nation owes them, and that is what we at VA will deliver.”

“VA will be able to offer abortion counseling and abortions to pregnant Veterans and VA beneficiaries in cases of rape, incest, or when the life or health of the Veteran would be endangered if the pregnancy were carried to term — in accordance with generally accepted standards of medical practice,” said Dr. Shereef Elnahal, VA’s Under Secretary for Health.

“We came to this decision after listening to VA health care providers and Veterans across the country, who sounded the alarm that abortion restrictions are creating a medical emergency for those we serve. Offering this care will save Veterans’ health and lives, and there is nothing more important than that.”

Access to medically necessary abortions is essential for preserving the life and health of Veterans and VA beneficiaries. Restricting access to abortion care has well-documented adverse health consequences, including increased risk of loss of future fertility, significant morbidity, or death.

Veterans are also at greater risk of experiencing pregnancy-related complications due to increased rates of chronic health conditions. Therefore, to protect the life and health of pregnant Veterans and eligible beneficiaries, VA determined that it was necessary to provide access to abortion counseling and — in some cases — abortions.

The determination of whether the “life and health of the pregnant Veteran would be endangered if the pregnancy were carried to term” will be made on a case-by-case basis and will be the result of careful consultation between VA health care providers and the Veterans they serve. In cases of rape or incest, self-reporting from a Veteran or VA beneficiary will constitute sufficient evidence that an act of rape or incest occurred.

VA is taking steps to guarantee Veterans and other VA beneficiaries’ abortion-related care anywhere in the country.

VA will also continue to provide access to a full range of reproductive health services, including fertility services, contraceptives including emergency contraceptives, life-saving treatment related to pregnancy, and much more. For information about all reproductive health services at VA, visit [VA.gov/ReproductiveHealth](https://www.va.gov/ReproductiveHealth).

Supreme Court refuses to rule on legality of Vietnam War

The U.S. Supreme Court on November 9, 1970, refuses to hear a challenge by the state of Massachusetts regarding the constitutionality of the Vietnam War.

By a 6-3 vote, the justices rejected the effort of the state to bring a suit in federal court in defense of Massachusetts residents claiming protection under a state law that allowed them to refuse military service in an undeclared war.

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](https://va.gov/PACT) 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.

Retired Command Sgt. Major Don LaFontaine passes on November 14; served 30 years in Army

Donald Bruce LaFontaine, of Flower Mound, TX, formerly of New Whiteland, IN, passed away in the early evening of November 14, 2022. He was 83 years old. Donald was born in Springfield, MA on July 5, 1939, to his parents Frank and Mary LaFontaine. He graduated from East Hampton High



Don LaFontaine

School in Massachusetts.

Donald met his wife Shirley at Ft. Knox, KY. Donald and Shirley married on June 28, 1984, and shared many years of marriage together until her passing in 2004. Donald answered the call of this nation by serving in the United States Army where he was a Tanker. He started out driving the tank working his way up to tank commander.

Donald was in combat during the time of the Vietnam War. He served in the 1st Cavalry Division and then the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Blackhorse in Vietnam. After his period of faithful service moving up the ranks to Command Sergeant Major, he was honorably discharged as a decorated soldier.

Donald was a 30-year veteran with the U.S. Army. He was immensely proud of serving his nation and continued to work in the Defense Finance Accounting Services assisting his fellow veterans with their retirement benefits for over a decade after leaving the Army.

Donald served as the Post Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 261 and was active in the American Legion. Don was a Charter Member of American Legion Post 1919 in Greenwood and served in several positions at Greenwood VFW Post 5864. His last position was that of a House Committee member and Entertainment chairman.

He looked forward to the yearly Blackhorse reunions with his brothers of the 11th ACR Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia travelling to various parts of the United States for the weeklong affair. He was passionate about American freedom and enjoyed exercising his freedom in a creative way.

He loved to sing karaoke with his friends at the VFW. He was a Steely Dan fan and never failed to rouse the crowd with their classic hits. Donald was a wonderful man, father, grandfather, and friend who will be dearly missed by those he leaves behind. Donald is survived by his children Kim Smith, Wendy (Ed) Brummett, and Keith (Lynn) LaFontaine; his bonus-sons, Tony (Jeri-Ann) Mills and David (Lisa) Mills; his grandchildren, Corey, Chelsea, Sarita, Anthony, Delando, Karly, Tony Jr., April, and Garrett; his many great grandchildren; his several nieces, nephews, cousins and his first wife Christa LaFontaine.

Donald is preceded in death by his wife, Shirley LaFontaine; his parents; his bonus-son, Bruce Mills; his grandson Dalton Mills; his siblings, Pat LaFontaine and Thomas LaFontaine.

Services were held on Monday, November 28 at Forest Lawn Gardens Funeral Home.

House Committee oversees employees

VFW employee work related issues are off limits

As a member or guest, if you have an issue with an employee or what the employee is doing, you should report it to the House Committee in writing. Under no circumstances should you discuss an issue with any employee unless you are a member of the House Committee.

The House Committee will discuss the incident and determine what needs to be done, based on the facts. Keeping employees is at best difficult. Please do not attempt to intimidate the employee or question them about their job or what they are doing. Too many “bosses” is not a good idea.

The members of the House Committee are Steve Milbourn, Commander, Mike Tomes, Quartermaster, and Mike Delaney.

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

Mark Your Calendars: December 12 is our Voiture's Annual Christmas get-together. Social hour is from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. with two complimentary drinks per attendee; a short opening ceremony at 6:30 p.m.; dinner (catered by Julie Garcia, Caterer) immediately following the opening ceremony.

To date we have 14 VIP guests planning to attend our Christmas get-together. These guests include the 40 et 8 Nationale Directeur of Membership Gena Keller (coming from South Dakota), Grande Chef de Gare Norm Crawford, three Grande Officers from V-1250, National Sons of the American Legion Historian Steve DeFeo, four representatives from University of Indianapolis School of Nursing (includes three student nurses who have/are receiving scholarships through our Endowment), and four representatives from Ivy Tech Community College School of Nursing.

Come on Voyageurs of V-145; let's have a show of force to welcome our many guests on December 12. You can RSVP to Chef Jay at jaycol@juno.com and tell him you will attend the Christmas get-together.

Promenades: There will be no formal promenade in December!

Voiture Activities: Chef Jay attended the Grand Opening of the Southeast Indiana Veterans Museum in Rising Sun. V-145's own Voyageur P.G. Gentrup donated his private military memorabilia to establish the museum.

Note: Voyageur P.G. Gentrup was inducted into the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2022 on November 4.

Voiture Membership: I want to extend my welcome to our new members. You are what it takes to keep V-145 growing. We still need 4 more new members 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: Congratulations to Nate Ridge for purchasing a 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



November 16, 1961

President Kennedy increases military aid to Saigon

President John F. Kennedy decides to increase military aid to South Vietnam without committing U.S. combat troops.

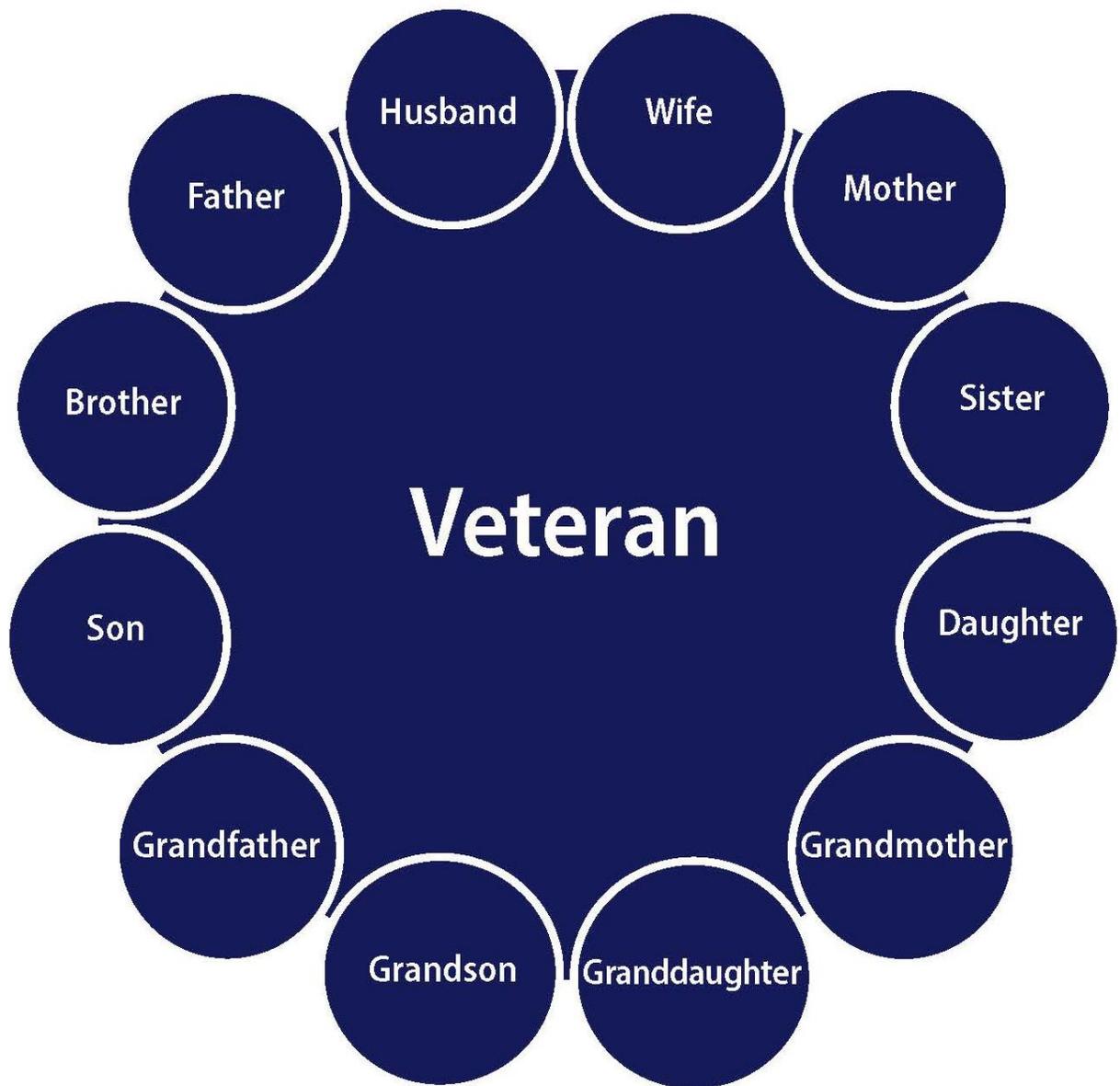
Kennedy was concerned at the advances being made by the communist Viet Cong but did not want to become involved in a land war in Vietnam. He hoped that the military aid would be sufficient to strengthen the Saigon government and its armed forces against the Viet Cong.

Ultimately it was not, and Kennedy ended up sending additional support in the form of U.S. military advisors and American helicopter units. By the time of his assassination in 1963, there were 16,000 U.S. soldiers in South Vietnam.

VFW meets 1st Tuesday at 7 p.m.

The VFW holds their membership meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The VFW meets in the canteen.

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.

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.

Holiday Overseas mail deadlines are approaching

The U.S. Postal Service is preparing for the holiday season as many families spend holidays apart due to military service. In order to ensure overseas packages are delivered before Dec. 25, it has



provided the following deadlines:

Dec. 9 for all Air/Army Post Office (APO), Fleet Post Office (FPO) and Diplomatic Post Office (DPO) addresses with AE zip codes using Priority Mail and First-Class Mail; and

Dec. 16 for APO/FPO/DPO addresses using USPS Priority Mail Express (excluding zip 093). The Postal Service offers a free “military care kit,” which consists of the items most often requested by military families.

The cutoff dates for December 25 -- If you're shipping holiday cards and gifts for Hanukkah (Dec. 18 - Dec. 26), Christmas (Dec. 25), Kwanzaa (Dec. 26 - Jan. 1), or other holiday traditions, find the USPS® recommended domestic, international, and military deadlines in these tables.

The earlier you send, the better: Don't delay, mail and ship today!

OPERATION HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Assisting veterans and their families that are experiencing financial hardship this holiday season.

\$300 per dependent child in the household
\$200 per household for a holiday meal

You Will Need:

- DD-214
- W-9
- Proof of Income
- Bank Statement
- Direct Deposit form
- Proof of child's dependency
- Proof of child's residency

Applicant's household income must be below
2 times the poverty guideline.

Program ends Dec. 30, 2022

Details and application:



in.gov/dva (317) 232-3910



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.

VFW Post 5864 gaming and pull-tab rules



As a reminder to those individuals who play Bingo and / or purchase gaming tickets or pull-tabs at the VFW, the following rules are in effect: all Pull-Tabs or other gaming tickets which are deemed to be winners by the VFW, must be cashed in by the close of business on the day the sale was made, otherwise, the ticket will become invalid.

No gaming tickets can leave the VFW's building under any circumstances. Pull-Tabs have Serial Numbers, which the VFW is required to keep a record for the Gaming Commission and as such the VFW has the date each set of Pull-Tabs is sold.

Bingo players must be **18 years old or older** to play or purchase any Bingo tickets or Pull-Tabs. These rules have been in effect for several years. The Post wanted to reiterate them. If there are any questions, please call VFW Post 5864 at 317-888-2488.

If your winning ticket is over \$200, you must print your name on the ticket, sign the ticket and place your date of birth on the ticket. This is an Indiana Gaming Commission rule.



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.

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 27

When you arrive:

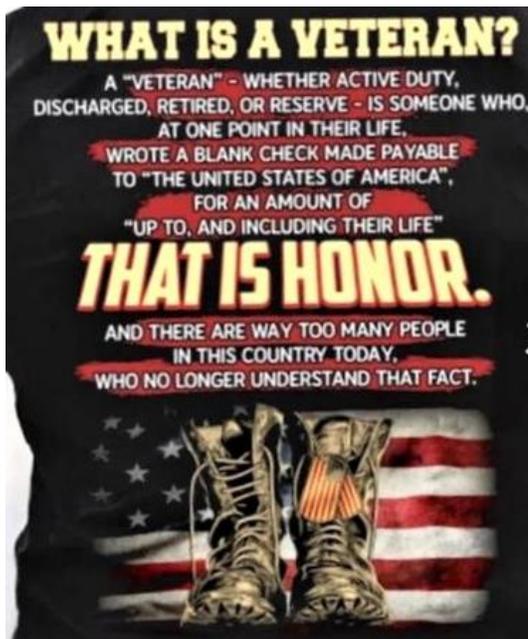
- Tell the provider you are a Veteran enrolled in VA health care.
- Tell them you would like to receive the flu shot paid for by VA.
- Show your government-issued ID and the billing information located **here**. (Pull up this page when you're getting your flu shot.)
- There is no cost to you if your 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.

Two “What is a Veteran” T-Shirts are being raffled

Bar and Banquet Manager Cindy Reinert donated two “What is A Veteran” T-shirts to the Post to be raffled off. One of the T-shirts is a 1-X size and the other one is a 2-X size. The photo below and at the left is what they look like. See the bartender to purchase your tickets.



Lincoln writes to mother of Civil War casualties

Legend holds that on November 21, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln composes a letter to Lydia Bixby, a widow and mother of five men who had been killed in the Civil War. A copy of the letter was then published in the *Boston Evening Transcript* on November 25 and signed “Abraham Lincoln.” The original letter has never been found.

The letter expressed condolences to Ms. Bixby on the death of her five sons, who had fought to preserve the Union in the Civil War. The author regrets how “weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming.” He continued with a prayer that “our Heavenly Father may assuage the

anguish of your bereavement [and leave you] the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours, to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of Freedom.”

Scholars continue to debate the authorship of the letter, and the authenticity of copies printed between 1864 and 1891. At the time, copies of presidential messages were often published and sold as souvenirs. Many historians and archivists agree that the original letter was probably written by Lincoln’s secretary, John Hay. As to Ms. Bixby’s loss, scholars have discovered that only two of her sons actually died fighting during the Civil War.

A third was honorably discharged and a fourth was dishonorably thrown out of the Army. The fifth son’s fate is unknown, but it is assumed that he deserted or died in a Confederate prison camp. Despite its dubious origins, the letter’s text became even more famous when it was quoted in Steven Spielberg’s World War II film epic *Saving Private Ryan* (1998).

Fast facts

About new toxic exposure screening for Veterans

Enrolled Veterans can be screened at VA medical centers, clinics

Get Your Toxic Exposure Screening

Who: All Veterans enrolled in VA health care

What: A quick, 5-10 minute screening to identify and document any potential exposures to toxins during military service

When: At least once every 5 years

Where: At VA medical centers and clinics

Why: To support your long-term health plan and ensure you receive informed, whole-health care

How: Ask about the toxic exposure screening at your next VA appointment.

If you do not have an upcoming appointment or want to be screened sooner, contact your local VA facility and ask to be screened by the Toxic Exposure Screening Navigator.



Have you heard about the new toxic exposure screening?

If you're enrolled in VA health care, you can now receive the toxic exposure screening at VA medical centers and clinics across the country. If you're not enrolled but meet eligibility requirements to enroll, you will have an opportunity to receive the screening after you enroll.

During your screening, you'll be asked if you believe you experienced toxic exposures during your military service. If you answer yes, you may be connected to support and resources, including a review by your primary care team or provider.

Get to know the process

As the screening becomes a regular part of your health care, you may have some questions. Here are some quick facts to get to know the process:

- It's quick. The screening is a series of questions that takes around 5-10 minutes and can occur as part of one of your regular health care appointments.
- It documents a variety of exposures. There are several types of possible exposures or hazards you may have experienced during your military service. This includes open burn pits and airborne hazards, Gulf War-related exposures, Agent Orange, radiation, Camp Lejeune contaminated water exposure and others.
- It helps support your long-term care plan. The purpose of the toxic exposure screening is to make your VA health care team aware of any potential exposures to toxins during your military service. This allows for ongoing care that ensures early diagnosis and treatment of any health concerns that may arise in the future related to your exposure(s). If you report a potential toxic exposure, it will be noted in your health record. Your primary care team will be made aware of your concerns and will connect you with resources to address your follow-up questions.

■ **Continued to page 30**

Toxic Exposure Screening . . .

■ *Continued from page 29*

- You'll receive additional information. After your screening, you will also receive information about benefits, registry exams, and clinical resources to address any concerns you may have.
- You can ask about the toxic exposure screening at your next VA health care appointment. If you do not have an upcoming appointment or want to be screened sooner, contact your local VA facility, and ask to be screened by the Toxic Exposure Screening Navigator.
- You'll be screened at least once every 5 years. Even if you don't have concerns today, you may in the future. This helps keep your records up to date and ensures exposure concerns are part of your long-term care plan.
- You can decline. If you choose not to be screened, you will have the option to decline until the following year.

Additional information -- There are a couple of things to keep in mind:

- It's not diagnostic. The screening identifies and documents potential exposures. If there is a need, it will support you in connecting with your health care team. You can also always contact your local VA health care team through Secure Message or call 1-800-MyVA411 and press 8.
- It's not part of the VA benefits claims process. For information about how to file a claim, visit <https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/>.
- Being screened is separate from joining a VA environmental health registry. VA has six registries: Agent Orange, Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pits, Depleted Uranium, Gulf War, Ionizing Radiation, and Toxic Embedded Fragments. You'll receive information about registry participation after your screening.

Be proactive -- For information about enrolling in VA health care, visit <https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction>.

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 169 "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 426,367 people viewing it for the past 84 months, or a total of 5,076 views per month. Commander Steve Milbourn remarked, "It is truly remarkable that just over 169 people per day, seven days a week are viewing our website."

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

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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 they are sent via Blind Carbon Copy. The reason for this is so that individuals will not use the e-mail addresses 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.

November 14, 1965 – South Vietnam

First major battle erupts in the Ia Drang Valley

In the first major engagement of the war between regular U.S. and North Vietnamese forces, elements of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) fight a pitched battle with Communist main-force units in the Ia Drang Valley of the Central Highlands.

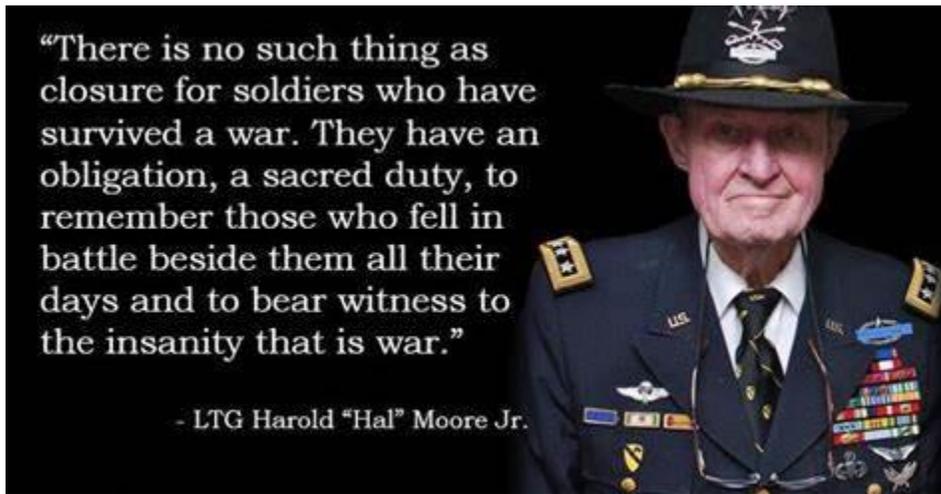
On this morning, Lt. Col. Harold G. Moore's 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry conducted a heliborne assault into Landing Zone X-Ray near the Chu Pong hills. Around noon, the North Vietnamese 33rd Regiment attacked the U.S. troopers. The fight continued all day and into the night. American soldiers received support from nearby artillery units and tactical air strikes. The next morning, the North Vietnamese 66th Regiment joined the attack against the U.S. unit. The fighting was bitter, but the tactical air strikes and artillery support took their toll on the enemy and enabled the 1st Cavalry troopers to hold on against repeated assaults.



At around noon, two reinforcing companies arrived, and Colonel Moore put them to effective use to assist his beleaguered soldiers. By the third day of the battle, the Americans had gained the upper hand. The three-day battle resulted in 834 North Vietnamese soldiers confirmed killed, and another 1,000 communist casualties were assumed.

In a related action during the same battle, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, was ambushed by North Vietnamese forces as it moved overland to Landing Zone Albany. Of the 500 men in the original column, 150 were killed and only 84 were able to return to immediate duty. Company C suffered 93 percent casualties, half of them deaths.

The North Vietnamese forces had succeeded in engaging the U.S. forces in very tight quarters, where supporting U.S. firepower could not be used without endangering American lives. The cavalrymen returned fire, but the North Vietnamese were fighting from prepared fighting positions and many of the American leaders had been felled in the initial stages of the ambush. As night fell, the cavalrymen waited for the North Vietnamese to attack but illumination flares provided by air force aircraft made the enemy cautious. By morning, they had withdrawn.



Despite these numbers, senior American officials in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon then) declared the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley a great victory. The battle was extremely important because it was the first significant contact between U.S.

troops and North Vietnamese forces. The action demonstrated that the North Vietnamese were prepared to stand and fight major battles even though they might take serious casualties.

Senior American military leaders concluded that U.S. forces could wreak significant damage on the communists in such battles—this tactic led to a war of attrition as the U.S. forces tried to wear the communists down. The North Vietnamese also learned a valuable lesson during the battle: by keeping their combat troops physically close to U.S. positions, U.S. troops could not use artillery or air strikes without risking injury to American troops. This style of fighting became the North Vietnamese practice for the rest of the war.

The conflict was described by journalist Joe Galloway and retired Lt. Gen. Hal Moore in the 1992 book "We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young," which was later made into a film.

Also Thank You notes from others . . .

St. Barnabas school kids write notes to Veterans

A number of school children from schools in Greenwood and Indianapolis wrote short notes to Veterans at Greenwood VFW Post 5864 thanking them for their service to or nation. Brooke, a 7th Grader from St. Barnabas in Indianapolis. Most of the letters were addressed to Steve Milbourn, however they were for all Veterans who have served.

Dear Steve Milbourn – Hello, my name is Brooke. I live in Indianapolis, Indiana. I go to school at St. Barnabas. I enjoy playing basketball and playing outside with my dog, siblings, and neighbors.

Thank you for all that you do for us. It means a lot to everyone. You are really a great leader, and you were really great at protecting our country. You worked so hard for us by waking up early in the morning and trying your hardest to keep us all safe.

We really appreciate all that you do for us. And I know this can all be tough but persevere and try your very best at it all. You help so many people every day. I would never be able to wake up early and do all of the things you did.

So, thank you much and God Bless!

Sincerely, Brooke – 7th Grade – St. Barnabas



This is the letter on the right. The spelling was left intact.

Dear Mr. Melbourne – Thank you for fighting for our country. What branch of the military do you serve? What does it feel like in the military? What do you do in your branch of the military?

Thank you for fighting for justice.

Sincerely, Jake – Ms. Rykowski – 2nd Grade



Dear Mr. Steve Milbourn – Thank you so much for serving in our military. Thank you for being brave and helping to keep our country free. How old were you when you joined the military?

What branch of the military were you in? How long did you serve? What was your job?

Thank you for your service. Happy Veterans Day.

Sincerely – Zung C. -- St. Barnabas



Dear Mr. Steve Milbourn – Thank you for helping our country. Happy Veterans Day!

Thank you for serving our country. May God richly bless you.

Sincerely – Staff and Students of

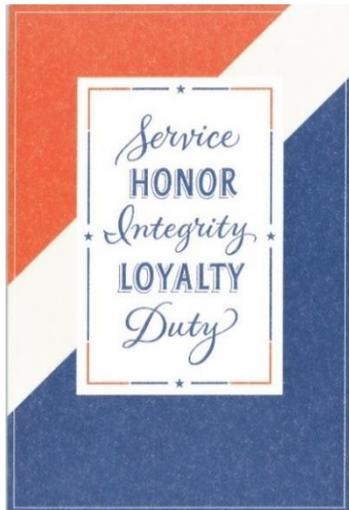
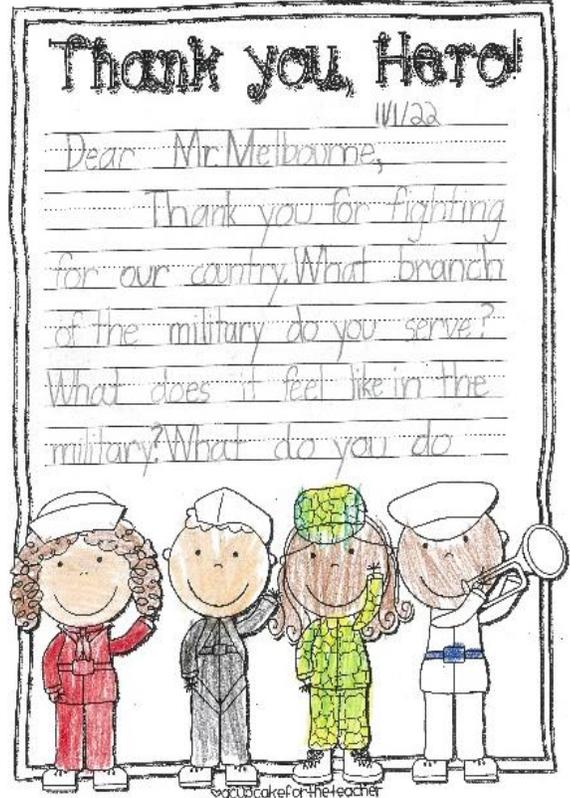
Southport Presbyterian Christian School



Dear Mr. Steve Milbourn and members of Greenwood VFW Post 5864 – Thank you all for your service!

Tianat, Elysia, Wayne, Abby, Patience, Justin, Joyce, Leanne, Robert, Felicia, Julia, Terry, P. Banks, Debra Griffin, Bruce, and Ralph.

Again, thank you all.



Folds of Honor -- Indiana . . . ■ Continued from page 1

This move reflects their purpose to meet sacrifice with hope and show first responders and their families that they are not alone.

There are nearly 2 million first responders in the United States who respond to approximately 240 million calls made each year. Every time they respond to one of these calls, they are putting their life on the line. In 2021 alone, 135 firefighters perished while on duty in the U.S.

Appreciation for U.S. military service members and First Responders is the single most unifying position held by Americans. On this we agree: those who protect our freedom, and our families deserve our unwavering support.

According to Folds of Honor Founder, Lt. Col. Dan Rooney, "It is our hope that the expanded Folds of Honor mission will inspire unity among Americans and let first responders and their families know that they are not alone."

Mrs. Markle remarked that "We do these types of events whenever we are able and invited! We rely a lot on our supporters to reach out to us when events are going on that we would add value to."



The Folds of Honor logo –

"In The Folded Flag We See the Heavy Price of Freedom"

Yet it's also a symbol of hope, representing the enduring ideals that make this country a beacon of democracy. We chose this logo because it reflects our mission – to honor the sacrifice of America's heroes, while giving hope to the bearers of their legacy.

Folds of Honor has grown from a vision into a movement. This folded flag is a constant reminder of those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. It inspires us to help equip and educate their loved ones in need of our support. Thank you for embracing the call.

Breakfast at VFW is Saturday 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.

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 and Cheese Omelets are also available.

988

SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE

There is hope




Talk with us.



If you
n
can or text 988
OR
chat 988lifeline.org



PEP22-08-03-004

Martha Gellhorn, the U.S.'s first female war reporter



U.S. # 4248 – from the 2008 American Journalists set.

One of the world's first female war correspondents, Martha Ellis Gellhorn, was born on November 8, 1908, in St. Louis, Missouri.

After graduating from high school in 1926, Gellhorn attended Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. However, she left the school the following year to work as a journalist. Her first articles were published in *The New Republic*.

Gellhorn wanted to work as a foreign correspondent, so she went to France and spent two years working at the United Press Bureau in Paris. She then returned to the U.S. in 1932 and was hired as a field investigator for the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. In this role, she traveled the country reporting on the effects of the Depression. She later assembled these into a collection of short stories in *The Trouble I've Seen*.

Gellhorn traveled to Spain to report on the Spanish Civil War. She then went to Germany and witnessed and covered the rise of Adolph Hitler. Gellhorn followed the war, reporting from Finland, Hong Kong, Burma, Singapore, and England. She did not receive the proper press credentials to follow the Normandy landings, so she hid in the bathroom of a hospital ship and posed as a stretcher-bearer to go onshore. Gellhorn was the only woman to land on Normandy on D-Day.

What set Gellhorn apart was her insistence on going into the action to interview ordinary soldiers and civilians. She rode with the British RAF on night bombing raids over Germany. Traveling with the U.S. 82nd Airborne, Gellhorn reported on the Battle of the Bulge and was one of the first to enter Dachau Concentration Camp. The respected reporter once remarked that she "followed the war wherever I could reach it."



U.S. # 2418 – Gellhorn was married to Hemingway for four years. Gellhorn reported on the Vietnam War and the Arab-Israel conflicts of the 1960s and 70s for the *Atlantic Monthly*. She also covered the civil wars in Central America and the invasion of Panama when she was 81 years old.

For more than five decades, Gellhorn had covered wars in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Vietnam, and Central America. In addition to this, she also wrote fiction, including five novels, fourteen novellas, and two short story collections. She died in London on February 15, 1998.

Military draft age is lowered to 18 from age 21

On November 11, 1942, Congress approves lowering the draft age to 18 and raising the upper limit to age 37.

In September 1940, Congress, by wide margins in both houses, passed the Burke-Wadsworth Act, and the first peacetime draft was imposed in the history of the United States. The registration of men between the ages of 21 and 36 began exactly one month later. There were some 20 million eligible young men -- 50 percent were rejected the very first year, either for health reasons or because 20 percent of those who registered were illiterate.



But by November 1942, with the United States now a participant in the war, the draft ages had to be expanded; men 18 to 37 were now eligible. Black people were passed over for the draft because of racist assumptions about their abilities and the viability of a mixed-race military.

But this changed in 1943, when a "quota" was imposed, meant to limit the numbers of Black men drafted to reflect their numbers in the overall population, roughly 10.6 percent of the whole. Initially, Black soldiers were restricted to "labor units," but this too ended as the war progressed, when they were finally used in combat.

VA creates scholarship program

To help aspiring VA mental health professionals

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it will establish a Vet Center (Readjustment Counseling Service) Scholarship Program to assist individuals pursuing graduate degrees in psychology, social work, marriage and family therapy, or mental health counseling.

VA expects to award scholarships in the summer of 2023, providing funding to cover up to two years of graduate studies for individuals pursuing these degrees. Upon completion of their degrees, these mental health professionals will then serve full time for a period of six years at one of VA's 300 Vet Centers across the country, specifically, in underserved areas that need additional mental health professionals and in states with a per-capita population of more than 5% Veterans.

"In 300 communities across the country, Vet Centers provide Veterans, service members, and their families with quick and easy access to the mental health care they need and deserve," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "These scholarships will help VA ensure all Veterans and service members — including those in historically underserved areas — have access to Vet Centers with highly-qualified, trained and compassionate staff."

Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers that provide a wide range of social and psychological services, including professional counseling to eligible Veterans, service members, including National Guard and Reserve components and their families. Vet Center counselors and outreach staff, many of whom are Veterans themselves, are experienced and prepared to discuss the tragedies of war, loss, grief, and transition after trauma. In Fiscal Year 2022, 286,907 Veterans, service members (including members of the National Guard and Reserves) and their families received counseling at VA's 300 Vet Centers, totaling nearly 1.34 million visits and outreach contacts.

The VA posted a final rule for public inspection in the Federal Register 86 FR 81094 to create this scholarship program. The rule originates from the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019 which created the scholarship program as an incentive to train more individuals in psychology, social work, marriage and family therapy or mental health counseling. It is also a part of the President's administration's broader efforts to support Veterans and improve mental health care access for all.



The price of freedom

Is eternal vigilance.

-- Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

Collars, Gentrup in IMVHOF

Voiture Locale 145, Grande du Indiana has announced that it now has two Voyageurs who are enshrined in the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame (IMVHOF); Chef de Gare Jay Collars and Voyageur Paul (P.G.) Gentrup. Chef Jay Collars was in the Class of 2019 and Voyageur P.G. Gentrup is in the Class of 2022. From left to right are Chef de Gare Jay Collars, U.S. Senator Todd Young, and Voyageur P.G. Gentrup.

LinkedIn Premium

Veterans and transitioning military get a free year



LinkedIn offers Veterans, VA caregivers, and Fry Scholars a free 1-year premium career subscription, including one year of access to LinkedIn Learning.

The one-year free upgrade to premium includes an incredibly valuable resource – a library of over 16,000 business, technical, and creative courses on LinkedIn Learning.

This means that courses on software development, graphic design, leadership, data science, photography, and more are all available to

eligible Veterans. Almost every professional skill has a course on LinkedIn Learning. Veterans can use LinkedIn Learning to take more than 16,000 courses

LinkedIn Premium also includes features such as InMail, seeing more profiles when you search, access to premium search filters, ability to view expanded profiles, and more. These are great for finding new career opportunities or developing new business leads.

Specifically for the Veteran community, LinkedIn has created two learning paths.

- Transition from Military to Civilian Employment: This learning path will help you navigate your job search, helping you build your professional identity, prepare for interviews, negotiate salary, and even get promoted once you've been hired.
- Transition from Military to Student Life: Covering everything from ACT/SAT/GRE test prep to essay writing, study skills, time management tips, and how to land an internship, this learning path should set you on a course to success – graduation and beyond.

To make the most of LinkedIn, use these resources:

- LinkedIn for Veterans: This course provides a “LinkedIn 101” tutorial for everything from selecting and uploading the right picture to searching and applying for jobs.
- Translating Your Military Skills to Civilian Employment: This course will help you understand the civilian hiring process and empower you to demonstrate your best self to potential employers.
- Finding Your Purpose After Active Duty: This course is all about the intangibles of transition – understanding your value to civilian employers, dealing with the uncertainty of transition, and wrestling with some of the challenges inherent in this process.

Disclaimer: The sharing of any non-VA information does not constitute an endorsement of products or services on the part of the VA.

Gen. Minh takes over leadership of S. Vietnam in 1963

In the aftermath of the November 1 coup that resulted in the murder of President Ngo Dinh Diem, Gen. Duong Van Minh, leading the Revolutionary Military Committee of the dissident generals who had conducted the coup, takes over leadership of South Vietnam.

U.S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge cabled President Kennedy, “We could neither manage nor stop [the coup] once it got started...It is equally certain that the ground in which the coup seed grew into a robust plant was prepared by us, and that the coup would not have happened [as] it did without our permission.” Lodge’s words were more than a little disingenuous since he had long been a proponent of removing Diem from power.

Following Diem’s death, a Buddhist named Nguyen Ngoc Tho became premier, but the real power was held by the Revolutionary Military Committee headed by General Minh. The new government earned U.S. approval in part by pledging not to become a dictatorship and announcing, “The best weapon to fight communism is democracy and liberty.”

ABC.PRO nominated for Employer of Veterans Award

ABC.PRO, Inc. is a small business owned by a member of American Legion Post 1919 and the 40 et 8 Voiture 145 -- Dexter Albright. His company has been nominated for consideration as a recipient of National recognition/Award for The Employer of Veterans Award, Small Business.

ABC.PRO, Inc. was founded by two Army National Guard veterans on January 5, 1998, in Greenwood, IN. Since that date ABC.PRO, Inc. has maintained a 50% or higher rate of veteran employees. Over the past five years they have averaged 4 employees, 2 of which are veterans. At present ABC.PRO, Inc. has three employees; two of which are veterans giving them a 66% employment ratio of veterans.

Not only does ABC.PRO, Inc. continue to support military veterans through employment, but the



Dexter Albright – ABC.PRO CEO

company is actively engaged in the local community through the various veterans' organizations. Each calendar year the company donates \$500. each to the American Legion Centennial Post 1919, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5864, as well as the Forty and Eight Veterans Organization Voiture Locale 145.

In-kind support also plays a vital role in the company's support of veteran's organizations. Recently ABC.PRO, Inc. donated materiel and labor to install and set-up Computer Support systems for the Marine Corps League and VFW Post 5864.

ABC.PRO, Inc. encourages their employees to become involved with the local Community's veterans by setting the example: the President of the Company is a member of The American Legion Post 1919 currently serving as the 1st Vice Commander; is a member of the Forty and Eight Voiture Locale 145, having served as the Voiture's Conducteur; and is a member of VFW Auxiliary Unit 5864.

The Company's Office Manager currently serves as President of The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1919, Greenwood, IN.

Company employees often volunteer at the local veteran's organizations with fund-raising events; silent auctions; Vietnam recognition dinners; and other events to recognize all military veterans. ABC.PRO, Inc. donates freely to local veterans and their families in times of financial distress.

This Company clearly demonstrates it is a true honor to be able to help their fellow veterans any way the Company can. ABC.PRO, Inc. is a true veteran's advocate and supporter!

United States evaluates first hydrogen bomb, 1952

The United States detonates the world's first thermonuclear weapon, the hydrogen bomb, on Eniwetok atoll in the Pacific. The test gave the United States a short-lived advantage in the nuclear arms race with the Soviet Union.

Following the successful Soviet detonation of an atomic device in September 1949, the United States accelerated its program to develop the next stage in atomic weaponry, a thermonuclear bomb. Popularly known as the hydrogen bomb, this new weapon was approximately 1,000 times more powerful than conventional nuclear devices. Opponents of development of the hydrogen bomb included J. Robert Oppenheimer, one of the fathers of the atomic bomb.

He and others argued that little would be accomplished except the speeding up of the arms race, since it was assumed that the Soviets would quickly follow suit. The opponents were correct in their assumptions. The Soviet Union exploded a thermonuclear device the following year and by the late 1970s, seven nations had constructed hydrogen bombs.

Vietnam -- November 8, 1965

Medic Lawrence Joel awarded Medal of Honor

For action, this day in the Iron Triangle northwest of Saigon, Specialist Five Lawrence Joel, a medic with the 1st Battalion, 503rd Airborne Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade is awarded the Medal of Honor, becoming the first living African American since the Spanish-American War to receive the nation's highest award for valor.

Lawrence Joel and his battalion of paratroopers were sent on a patrol for Viet Cong soldiers near Bien Hoa, War Zone "D" in South Vietnam, conducting Operation Hump. They



shortly found themselves in a Viet Cong ambush, outnumbered six to one. Under heavy gunfire, Joel did his duty as a medic, administering first aid to wounded soldiers. He defied orders to stay to the ground and risked his life to help the many wounded soldiers; nearly every soldier in the lead squad was either wounded or killed in the battle.

When his unit was outnumbered in an attack by an enemy force, Specialist Joel, who suffered a severe leg wound in the early stages of the battle, continued to administer aid to his wounded comrades. Wounded a second time -- with a bullet lodged deep in his lungs -- Joel continued to treat the wounded, completely disregarding the battle raging around him and his own safety.

Even after the 24-hour battle had subsided, Joel, a 38-year-old father of two, continued to treat and comfort the wounded until his own evacuation was ordered.

The fighting continued for nearly 24 hours, and, during that time, Joel put his life at risk to save the wounded in his company and another unit. After the battle he spent three months in Saigon and Tokyo hospitals before returning to the United States.

President Johnson presented the Medal of Honor to Specialist Joel on March 9, 1967, in ceremonies held on the South Lawn of the White House.



November 3, 1969

President Nixon calls on the “silent majority”

President Richard Nixon goes on television and radio to call for national solidarity on the Vietnam War effort and to gather support for his policies; his call for support is an attempt to blunt the renewed strength of the antiwar movement.

Pledging that the United States was “going to keep our commitment in Vietnam,” he said U.S. forces would continue fighting until the communists agreed to a fair and honorable peace, or until the South Vietnamese were able to defend themselves on their own. He said that he had already withdrawn 60,000 U.S. troops and would make additional reductions as the situation permitted.

He also reported progress in the “Vietnamization” effort to increase the combat capability of South Vietnam’s armed forces so that they could assume more responsibility for the war. Having provided this perspective on the situation, he then appealed to the American people, calling on the “great silent majority” for their support as he worked for “peace with honor” in Vietnam.

A Gallup Poll survey conducted in the wake of the president’s speech indicated that 77 percent were in support of Nixon’s policy in Vietnam. Congressional reaction to the president’s speech was also overwhelmingly favorable. Although Senator J. William Fulbright (D-Arkansas) and other congressmen and senators who opposed the war questioned the president’s sincerity, more than 300 congressmen and 40 senators cosponsored resolutions supporting the president’s efforts to make peace and bring the war to an honorable end.

The term “silent majority” -- to refer to Conservative voters who do not participate in the public discourse -- later resurfaced in the political campaigns of Ronald Reagan and Donald Trump.

Steve DeFeo appointed

National Historian of Sons of the American Legion

For the past six years, Steve DeFeo has held the position of Historian for the American Legion Department of Indiana. His recent appointment as National Historian will mirror what he has been doing since 2016.

DeFeo has been a member of Kenneth N. Dowden Wayne American Legion Post 64 for the past 13 years. His eligibility for membership is through his service on the U.S. Air Force from 1979 to 1991. He served as an Air Weapons Controller and Public Affairs Officer from the base-level to a major command-level.



Steve DeFeo
SAL National Historian

After his service, he worked for Simon Property Group as a system analyst/e-mail administrator for 25 years until he retired this year.

He also holds membership in all four Legion entities. His eligibility in the Sons of the American Legion is through his father, Jasper F. DeFeo, a World War II Navy veteran. His membership in the Auxiliary is through his wife, Rebecca, a U.S. Air Force veteran. In addition, DeFeo is a member of the 40 & 8 serving as Correspondent for Voiture Locale (Post) 145 in Greenwood, Indiana.

He has also held several offices at the Post level, most recently as First Vice Commander. He is active in District 11, first as Historian and currently as Vice Commander.

His Sons of the American Legion responsibilities have also reached the highest level serving as SAL National Historian for 2022-2023.

DeFeo has earned awards nationally for narrative histories. He has earned two First Place awards and three Second Place awards in the annual American Legion National Historian's Contest.

He is married to his wife of 39 years, Rebecca, who is an active Legion member. They have two sons and one grandson.

To transfer from VA to SBA

Verification of Veteran-owned small businesses

Effective Jan. 1, 2023, all responsibilities for the verification of Veteran-owned small businesses will transfer from the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Small Business Administration.

Verification is a critical process that allows Veteran-owned small businesses and service-disabled Veteran-owned small businesses to access Veteran-specific benefits, including certain government contracts and the purchase of surplus government property. This process establishes eligibility by confirming that VOSBs and SDVOSBs are, in fact, run by Veterans.

To facilitate the transition to SBA, VA will stop taking applications for verification or reverification of VOSBs and SDVOSBs Oct. 24, 2022. The department is reaching out to all Veterans who may be impacted by this action to inform them of VA's Oct. 24th application deadline. Until then, Veterans can continue to apply for verification at VA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization. "We value our partnership with the Small Business Administration in this effort," said *Executive Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Sharon Ridley*. "VA will reach out to all impacted Veterans to ensure a transparent, seamless transition of the verification process."

This transition is part of a government-wide effort, mandated by the William H. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act, to streamline and consolidate services offered to VOSBs and SDVOSBs under SBA.

The only VA function that is transitioning to SBA is the responsibility for verification. VA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization will continue to advocate and provide education, training, and guidance to help VOSBs and SDVOSBs secure government contracts.

Japanese Fleet receive order to bomb Pearl Harbor

On November 5, 1941, the Combined Japanese Fleet receive Top-Secret Order No. 1: In just over a month's time, Pearl Harbor is to be bombed, along with Malaya (now known as Malaysia), the Dutch East Indies and the Philippines.

Relations between the United States and Japan had been deteriorating quickly since Japan's occupation of Indochina in 1940 and the implicit menacing of the Philippines (an American protectorate), with the occupation of the Cam Ranh Bay naval base approximately 800 miles from Manila. American retaliation included the seizing of all Japanese assets in the States and the closing of the Panama Canal to Japanese shipping.

In September 1941, President Roosevelt issued a statement, drafted by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, that threatened war between the United States and Japan should the Japanese encroach any further on territory in Southeast Asia or the South Pacific.

The Japanese military had long dominated Japanese foreign affairs; although official negotiations between the U.S. secretary of state and his Japanese counterpart to ease tensions were ongoing, Hideki Tojo, the minister of war who would soon be prime minister, had no intention of withdrawing from captured territories.

And so, Tokyo delivered the order to all pertinent Fleet commanders, that not only the United States -- and its protectorate the Philippines -- but British and Dutch colonies in the Pacific were to be attacked. War was going to be declared on the West.



Christmas Tree Giveaway for Veterans and First Responders

We are excited to distribute/donate 150 live Christmas Trees, tree stands, lights and ornaments to our local Military and First Responders! By **Folds Of Honor - Indiana**

Date and time -- Saturday, December 10, 2022, 10:00 a.m. -- 12:00 p.m. EST
Location -- Twin Peaks Restaurant 6880 East 82nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46250

Indiana Textbook Commission member charges that Robin Hood of the village of Locksley is communist

In an example of the lengths to which the “Red Scare” in America is going, On November 13, 1952, Ms. Thomas J. White of the Indiana Textbook Commission called for the removal of references to the book *Robin Hood* from textbooks used by the state’s schools. Ms. White claimed that there was “a communist directive in education now to stress the story of Robin Hood because he robbed the rich and gave it to the poor. That is the communist line. It is just a smearing of law and order and anything that disrupts law and order is their meat.”

She went on to attack Quakers because they “don’t believe in fighting wars.” This philosophy, she argued, played into communist hands. Though she later stated that she never argued for the removal of texts mentioning the story from school textbooks, she continued to claim that the “take from the rich and give to the poor” theme was the “Communist’s favorite policy.”



Reacting to criticisms of her stance, she countered that, “Because I am trying to get communist writers out of textbooks, my name is mud. Evidently, I am drawing blood, or they would not make such an issue out of it.” The response to Ms. White’s charges was mixed.

Indiana Governor George Craig came to the defense of Quakers but backed away from getting involved in the textbook issue. The state superintendent of education went as far as to reread the book before deciding that it should not be banned. However, he did feel that “Communists have gone to work twisting the meaning of the Robin Hood legend.” The Indianapolis superintendent also did not want the book banned, saying that he could not find anything particularly subversive concerning the story.

In the Soviet Union, commentators had a field day with the story. One joked that the “enrollment of Robin Hood in the Communist Party can only make sensible people laugh.” The current sheriff of Nottingham was appalled, crying, “Robin Hood was no communist.”

As silly as the episode seems in retrospect, the attacks on freedom of expression during the Red Scare in the United States resulted in a number of books being banned from public libraries and schools during the 1950s and 1960s because of their supposedly subversive content. Such well known books as John Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Johnny Got His Gun*, by Dalton Trumbo, were just some often pulled from shelves. Hollywood films also felt the pressure to conform to more suitably “all-American” themes and stories, and rock and roll music was decried by some as communist-inspired.

USAF helicopter pilot rescues Special Forces team

On November 26, 1968, while returning to base from another mission, Air Force 1st Lt. James P. Fleming and four other Bell UH-1F helicopter pilots get an urgent message from an Army Special Forces team pinned down by enemy fire.

Although several of the other helicopters had to leave the area because of low fuel, Lieutenant Fleming and another pilot pressed on with the rescue effort. The first attempt failed because of intense ground fire, but refusing to abandon the Army green berets, Fleming managed to land and pick up the team. When he safely arrived at his base near Duc Co, it was discovered that his aircraft was nearly out of fuel. Lieutenant Fleming was later awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

Second antiwar protestor sets himself afire --

In the second such antiwar incident in a week, Roger Allen LaPorte, a 22-year-old member of the Catholic Worker movement, immolates himself in front of United Nations headquarters in New York.

Before dying the next day, LaPorte declared, “I’m against wars, all wars. I did this as a religious act.” LaPorte’s act of protest followed that of Norman Morrison, a 32-year-old Quaker from Baltimore, who immolated himself in front of the Pentagon.

Greenwood Color Guard and Honor Guard are busy

Flag information presented by Color Guard

The Greenwood VFW 5864, New Whiteland VFW 6978, and Greenwood American Legion 252 make up the Honor Guard and Color Guard groups headquartered in Greenwood. Recently during Veterans Day, Color Guard Commander Bob Tuttle and Sherri Jones presented an hour-long program at Rosa Parks Elementary School in Perry Township on **Nov. 10**.

The program included Flag History, Flag Etiquette and Burial Flag Folding.

There were 140 students and six teachers attending. They seemed to appreciate the program very much.



The VFW Color Guard assisted with a Flag education program at Glenn's Valley Elementary School on **Nov. 4**.

The event was arranged by Janet Garrison – Vice-President of the Greenwood American Legion Auxiliary Post 1919. Two Color Guard members demonstrated Folding a Burial Flag to three groups of students totaling 130 children and five teachers.

On **Nov. 11**, the **VFW Color Guard** presented Colors, Service Flags, VFW, and American Legion Flags at Greenwood Middle School with 2 Guards. The presentation was repeated for the fourth and fifth graders who were bussed in.

The estimated crowd including students, teachers, veterans, and other visitors was over 500 witnessing the presentation.

Also, on **Veteran's Day, Nov. 11**, the **VFW Color Guard** visited the following assisted living facilities to fire one rifle volley, play taps, and shake hands with all veterans and their family members – Crestwood Village, Five Star Banta, Country Charm, Greenwood Health, and Independence Village.

VA health, benefits mobile app reaches 1M downloads

Helps Veterans easily access VA benefits
and health care services on their cell phones

As of today, more than 1 million Veterans have downloaded the Department of Veterans Affairs' new VA: Health and Benefits mobile app for fast, secure, on-demand access to the health care and benefits they've earned.

Since launching in July of 2021, the app has earned an average rating of 4.8 out of 5 stars and 4.6 out of 5 stars on the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store, respectively. Veterans have exchanged more than 1 million secure messages with their health care providers and downloaded more than 3.3 million VA letters and documents. Additionally, Veterans have viewed claims information on the app more than 45 million times.

"Veterans no longer need to go to VA to file and check claims — now, we bring VA to them through our mobile app," said **VA Chief Technology Officer Charles Worthington**. "This puts VA's care and benefits at Veterans' fingertips, making it easy for them to access VA services wherever and whenever they want."

This mobile application was designed in collaboration with Veterans, offering convenient and timely access to health and benefits information — including appointments, claims and appeals status — and giving Veterans and their families quick, direct access to the VA Crisis Line. While the app continues to expand and evolve, it currently helps Veterans:

- Check the status of claims and appeals.
- Manage their health care appointments.
- Securely message with their VA health care teams.
- Download critical VA letters and documents.
- Access their VA Vaccine Records.
- Find a local VA facility.
- Quickly reach the Veterans Crisis Line.

Visit the app at the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. For more information, check out VA Health and Benefits mobile app – six essential facts. Learn more about DigitalVA.

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.

**A rock in bad hands killed Abel.
A rock in good hands killed Goliath.
It is definitely not about the rock, folks.**

Two boys and five girls

7 students entered the VFW's Voice of Democracy

Seven students from Central Indiana entered the 2022-2023 annual Voice of Democracy sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. This year's theme was: "Why is the Veteran Important?"

Established in 1947, the Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regard to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 40,000 students from grades 9 through 12 from across the country enter to win their share of \$2.1 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The national first-place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college, or vocational/technical school. A complete list of other national scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$15,000, and the first-place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins a minimum scholarship of \$1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

Greenwood VFW Post 5864 had seven (7) entrants. They included: Maria R. Wood from Muncie, Indiana. She is a senior in high school and is home schooled, Noah D. Baugh from Bargersville, Indiana. He is a ninth grader and is home schooled; Raelyn L. Smith from Carthage, Indiana. She is a junior and attends Iron Rock Preparatory Academy, Eden J. Wood from Muncie, Indiana. She is a senior and is home schooled, Zoe N. Lowe from Greenwood, Indiana. She is a ninth grader and attends Greenwood Community High School; Veronica J. Chaille from Indianapolis, Indiana. She attends Leather Run Homeschool and is a ninth grader, and Lincoln T. Pickett of Indianapolis. He is a ninth grader and attends Burge Terrace Home Educators.

The first, second, and third place winners as selected by the judges include: **1st Place** - Zoe N. Lowe; **2nd Place** -- Raelyn L. Smith; and **3rd Place** -- Eden J. Wood.

The first, second, third, and two honorable mentions places include: **1st Place** – Kendal G. Adams; **2nd Place** – Anna Brinker; **3rd Place** – Lilah J. Shay; and the two **Honorable Mentions** listed in alphabetical order are: Ian Baugh, and Levi C. Baugh.



Why are Veterans Important?

By Zoe N. Lowe

Veteran. By Google definition it means, "A person who has served in the military." Although this is a straightforward dictionary definition, it fails to capture what being a veteran actually is -- the courage, the sacrifice, and the trauma endured to earn that title. Veterans have risked their lives in order for our country to live in safety and in prosperity.



Unfortunately, most disregard the importance of these Veterans and don't understand the significance of who they are, and the stories they've told. They carry the past to create the future, and they bear burdens many of us dare not hold. They show us all that bravery and sacrifice have and always will help our country endure.

They are the living reminders of the past. They give us courage for the future. Veterans show us that no matter what, hope is still alive and thriving in a dark world.

Veterans tell vital stories of wars, and the bravery and sacrifice that go into them. Many wars fought wouldn't be remembered as they are if it weren't for the courageous veterans who fought them. A textbook might describe a battle, but a warrior who experienced that combat first-hand, might have a much different story, one that gives more detail and

■ **Continued to page 45**

Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen winners . . .

■ *Continued from page 44*

accurate information. In other words, veterans are a living history book who keep the stories of bravery and sacrifice alive.

The veterans who tell these stories, passed down from generation to generation, help us see the light in the tunnel of darkness of war and conflict. And they give us hope for the future and if something as sinister were to happen ever again, brave people would once again be willing to come to the aid of the innocent.

Let us not forget that veterans also carry a burden from these wars. The amount of trauma and even physical injury that goes into fighting wars is immeasurable and can stay with veterans for their whole lives. Losing friends, losing family, and even sometimes being close to losing their own lives comes at a cost. Veterans bravely carry this trauma and sometimes even raise awareness about it to help other veterans cope with carrying such a painful burden.

This is why it is vital to help veterans overcome such trauma by providing programs that can help them cope with it, so they can continue to shine a light in the darkness, rather than being swallowed by it.

Developing and offering veterans hope-giving initiatives is essential to the survival of veterans -- our inspirational living history books.

Overall, veterans provide Americans indispensable information about the sacrifice and harshness of war. They are the glimmering lights of hope in the darkness of despair. They carry burdens that many of us dare not hold and they show us why our country still survives as it is today. They give us hope for the future of our country and they show us what true patriotism and self-sacrifice really is.

Over 250 entries

5 students selected as winners in Patriot's Pen

Boundless Gratitude

By Kendal G. Adams

"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices." These genuine words were spoken by President Harry Truman and engraved for the people of America to reflect on. These words effortlessly punctured hearts as they did mine, but for me, the immense pain of those words began to take effect as I stood in the middle of Arlington National Cemetery.



Everyone in America is standing with their feet planted on the ground of a free country. At that moment, I was able to realize the sacrifices that surrounded me. The abundance of white stones was exactly that, stones. So how could they suddenly become so vibrant?

The answer became clear; they are the foundation of the land I am standing on. My perspective shifted as I watched what were once graves transform into hundreds of thousands of gallant men and women beaming at the country they helped devise. It is impossible to successfully pay off a debt that was given by someone's very being.

So, with that conclusion, a pledge was etched onto my heart. To establish an unwavering practice

■ *Continued to page 46*

Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen winners . . .

■ Continued from page 45

in my life to always give the proper recognition and appreciation to all veterans. To achieve that, the most prominent task is to keep gratitude as an essential principle in my life. It is appallingly easy for Americans not to consider the unfathomable sacrifices it took to get the freedom we have today.

I will make certain that while expressing my gratitude towards all of the brave people who defend our country, others will be able to take notice of my actions, and then have the desire to want to contribute as well. Simple acts like being an exemplary citizen by helping others in need or saying the Pledge of Allegiance each morning not only affects you as an American but the people around you.

I vow, that I will never fail to show my patriotism, and honor the veterans that shaped this country, regardless of any circumstances. My hope is that by honoring veterans and appreciating what they worked tirelessly to defend, my fellow Americans will observe this and allow their hearts to be filled with boundless gratitude towards those who gave this land boundless life.

VFW Post 5864's Annual Community Awards program will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Banquet Rooms A and B. The recipient of the awards for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen will receive their certificates and money that they earned for their participation and placement.

We will also have awards for Outstanding Citizen of the Year, Outstanding Police Officer of the Year, Outstanding Firefighter of the Year, and Outstanding EMT of the Year.

November 29, 1952

President Eisenhower goes to Korea to help end war

Making good on his most dramatic presidential campaign promise, newly elected Dwight D. Eisenhower goes to Korea to see whether he can find the key to ending the bitter and frustrating Korean War.

During the presidential campaign of 1952, Republican candidate Eisenhower was critical of the Truman administration's foreign policy, particularly its inability to bring an end to the conflict in Korea. President Truman challenged Eisenhower on October 24 to produce an alternate policy. Eisenhower responded with the startling announcement that if he were elected, he would personally go to Korea to get a firsthand view of the situation. The promise boosted Eisenhower's popularity and he handily defeated Democratic candidate Adlai E. Stevenson.



Dwight D. Eisenhower
President

Shortly after his election, Eisenhower fulfilled his campaign pledge, though he was not very specific about exactly what he hoped to accomplish. After a short stay he returned to the United States yet remained mum about his plans concerning the Korean War. After taking office, however, Eisenhower adopted a get-tough policy toward the communists in Korea. He suggested that he would "unleash" the Nationalist Chinese forces in Taiwan against communist China, and he sent only slightly veiled messages that he would use any force necessary (including the use of nuclear weapons) to bring the war to an end unless peace negotiations began to move forward. The Chinese, exhausted by more than two years of war, finally agreed to terms and an armistice was signed on July 27, 1953.

Almost 40,000 Americans died in action and more than 100,000 were wounded in this "forgotten war," and the U.S. spent nearly \$70 billion. The most frustrating war in U.S. history had come to an end. America's first experience with a "limited war," one in which the nation did not seek (and did not obtain) absolute victory over the enemy, did not bode well for the future. Conflict in Vietnam was just around the corner.

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 or the payment was running late.

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. 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.

Two old friends – 67 years

Danny Wilson, on the left, and Steve Milbourn, on the right met each other in 1955. They were both living in a rather old house that had been added to and it became tenement housing for five families.

They attended grade school and Tech High School together. A few years went by and then they both joined the U.S. Army. Danny first in August 1964 and Steve in December 1964.

Two years later, in 1966, they both ended up in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. Steve went over in April 1966 and Danny followed in June 1966. They both went home in 1967. In 2012, Steve and wife Patti moved back to Greenwood and moved in a condo next to Danny and Linda, and here we are 67 years later, and both are VFW 5864 members.

