



VFW Post 5864 Newsletter

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

Greenwood Memorial VFW Post 5864 – February 2023 Newsletter

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

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

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

Money earned from 2022

Honor Guard presents two checks for \$2,839

The Greenwood-New Whiteland Honor Guard presented two checks to Mike Tomes, VFW Post 5864 Quartermaster at the Jan. 3, meeting of the VFW.

One check was for the General Fund, in the amount of \$300 and the other check was for the Relief Fund in the amount \$2,539.

In the photo at right is Sherri Jones, left, and Mike Tomes on the right. Sherri oversees the Honor Guard in the absence of Commander Bob Tuttle.

The Honor Guard does more than 100 funerals a year for veterans. Many of the members of the Honor Guard have been active for over 20 years.

They are always looking for "new blood" and you can call Bob Tuttle at 317-888-5617.



Annual Post and Auxiliary elections, 63 days away

Greenwood VFW Post 5864 and its Auxiliary will hold their annual elections in 63 days from February 1. The Post will hold an election for Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain, 3-year House Committee member and 3-year Trustee.

Nominations and the election for 2023-2024 officers will be held on Tuesday, April 4 at 7 p.m.

If you are interested in becoming part of the solution, have someone nominate you, then you accept the nomination. If there are no other nominations for the position you are seeking, the Adjutant will cast a unanimous ballot in your favor. All terms are 1-year except the House Committee and Trustee positions – they are both 3-years.

All of the positions listed above will require a certain amount of your time. Many of our current officers are retired, however that is not a requirement.

See Pages 10, 12, and 13 for VFW Scholarship Applications

Thanks so much for so many things . . .

Cindy,

I just want to thank you so much for so many things.

Making this day happen for us very quickly and especially with you coming in on your day off on New Year's Day was such a blessing. You have showed us such kindness and it has meant the world to us.

The celebration of life turned out way better than we could have imagined and that was because of you and the VFW. From our entire family, we want to say thank you so much for all of that and this very kind donation.

The outpouring of generosity that so many have shown is overwhelming.

I hope that 2023 is great to you. Much love! ❤️

-- Susie Hensley -- Sister of Christi Tolbert (Celebration of Life – January 1, 2023, at VFW 5864)



I was honored to share New Year's Day with your family. I always wanted to have a large, honest, truthful, sarcastic, smart, and funny family. You have this. ❤️ Sending a big hug of love and light to you all. (Including Tom, the old guy).

-- Cindy Reinert

We appreciate your Banquet Room . . .

Hey Steve, everyone had a blast Saturday night, thanks to all involved!!! –

-- Marty Cooper – Superior Systems, Franklin, Indiana



Steve and staff,

I wanted to let you know that our January 14 wedding reception came off without any issues. From Cindy, Kat, and Laura at the front bar. As well as the catering, we were extremely satisfied with everything. We especially appreciate the time you and Cindy took to work with us as we were planning our event.

One of our Bridesmaids spoke to Cindy about booking something for her daughter later this year. Everyone who attended also said good things about the evening. I am truly grateful that I am a member of VFW Post 5864 Auxiliary.

Again, thank you very much.

-- Lisa and Anthony Bridges



To all that were involved with the Customer Appreciation Evening – We had a great time. Thanks for all of your hard work.

-- Don & Sue Harris

A Message from the Commander . . .

Every VFW Post Commander's responsibilities

The information below is contained on page 6 of the Officers Responsibilities – Administration Policy and Procedures, published by the National Veterans of Foreign Wars Headquarters.

I am providing the information below to let those individuals interested in being nominated for the position of Commander. This position requires your time, talent, ability to move tables and chairs, clean them off, take trash out, and quite a few other tasks. As Commander, you will be part of a 5-member committee that works anywhere from 20 hours a week up to as many as 35-40 hours a week. The position is unpaid.

There are three (3) independently elected members of the House Committee. Each serves three (3) years however, their terms are staggered so that only one (1) person is elected each year. The Post Commander and Post Quartermaster are the other two (2) members. By being elected to either of those positions you are automatically, according to the Post bylaws and State VFW bylaws, part of the House Committee. They meet once a week.

More than likely, you would need to come in on Friday evenings for several hours. The bartender on Friday occasionally needs additional ice, they may need more beer or liquor. Last week I ran the cash register in the kitchen, washed dishes and cleared a few plates off tables.

And there is another part of the job – you have several individuals who have questions about everything – membership, renting the banquet room(s), etc. The job keeps you on your feet daily.

Then, keeping everyone in the building informed as to what is going on from day to day is also extremely important. We have a Facebook page, we are working on updating our website, a monthly newsletter and occasionally we will need to send out a special e-mail for various reasons.



Steve Milbourn
Post Commander



The **Post Commander** is the key officer of the Post. They, alone, represent the judicial branch of the organization and also have some of the responsibilities of the executive branch.

They preside at all meetings, enforce the rules, appoint committees not otherwise provided for, and make certain that the other officers and committee members perform their duties.

Their authority extends to the Post Home or Club to the extent of enforcing the rules of the Post and the National and Department VFW and public laws. They represent the authority of the Post between meetings, and their voice is that of the Post membership.

They see that the Post Trustees conduct their audits, that the Post Quartermaster is bonded, and that the House Committee properly supervises the activities of the Post Home.

Their authority also is limited according to the rules of the organization and the bounds of common sense. They are in no sense a dictator. They cannot order nor permit the breaking of laws, nor can they supersede the recognized authority of other officers or committees.

They cannot, for instance, order the Club Manager to keep the clubroom(s) open after hours, nor can they direct the Post Quartermaster to pay an unauthorized bill.

The Commander should be familiar with all activities of the Post. They should sit in with the Trustees at their audits or, at least, have a sufficient knowledge of their procedure to know whether they are doing their job. They should attend the meetings of the House Committee, calling to their attention any discrepancies they may have observed or complaints they may have received.

They must know that when they sign a check, it is in payment of a legitimate expenditure.

The Commander is the arbitrator of arguments and the judge in disputes. As a general rule, their decisions are considered correct until over-ruled by the Post meeting, the District, Department Commander, or Commander-in-Chief.

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
- On-site Management
- Kitchen not available due to liability
- 41 – 6 ft. tables
- 16 – 8 ft. tables
- 13 – 5 ft. round tables
- No alcohol allowed to be brought into VFW
- 170 parking spaces
- 4 restrooms
- 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



**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



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary to VFW Post 5864

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

THE AUXILIARY IN PROGRESS

On December 18, the Auxiliary held the annual Children's Christmas Party in the banquet room. Seventeen (17) children and their parents enjoyed fun games, food, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Clause. Each child received a gift from Santa and a picture with Santa.



The Auxiliary held their monthly meeting on January 3, 2023. Eight (8) members were present. Three (3) interim trustees were appointed by motion and approved. Flo Fricke – 1st year, Pam Bush – 2nd year and Trudy Umphrey – 3rd year.

Joan Wood was also appointed as Conductor. Bill Hart was appointed Guard and Junior Vice-President

A suggestion was made by Brenda Lippert to have a Lottery Board to raffle off as a fund raiser. All members were in favor of the idea.

Brenda will get lottery scratch-off tickets and a \$100 bill to attach to the board. Tickets will be sold, and the board winning ticket will be drawn Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. Members also discussed the Mega Bingo Event



VFW Auxiliary in Progress . . . ■ *Continued from page 6*

scheduled for August 6, 2023. A committee of 7 members, Trudy Umphrey, Chairman, Linda Kessinger, Flo Fricke, Carol Puckett, Brenda Lippert, Joan Wood, and Pam Bush. The first meeting will be announced.

January is “Do Something for our Veterans” month. It was decided by the majority to host a free breakfast for any Veteran on Saturday, January 21 at the VFW Post. All veterans are welcome. Six (6) members met on Jan. 10 to take down Christmas trees located in the bar area and banquet room. The Auxiliary Audit for months from Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, is due February 28. The Spring Conference will be held at the Marriott East in Indianapolis on March 24 through the 28. If interested in attending, contact Carol Bullock at 317-714-7062. Auxiliary Reports Forms are due April 1.

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

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

If you haven't paid your dues, please pay by June 30 to avoid a rejoining fee. Dues are \$20. After June 30, a rejoining fee of \$25 and an application will have to be submitted to Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary welcomes four new members: Shirley Marshall, Ronald Sheedy, Eva Sheedy, and Wm. Dexter Albright.

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 February.

For those members who are currently not well, please know you are always in our thoughts and prayers.



*Happy
Valentine's Day*

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;
Carol Bullock-Puckett, Secretary; Brenda Lippert, Treasurer

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

Greetings: I hope that each Voyageur and their families had a wonderful Christmas/Holiday Season. I wish you and your families a great New Year in 2023.

Mark Your Calendars: Our next Promenade is February 27, 2023, at 7 p.m.

Nurses Training at Marian University: The annual Voiture Locale 145 Endowment report from Marian University sure looks good. Our endowment stands at \$216,678 dollars. There was \$6,578 dollars given out in scholarships to student nurses in 2022.



Activities: So far this membership year we have financially assisted a veterans family, became a Corporate Sponsor for 3 Scout Troops/Units and hosted a Christmas dinner to include several student nurses. This is what our organization is all about – serving our Community, and helping our fellow veterans in times of need.

Voiture Membership: Congratulations to our newest Voyageurs: James L. Mandabach and Duane E. DeBaun. Currently our membership stands at 90.1%.

We still need several new members to replace those who went to Voiture Everlasting in order to reach 100%. At present we need 8 more members to reach our goal of 101 members. Have **YOU** reached out and signed up a new member? Now is the time to do so. There are plenty of eligible veterans out there. Let's get them on board.

Life Membership: Have you thought about purchasing a Life Membership in the 40 et 8? Voiture 145 currently has a total of 13 Life Members. V-145 would like to work with you in obtaining that Life Membership. If you desire to become a Life Member, contact Mike Delaney or myself. Voiture Locale 145 will base your Life Membership on the \$18.50 per capita tax. This reduces the total cost for a Life Membership considerably.

Jay Collars
Chef de Gare

January 24, 1972

Japanese soldier found hiding in jungles of Guam

After 28 years of hiding in the jungles of Guam, local farmers discover Shoichi Yokoi, a Japanese sergeant who fought in World War II.

Guam, a 200-square-mile island in the western Pacific, became a U.S. possession in 1898 after the Spanish-American War. In 1941, the Japanese attacked and captured it, and in 1944, after three years of Japanese occupation, U.S. forces retook Guam.

It was at this time that Yokoi, left behind by the retreating Japanese forces, went into hiding rather than surrender to the Americans. In the jungles of Guam, he carved survival tools and for the next three decades waited for the return of the Japanese and his next orders. After he was discovered in 1972, he was finally discharged and sent home to Japan, where he was hailed as a national hero.

He subsequently married and returned to Guam for his honeymoon. His handcrafted survival tools and threadbare uniform are on display in the Guam Museum in Agana.



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

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

Named after Ralph D. Napier

Scholarship program applications now available

The Greenwood VFW's annual Scholarships are named for former Greenwood VFW Post Commander, District and State Commander, Ralph D. Napier. Ralph served in Korea and became eligible for the VFW when he was awarded the Korean Service Medal with five bronze stars.

The bronze stars were for military campaigns he participated in while there.

Napier, now deceased, was born in 1932 in Three Point, Harlan County, Kentucky. He was the 10th of 12 children. He was urged to quit school at age 17, joined the Army and spent 17 months in Korea. When he returned home, he married Ponciana "Ponci" (Garcia) Napier. They were parents of a son, Bradley; and two daughters, Teresa, and Rita.

Ralph was the first Cub Scoutmaster of Troop 260 in 1960 and in 1965 was the Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 266 earning numerous awards for his efforts. Also, in the early 1960's he was one of the founding fathers of the Greenwood Little League. He and other founding members cleared the raw land, put in ball diamonds, fences, building dugouts and he also coached. Mr. Napier stayed with the Little League long after his own children moved on and then he became President of that organization.



Ralph was a continually active veteran. He was a member of American Legion Post 355; Indianapolis Masonic Lodge 514 and the Scottish Rite of Indianapolis. A long-time member of VFW Post 5864, he was Post Quartermaster for 7 years; Post Commander; District 7 Commander; and finally, State Commander.

According to his son Bradley, "He had that 'never give up attitude' and the foresight to always give back to the people that meant the most – God, family, and the youth of the community."

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Thailand declares war on the U.S. and England

On January 25, 1942, Thailand, a Japanese puppet state, declares war on the Allies.

When war broke out in Europe in September 1939, Thailand declared its neutrality, much to the distress of France and England. Both European nations had colonies surrounding Thailand and hoped Thailand would support the Allied effort and prevent Japanese encroachment on their Pacific territory. But Thailand began moving in the opposite direction, creating a "friendship" with Japan, and adding to its school textbooks a futuristic map of Thailand with a "Greater Thailand" encroaching on Chinese territory.



Thailand's first real conflict with the Allies came after the fall of France to the Germans and the creation of the puppet government at Vichy. Thailand saw this as an opportunity to redraw the borders of French Indochina. The Vichy government refused to accommodate the Thais, so Thai troops crossed into French Indochina and battled French troops. Japan interceded in the conflict on the side of the Thais, and used its political alliance with Germany to force Vichy France to cede 21,000 square miles to Thailand.

On December 8, 1941, the Japanese made an amphibious landing on the coast of Thailand, part of the comprehensive sweep of South Pacific islands that followed the bombing raid at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The Japanese had assistance, though: Thailand's prime minister, Lang Pipul, collaborated with the Japanese, embracing the Axis power's war goal of usurping territory in China, and ruling over the South Pacific. Pipul wanted to partake in the spoils; toward that end, he declared war on the United States and England. In October, he took dictatorial control of Thailand and became a loyal puppet of the Japanese.

January 9, 1945

United States invades Luzon in Philippines

Gen. Douglas MacArthur and the American 6th Army land on the Lingayen Gulf of Luzon, another step in the capture of the Philippine Islands from the Japanese.

The Japanese controlled the Philippines from May 1942, when the defeat of American forces led to General MacArthur's departure and Gen. Jonathan Wainwright's capture. But in October 1944, more than 100,000 American soldiers landed on Leyte Island to launch one of the bloodiest battles of the Pacific war—and herald the beginning of the end for Japan.

Newsreels captured the event as MacArthur waded ashore at Leyte on October 20, returning to the Philippines as he had famously promised he would after the original defeat of American forces there. What the newsreels didn't capture were the 67 days it took to subdue the island, with the loss of more than 55,000 Japanese soldiers during the two months of battle and approximately 25,000 more soldiers killed in smaller-scale engagements necessary to fully clear the area of enemy troops. The U.S. forces lost about 3,500.

The sea battle of Leyte Gulf was the same story. The loss of ships and sailors was horrendous for both sides. That battle also saw the introduction of the Japanese kamikaze suicide bombers. More than 5,000 kamikaze pilots died in this gulf battle, taking down 34 ships. But the Japanese were not able to prevent the loss of their biggest and best warships, which meant the virtual end of the Japanese Imperial Fleet.

These American victories on land and sea at Leyte opened the door for the landing of more than 60,000 American troops on Luzon on January 9. Once again, cameras recorded MacArthur walking ashore, this time to greet cheering Filipinos. Although the American troops met little opposition when they landed, the light cruiser *Columbia* and the battleship *Mississippi* were hit by kamikazes, resulting in the deaths of 49 American crewmen.

The initial ease of the American fighters' first week on land was explained when they discovered the intricate defensive network of caves and tunnels that the Japanese created on Luzon. The intention of the caves and tunnels was to draw the Americans inland, while allowing the Japanese to avoid the initial devastating bombardment of an invasion force. Once Americans reached them, the Japanese fought vigorously, convinced they were directing American strength away from the Japanese homeland. Despite their best efforts, the Japanese lost the battle for Luzon and eventually, the battle for control over all of the Philippines.

Being a volunteer -- they live to serve . . .

The concept of giving of one's time and energy to help or walk alongside other volunteers is a special and unique thing for many people. Some don't grasp how meaningful and important it can actually be, not just for those being helped, but also for those who volunteer.

Live to serve individually or as a team of dedicated volunteers. Collectively as a Post, we can help a veteran, a family, or even members of our community.

If you would like to feel wanted, inspired, and empowered, consider spending some of your time and energy volunteering at your Post. It may be just a few minutes that will change everything for someone or for you as a volunteer.

We promise you an experience filled with fun, encouragement, laughter, camaraderie, and excitement with important and meaningful pride in yourself and your Post.

Consider joining us. Have a belief in something bigger than yourself.

– Anonymous



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Greenwood Memorial

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5864

1842 Veterans Way -- Greenwood, IN 46143

Phone 317-888-2488

2023 Ralph D. Napier Scholarship Application

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5864, Greenwood, in order to assist a deserving young man or woman pursue their education after high school, will award a graduate of the class of 2023 from an accredited high school the sum of \$1,000, to be applied as the recipient wishes to the costs associated with the education at an undergraduate degree granting college or university within the United States. The scholarship will be paid in two equal amounts, one payment per semester. The applicant must be a full-time student attending consecutive semesters. No exceptions to this attendance requirement are permitted.

Eligibility

Applicant must be a resident of Indiana who is currently a senior in high school in the class of 2023 or enrolled in an accredited university or college. Post Graduate education or other advanced degrees are not included in this scholarship fund.

The applicant must be the child, stepchild, grandchild, or step-grandchild sponsored by a member in good standing of VFW Post 5864. If the sponsor is deceased, he or she must have been a member in good standing in VFW Post 5864 at the time of death. The VFW membership number of the sponsor and the relationship must be provided on the application for verification.

Selection Criteria

- Academic achievement (e.g., GPA, official academic transcript requires)
- Leadership and participation in school and/or community activities
- Honors (e.g., academic, church, community, Scouting, etc.)
- Community Service
- Patriotic Involvement

A biographical essay including the above selection criteria (i.e., leadership, participation, and service in school, church, or community; honors received), the responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society, and the personal goals for the future. The essay shall be the original work of the applicant. Any other material must be footnoted. The essay shall not be less than one page or longer than three typed pages, and will be formatted with one-inch margins, 1.5 line spacing and 12-point font. This essay will be reviewed and graded based on grammar, spelling, originality, context, and content at a level consistent with exceptional academic work. Please include a passport sized photo with the application.

A grade report and course registration for the second consecutive must be submitted in order to receive the second payment of the scholarship if the applicant is selected.

Send all required material and supporting documentation to:

Greenwood VFW Post 5864
1842 Veterans Way, Greenwood, IN 46143
Attention: Scholarship Committee

Please include your name, address and phone number and email address for contact information. Applications must be delivered to the VFW Post 5864 by Wednesday, May 31, 2023. The decision of the Scholarship Committee Judges will be final, and all applicants will receive written notification that a decision has been reached. The winner will be notified by U.S. Mail. Presentation of this award will take place on the evening of August 1, 2023, at the VFW Post 5864 meeting.



Greenwood Memorial

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5864

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

2023 Ralph D. Napier Scholarship Application (Attach all Supporting Documentation)

Applicant Information:

Name: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____
 First M.I. Last
Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip Code: _____
Home Tel: _____ Mobile Tel: _____ Email: _____
Employed: Y N Employer Name: _____ City: _____
Position: _____ Volunteer: _____

Educational Institution Currently Being Attended:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Major or Type of Training: _____
Grade Point Average (GPA): _____ Expected Completion Date: _____

Educational Institution Planning to Attend:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Course of Study: _____ Degree Sought: _____
Expected Completion Date: _____ Semester Tuition/Books/Fees: _____
Semester Start Date: _____

Applicant Sponsor: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____
Sponsor Signature: _____ Date: _____
Sponsor VFW Membership No. _____ (Required)
Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

March 29, 1973, Vietnam War Veterans Day



March 29 was chosen as National Vietnam War Veterans Day because on March 29, 1973, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) was disbanded and the last U.S. combat troops departed the Republic of Vietnam.

March 29 is now set aside to recognize and honor all who served in uniform during that designated period (Nov. 1, 1955 - April 30, 1975); regardless of whether they had boots on the ground in Vietnam or not.

The Vietnam Veteran is aging. In 2022, the average age of a Vietnam Veteran is around 75 years old. Of the 2,709,918 Americans who served in the Vietnam theater of operation, less than 610,000 (22.5%) are estimated to be alive today.

Due to March 29 being a Bingo night, the Post will celebrate this day on Saturday, April 1, 2023

America's Bird – the Bald Eagle

Jan 9, 2016 | AEF in the Media, All News, Eagles in the News, Nest Cam News

The Bald Eagle, the national symbol of the United States, is unique to North America. The Bald Eagle's scientific name, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, means sea (hali), eagle (aetos), white (leukos), and head (cephalos) as in the feathers on the eagle's head. The word "bald" comes from the old English "balde," meaning white. The Bald Eagle is a seabird with a white head.

In Florida, the Bald Eagle can be found along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and around inland river systems, with nests usually within a mile or two of the water. There are several eagle nests in Flagler County and eagles can often be seen soaring near the ocean.



The Bald Eagle above is located near the VFW. Mike Delaney was able to snap a photo of this beautiful bird that is a symbol of the United States of America.

Nesting season in Florida is from October to April, with nests often being built high in a living pine or cypress tree that offers a view of the surrounding area and can support the eagle's sizeable nest. Other nesting sites may include former great blue heron nests or artificial structures, such as communication towers and raptor nesting platforms built by communities or bird enthusiasts.

According to an unpublished Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) report in 2006, however, Bald Eagles in Florida strongly prefer living native pines, with 75 percent of all eagle nests surveyed being built in these trees.

Most nests produce 1-2 nestling eagles, which remain with the parents for about 13 weeks while they are fed and practice their flying skills (their first flight is called "fledging"), after which they spend another 4-11 weeks before leaving the nest in April.

Using one of three migration flyways -- the Atlantic Coast, the Appalachian Mountains, and Mississippi River Valley -- fledglings and adults from our area often migrate northward to the coastal region of North Carolina, the Chesapeake Bay, and as far north as Newfoundland and Canada, where they spend the summer before returning to Florida in the fall.

Florida Bald Eagles are opportunistic foragers, feeding or scavenging on a wide variety of prey, primarily various fish and waterfowl species, plus occasional mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. Bald Eagles in Florida also often scavenge carcasses along

roadways and even garbage at landfills.

Florida has 1,340 nesting territories (based on 2008-2009 nesting season data) and is home to more nesting pairs than any other state, except Alaska and Minnesota. Although removed from federal and state endangered species lists in 2007 and 2008, respectively, federal and state rules continue to protect the species from human threat.

For those wanting to view Florida Bald Eagles on video, this website by the American Eagle Foundation will allow you to enjoy these beautiful creatures in their natural habitat. I hope you enjoy them as much as I do.

Article written by Frank Gromling and appeared in the January – February – March 2016 Sun and Surf magazine.

It is important to follow the gaming rules –

Gaming workers cannot buy pull-tabs the same day

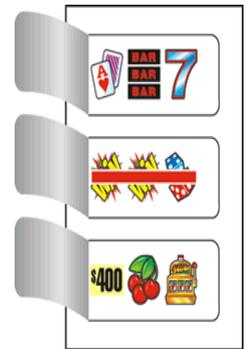
According to Kim Barnett -- Director of Operations of the Charity Gaming Division of the Indiana Gaming Commission, if you are working behind the bar and selling pull-tabs, a 50-50, or any other games of chance to customers, you cannot purchase tickets to any of the games the day that you worked. Operators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



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

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

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



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.

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 March newsletter is Thursday, February 16 at 5 p.m.

Community service event could start again

Weekly Euchre games could be in the near future

The weekly Euchre games were previously put on hold when we moved to our new location in March 2020. Auxiliary members oversaw the event for a number of years with VFW members occasionally helping with the games.



Recently there was some discussion concerning restarting the card game. In order to play Euchre, we would need one helper for every 24 individuals who plays Euchre. We are asking those individuals who may be interested in working and / or playing to let us know your thoughts.

Because we have weekly Texas Hold-em games which begin at 1 p.m., the Euchre games would not start until around 5 p.m. and hopefully be through by no later than 8 p.m.

The Euchre Committee will go over the rules with everyone and answer any questions that may be presented.

There will be four places with cash prizes. Prize money will be paid out based on the number of individuals who play the game. There is also a cash prize for the high game score.

Members interested in working the Euchre games, should call Steve Milbourn, 317-525-7291 or e-mail him at steve.milbourn@aol.com. Let us know as soon as possible.

It will take approximately two weeks to get our current license modified to allow Euchre. To be a worker or an operator, we would need some basic information and your name would be submitted to the Indiana Gaming Commission. It takes about three to four weeks for them to process that information and update our Gaming License.

The cost for adding individuals onto our license is a fee of \$25 for as many individuals as we can put on the addendum. The VFW will pay this fee.

You would need to be a member of the VFW or the VFW Auxiliary to be placed on the license. To be a member of the VFW, you would have to have served in a designated combat zone yourself. Men and women can join the VFW Auxiliary.

To join the Auxiliary, you must be a husband, wife, mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, step and / or adopted parents, children, siblings, and half-siblings are considered the same as biological parents to the veteran. The initial cost to join the VFW Auxiliary is \$25 the first year, after that it is \$20 per year.

It is also possible that we could open the kitchen for a couple of hours and have some food like wings and pulled pork sandwiches. We also have potato chips, candy bars, soft drinks, water and beer and liquor at the bar. Once a month someone can make a crock-pot of something to sell by the bowl (chili, vegetable soup, etc.)

After learning the Pacific War has ended

Several Japanese soldiers surrender Jan. 1, 1946

An American soldier accepts the surrender of about 20 Japanese soldiers who only discovered that the war was over by reading it in the newspaper.

On the island of Corregidor, located at the mouth of Manila Bay, a lone soldier on detail for the American Graves Registration was busy recording the makeshift graves of American soldiers who had lost their lives fighting the Japanese. He was interrupted when approximately 20 Japanese soldiers approached him waving a white flag.

They had been living in an underground tunnel built during the war and learned that their country had already surrendered when one of them ventured out in search of water and found a newspaper announcing Japan's defeat.

Post Relief Fund used for specific items only

The Post Relief Fund was established by the National Veterans of Foreign Wars to aid those in need; sick and so forth. The information below concerning the Relief Fund is contained in the 2022 Podium Edition of the Manual of Procedures, Article II – Posts, Section 219 – Relief Fund, pages 76 and 77.



The Quartermaster of the Post will be the custodian of the Relief Fund and will expend monies as directed by the Post for the eight purposes only:

1. Aid, assistance, relief, and comfort of needy or disabled veterans or members of the Armed Forces and their dependents, and the surviving spouses and orphans of deceased veterans.
2. Maintenance and expansion of the VFW National Home for Children and other facilities devoted exclusively to the benefit and welfare of the dependents, surviving spouses, and orphans of disabled, needy or deceased veterans or members of the Armed Forces.
3. Necessary expenses in providing entertainment, care, and assistance to hospitalized veterans or members of the Armed Forces.
4. Veterans rehabilitation, welfare, and service work.
5. To perpetuate the memory of deceased veterans and members of the Armed Forces, and to comfort their survivors.
6. To foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs.
7. Remission of dues of sick, needy, or disabled veterans.
8. Necessary expenses to support the Relief Fund such as the purchase of Buddy Poppies.



Relief Funds may be invested in approved securities but shall not be loaned to the Post or other units or transferred from the Relief Fund in any manner or under any guise.

Most of the income for the Relief Fund comes directly from the offering of Buddy Poppies on or near Memorial Day and, also on or near Veterans Day. One hundred percent (100%) of all money donated to the Relief Fund is used to help veterans and/or their families.

Visiting any VFW bar or “canteen” is a privilege

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

The National VFW does not recognize bars or “canteens.” As such, an individual’s conduct in a bar or “canteen” is important. Although, we as a VFW always welcome new members and friends visiting with us to look at our facility and



have something to eat and drink. Recently there have been some folks that were overheard making statements about things they know nothing about.

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

business and look forward to seeing you again.

-- Steve Milbourn, Commander

**Free Notary Service to Veterans and Auxiliary Members of
VFW Post 5864 – Contact Doree Boger -- 317-286--8892**

Operation Ranch Hand initiated by U.S. Air Force

The U.S. Air Force launches Operation Ranch Hand on January 12, 1962. It was a “modern technological area-denial technique” designed to expose the roads and trails used by the Viet Cong.

Flying C-123 Providers, U.S. personnel dumped an estimated 19 million gallons of defoliating herbicides over 10-20 percent of Vietnam and parts of Laos between 1962-1971. Agent Orange -- named for the color of its metal containers -- was the most frequently used defoliating herbicide. The operation succeeded in killing vegetation, but not in stopping the Viet Cong. The use of these agents was controversial, both during and after the war, because of the questions about long-term ecological impacts and the effect on humans who either handled or were sprayed by the chemicals.

Beginning in the late 1970s, Vietnam veterans began to cite the herbicides, especially Agent Orange, as the cause of health problems ranging from skin rashes to cancer to birth defects in their children. Similar problems, including an abnormally high incidence of miscarriages and congenital malformations, have been reported among the Vietnamese people who lived in the areas where the defoliating agents were used.

Donations are needed for

VFW Post 5864's

Walk-In Cooler

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

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

Thanks much for your help! We appreciate you.

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

December 20, 1960

N. Vietnam forms National Liberation Front (NLF)

North Vietnam announces the formation of the National Front for the Liberation of the South at a conference held “somewhere in the South.” This organization, more commonly known as the National Liberation Front (NLF), was designed to replicate the success of the Viet Minh, the umbrella nationalist organization that successfully liberated Vietnam from French colonial rule.

The NLF reached out to those parts of South Vietnamese society who were displeased with the government and policies of President Ngo Dinh Diem. One hundred delegates representing more than a dozen political parties and religious groups -- both communists and non-communists--were in attendance at the conference.

The Saigon regime dubbed the NLF the “Viet Cong,” a pejorative contraction of *Vietnam Cong San* (Vietnamese Communists).

The NLF's military arm was the People's Liberation Armed Forces (PLAF). In February 1965, the PLAF attacked U.S. Army installations at Pleiku, and Qui Nhon, which convinced President Lyndon B. Johnson to send the first U.S. ground troops to South Vietnam a month later. Ultimately, more than 500,000 U.S. troops were sent to Vietnam to fight the PLAF and the North Vietnamese Army.

The NLF reached the height of its power during the 1968 Tet Offensive, when the communists launched a massive coordinated attack against key urban centers throughout South Vietnam. Although the Viet Cong forces were soundly defeated during the course of the offensive, they achieved a great psychological victory because the attack prompted many longtime supporters of the war to question the Johnson administration's optimistic predictions.

Against Communist aggressor on January 12, 1954

U.S. announces policy of “massive retaliation”

In a speech at a Council on Foreign Relations dinner in his honor, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles announces that the United States will protect its allies through the “deterrent of massive retaliatory power.” The policy announcement was further evidence of the Eisenhower administration's decision to rely heavily on the nation's nuclear arsenal as the primary means of defense against communist aggression.

Dulles began his speech by examining communist strategy that, he concluded, had as its goal the “bankruptcy” of the United States through overextension of its military power. Both strategically and economically, the secretary explained, it was unwise to “permanently commit U.S. land forces to Asia,” to “support permanently other countries,” or to “become permanently committed to military expenditures so vast that they lead to ‘practical bankruptcy.’”

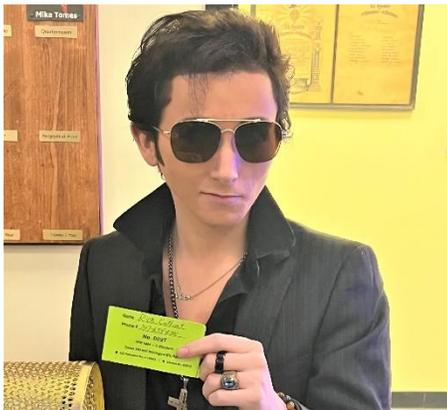
Instead, he believed a new policy of “getting maximum protection at a bearable cost” should be developed. Although Dulles did not directly refer to nuclear weapons, it was clear that the new policy he was describing would depend upon the “massive retaliatory power” of such weapons to respond to future communist acts of war.

The speech was a reflection of two of the main tenets of foreign policy under Eisenhower and Dulles. First was the belief, particularly on the part of Dulles, that America's foreign policy toward the communist threat had been timidly reactive during the preceding Democratic administration of President Harry S. Truman. Dulles consistently reiterated the need for a more proactive and vigorous approach to rolling back the communist sphere of influence. Second was President Eisenhower's belief that military and foreign assistance spending had to be controlled.

Eisenhower was a fiscal conservative and believed that the U.S. economy and society could not long take the strain of overwhelming defense budgets. A stronger reliance on nuclear weapons as the backbone of America's defense answered both concerns--atomic weapons were far more effective in terms of threatening potential adversaries, and they were also, in the long run, much less expensive than the costs associated with a large standing army.



Steve Milbourn, left, spun the basket of tickets and Tim Mack, right, drew the tickets for the two shotguns.



Tickets will be \$10 each. The Post's Gaming License Numbers are IGC Reference No. is 156963 and the License No. is 002855. Once the tickets are printed, they will be at available at the bar.

Doree Boger wins second shotgun

Rick Cathcart wins VFW shotgun raffle

The two shotguns which were raffled at the VFW over the last two months were drawn on Friday, January 6.

According to the rules established at the beginning of the raffle, the first ticket pulled would get their selection of one of the two shotguns.

The two shotguns were the Daiwa 500 Shotgun and the Remington 870 Tactical Shotgun.

Rick Cathcart's ticket was drawn first, and he selected the Remington 870 Tactical Shotgun. Doree Boger's ticket

was the second one pulled, and she won the Daiwa 500 Shotgun. The Post appreciates your participation in our raffles. They provide money for many different things associated with Gaming.

The current pistols, rifles, and shotguns which were being raffled over the past three months were part of a number of firearms that Ken Hall and his wife, Sue donated to us for the purpose of making some money for the Post.

The Post is extremely grateful for the generosity of Ken and Sue's gifts. Ken was the Post Chaplain for several years and also a good friend. He passed on May 30, 2022.

The Post will have another raffle near the beginning of February.

Groups or individuals must request use of VFW facilities

Use of facilities in the VFW must be requested

The use of any room in the VFW must be requested prior to its use. We do not allow anyone to use our kitchen due to insurance liability.

Recently we had some folks show up and went into the Day Room to use it as a meeting room. On the surface that is not a problem. However, we keep a book of all groups or individuals who wish to rent or use our facilities so that we can maintain some type of order.

There are times when the Day Room, and both Banquet Rooms are booked. If you showed up and did not have a reservation, you might be sitting in the bar room. On a Friday night, it is at times exceedingly difficult to hear anything with karaoke and music in the air.

We have a form – Use of Facilities, which has to be completed and the Banquet Manager and / or the Commander will review it to make sure nothing else is already booked for the day you need. After that we will sign the form, call you and let you know everything is fine or you need to provide us with an alternate date for your meeting, etc.

The form is at the bar. Ask one of the bartenders and they will make sure you get a copy, and they will also let you know if the date you have selected is available or not.

Win this 9-mm S & W Pistol

120 tickets @ \$10 each



Smith & Wesson 9 mm M & P - 9 2.0

2 – 15 round magazines – 1 box (50 rounds) of ammo

Pistol includes Crimson Trace Red Dot Optic as seen above

Indiana Gaming Commission License # 002855 and IGC Reference # 156963

Proceeds to benefit Veterans – See Bartender for tickets

January 26, 1945

Decorated U.S. soldier Audie Murphy is wounded

The most decorated man of World War II, American Lt. Audie Murphy, is wounded in France. Born the son of Texas sharecroppers on June 20, 1925, Murphy served three years of active duty, beginning as a private, rising to the rank of staff sergeant, and finally winning a battlefield commission to 2nd lieutenant.



He was wounded three times, fought in nine major campaigns across Europe, and was credited with killing 241 Germans. He was awarded 37 medals and decorations, including the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star (with oak leaf cluster), the Legion of Merit, and the Croix de Guerre (with palm).

The battle that earned Murphy the Medal of Honor, and which ended his active duty, occurred during the last stages of the Allied victory over the Germans in France. Murphy acted as cover for infantrymen during a last desperate German tank attack. Climbing atop an abandoned U.S. tank destroyer, he took control of its .50-caliber machine gun and killed 50 Germans, stopping the advance but suffering a leg wound in the process.

Upon returning to the States, Murphy was invited to Hollywood by Jimmy Cagney, who saw the war hero's picture on the cover of *Life* magazine. By 1950, Murphy was awarded an acting contract with Universal Pictures. In his most famous role, he played himself in the monumentally successful *To Hell and Back*.

Murphy suffered severe depression from post-traumatic stress syndrome, also called battle fatigue, and became addicted to sleeping pills as a result. This had long been a taboo subject for veterans. Murphy died in a plane crash while on a business trip in 1971. He was 46.

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.

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](https://www.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](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat).

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.

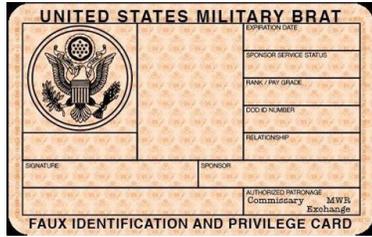
Link to VA Benefits for Disabled Veterans

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qW9Ta2IW9Qc4>

For Dept. of Defense or Uniformed Services

New Identification and Privilege cards available

If you are in need of a new updated Department of Defense or Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card, you can go to Camp Atterbury and pick-up a new one. You will need two forms of identification, i.e., DD-214, Driver's License, Passport, Current ID Card, Voter's Registration Card, Birth Certificate, or a State ID card with photo.



The Identification and Privilege Cards are only available for military retirees, current members of the military, and those veterans who are 100% Disabled, and their spouses.

The ID Card Office (DEERS / RAPIDS) is located in Building 338 off Fairbanks and 5th North St. at Camp Atterbury. Enter the building through the door on the East end.

You can reach them by phone at 812-526-1499, Ext. 61278.

In 2022

VA housed more than 40,000 homeless Veterans

During 2022, the Department of Veterans Affairs permanently housed 40,401 homeless Veterans, providing them with the safe, stable homes that they deserve. This exceeded the department's goal to house 38,000 Veterans in 2022 by 6.3%.

Nationally, the total number of Veterans experiencing homelessness has decreased by 11% since January 2020. In total, the estimated number of Veterans experiencing homelessness in America has declined by 55.3% since 2010.

This success is a result of VA efforts to reach out to every Veteran experiencing homelessness, understand their unique needs, and address them. These efforts are grounded in 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.

"There are thousands of formerly homeless Veterans who are going to sleep tonight in good, safe, stable homes – and there's nothing more important than that," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "This is great progress, but it's just the beginning: we at VA will not rest until the phrase 'homeless Veteran' is a thing of the past."

Ending Veteran homelessness is a top priority of VA and the Biden-Harris Administration. Earlier this year, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness released All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, which set forth President Biden's ambitious goal to reduce all homelessness by 25% by 2025.

As a part of that effort, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which closely partners with VA in the fight to end homelessness, announced today that through HUD and USICH's House America initiative, communities have housed over 100,000 households since September 2021.

Throughout 2022, VA staff helped Veterans find permanent housing such as apartments or houses that Veterans could rent or own, often with a subsidy to help make the housing affordable. VA staff also helped some Veterans end their homelessness by reuniting them with family and friends. VA also continues to focus on combating Veteran homelessness in the Greater Los Angeles area. During 2022, VA provided 1,301 permanent housing placements to formerly homeless Veterans in LA, the most of any city in America.

If you are a Veteran or know 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.

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.

Greenwood and Whiteland

Local Honor Guard seeks to boost their ranks

The Greenwood and Whiteland Honor Guard is looking for military veterans to boost their ranks in serving the southern half of Marion and all of Johnson counties. They provide Military Funeral Honors for local veterans, including folding and presenting the burial flag, the firing of seven M1-Garand rifles and playing taps.

Much of the time these services are coordinated with the associated military branch funeral team to provide the veteran "full military honors". If you're looking for something important and meaningful to do with some of your free time, joining the team may be just what you'd like to do.

If interested, please contact Bob Tuttle at 317-888-5617 for more information.

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.



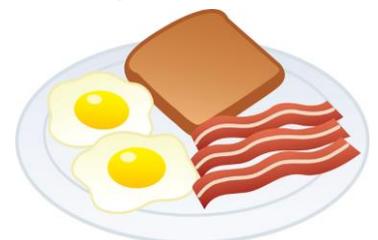
Please call VFW Post 5864 at 317-888-2488 if you would like assistance on proper flag disposal.

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

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

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

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



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

FDR commits to biggest arms buildup in U.S. history

President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced to Congress on January 6, 1942 that he is authorizing the largest armaments production in the history of the United States.

Committed to war in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, the U.S. had to reassess its military preparedness, especially in light of the fact that its Pacific fleet was decimated by the Japanese air raid.

Among those pressing President Roosevelt to double U.S. armaments and industrial production were Lord William Beaverbrook, the British minister of aircraft production, and members of the British Ministry of Supplies, who were meeting with their American counterparts at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington.

Beaverbrook, a newspaper publisher in civilian life, employed production techniques he learned in publishing to cut through red tape, improve efficiency, and boost British aircraft production to manufacturing 500 fighters a month, and he felt the U.S. could similarly beef up armament production.

Spurred on by Lord Beaverbrook and Prime Minister Churchill, Roosevelt agreed to the arms buildup. He announced to Congress that the first year of the supercharged production schedule would result in 45,000 aircraft, 45,000 tanks, 20,000 antiaircraft guns, and 8 million tons in new ships.

Congressmen were stunned at the proposal, but Roosevelt was undeterred: “These figures and similar figures for a multitude of other implements of war will give the Japanese and Nazis a little idea of just what they accomplished.”

Continuing aggressively

VA to deliver PACT ACT care and benefits

The Department of Veterans Affairs is hiring qualified individuals to join the benefits team as VA begins processing PACT Act claims starting in January 2023. These new VA employees will help ensure Veterans and survivors get the PACT Act-related benefits they've earned in a timely manner.

They will serve in the roles of Veterans service representative, rating Veterans service representative and legal administrative specialist, and they will work across 56 regional offices and 39 other special processing and call centers within the United States and Puerto Rico.

Veterans have filed more than 175,000 PACT Act-related claims since Aug. 10, when President Biden signed the act into law.

“There are millions of Veterans and survivors who are eligible for new benefits and health care as a result of the PACT Act, and we won't rest until every one of them gets what they deserve,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “That means aggressively hiring new VA team members to make sure we're able to process claims and deliver care to Veterans as quickly and effectively as possible.

There's no better mission than serving Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors — and we encourage folks to apply to join our team today.”

The Veterans Health Administration is also aggressively hiring to prepare for a surge in PACT Act-related care. In FY 2022 VHA hired a record 48,500 new clinical and administrative staff, an increase of 5,000 more hires than in FY 2021.

Since the start of the current fiscal year in October, VHA achieved a net increase of 1,815 more employees onboarded compared to zero last year. As VA aims for another record year, rapid and competitive hiring is a top priority for FY 2023.

The department is also actively recruiting, hiring, and retaining Veterans, military spouses, survivors, caregivers, and family members to support the VA mission.

Learn more about PACT Act and how to file a claim at [VA.gov/PACT](https://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 800-MyVA411.

VA proposes rule that would waive copays for eligible Native American, Alaska Native Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs proposed a rule that would waive copayments incurred on or after Jan. 5, 2022, for eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans. Upon publication of the notice, there will be a 30-day period for the public to provide comments on this rulemaking. VA will review the comments and develop the final rule.

If finalized as proposed, eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans who have submitted appropriate documentation to the VA would no longer be required to pay copays for health care services.

The intent of this policy is to encourage Veterans to seek regular primary care treatment, which can yield better health outcomes. Copayments for more than three visits to community-based urgent care in any calendar year would still be required, as for all Veterans. Follow-up care provided by a VA-authorized primary care provider would be exempt from copays.

In addition, VA is proposing to make this copayment exemption retroactive to Jan. 5, 2022. If finalized as proposed, eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans would be reimbursed for any copayments paid on or after Jan. 5, 2022, upon submission of their official documentation to the Veteran Health Administration.

“American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans have played a vital role in the defense of the United States as members of the Armed Forces for more than 200 years,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “This rule makes health care more accessible and allows us to better deliver to these Veterans the care and health benefits that they have earned through their courageous service.”

This regulation implements a requirement in the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 Public Law 116-315, signed Jan. 5, 2021.

Learn about VA benefits and programs for American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans and information about VA’s recognition of Tribal Organizations for purposes of claim representation.



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.

Solid Start Act in effect for those leaving military

The President recently 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.

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 began 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.

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

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

Also, the same goes for the bar

Please do not enter kitchen unless you work there!

The headline above says it all.

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

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

The kitchen normally has 2 to 4 individuals in it when working in prime time. They do not have as much room as they need – so before you attempt to go into the kitchen, think about this news article.

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

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

The same thing goes for the bar. No one should go behind the bar unless the bartender asks you to help get ice or something else for them. Going in the kitchen or behind the bar can “jam” things up, cause confusion and slow the process of making drinks and making sure our customers get them in a timely manner.

– Thanks, Steve



988 Veterans Crisis Hotline:

Veterans now have the option to Dial 988 then Press 1

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

“SOUP-ER BOWL”

& CHILI COOKOFF

When: Saturday, February 11th, 2023 (day before NFL Super Bowl)

Where: VFW Greenwood Post 5864
1842 Veterans Way, Greenwood, 46143

Time: 11am – 3pm

- Sample tasting to begin at 11:30am
- Impartial parties to perform judging
- Awards Ceremony at 1:30pm

Cost: \$5 Admission ~ includes samples + a bowl for your favorite(s)
\$20 Cook-off Contest Entry ~ includes admission

**** Cash, Check or App payments *MUST BE RECEIVED BY 2/5/2023* ****

**** Mail checks to: Crissy Kuhn 6136 Maple Branch Place, Indianapolis, IN. 46221**

- Judges will award winners in **EACH** category - Soup / Chili
- 1st place winners (in each category) will receive a Cash Prize & Medal
- Add'l awards for Honorable Mentions

**Music, Games &
Silent Auction**

\$ CASH BAR AVAILABLE \$



**** For questions, contact Crissy - Smedley11@sbcglobal.net or (317) 529-4341 ****

Proceeds from event to be donated to the Region 11 ABC State Charity Event

Emergency health care free

Veterans in suicidal crisis can go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for free health care

As of Jan. 17, Veterans in acute suicidal crisis are now able to go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for emergency health care at no cost – including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit.

This expansion of care will help prevent Veteran suicide by guaranteeing no cost, world-class care to Veterans in times of crisis. It will also increase access to acute suicide care for up to 9 million Veterans who are not currently enrolled in VA.

Preventing Veteran suicide is VA's top clinical priority and a top priority of the Biden-Harris Administration. This effort is a key part of VA's 10-year National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide and the Biden-Harris administration's plan for Reducing Military and Veteran Suicide. In September, VA released the 2022 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, which showed that Veteran suicides decreased in 2020 for the second year in a row, and that fewer Veterans died by suicide in 2020 than in any year since 2006.

“Veterans in suicidal crisis can now receive the free, world-class emergency health care they deserve – no matter where they need it, when they need it, or whether they're enrolled in VA care,” said VA Secretary for Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough. “This expansion of care will save Veterans' lives, and there's nothing more important than that.”

VA has submitted an interim final rule to the federal register to establish this authority under section 201 of the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment (COMPACT) Act of 2020. The final policy, which takes effect on Jan. 17, will allow VA to:

- Provide, pay for, or reimburse for treatment of eligible individuals' emergency suicide care, transportation costs, and follow-up care at a VA or non-VA facility for up to 30 days of inpatient care and 90 days of outpatient care.
- Make appropriate referrals for care following the period of emergency suicide care.
- Determine eligibility for other VA services and benefits.
- Refer eligible individuals for appropriate VA programs and benefits following the period of emergency suicide care.

Eligible individuals, regardless of VA enrollment status, are:

- Veterans who were discharged or released from active duty after more than 24 months of active service under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former members of the armed forces, including reserve service members, who served more than 100 days under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former members of the armed forces who were the victim of a physical assault of a sexual nature, a battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment while serving in the armed forces.

Over the past year, VA has announced or continued several additional efforts to end Veteran suicide, including establishing 988 (then press 1) as a way for Veterans to quickly connect with caring, proposing a new rule that would reduce or eliminate copayments for Veterans at risk of suicide; conducting an ongoing public outreach effort on firearm suicide prevention and lethal means safety; and leveraging a national Veteran suicide prevention awareness campaign, “Don't Wait. Reach Out.”

If you're a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive 24/7 confidential support. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect. To reach responders, Dial 988 then Press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text 838255.

Battle of Khe Sanh, the bloodiest battle of the war



U.S. # 1802 was issued on Veteran's Day in 1979 to honor the brave soldiers who fought in the Vietnam War.

On January 21, 1968, one of the most controversial and highly publicized battles of the Vietnam War began at Khe Sanh Combat Base (KSCB) in South Vietnam.

The site of a former French fort, Khe Sanh Combat Base was built by Green Berets in 1964. The Marines eventually expanded and took over Khe Sanh, while the Green Berets built a smaller camp halfway between the base and Laos at Lang Vei.

In April 1967, U.S. Marines began to encounter North Vietnamese Army (NVA) troops in the hills surrounding Khe Sanh. To prevent enemy troops from holding these positions, and thereby observing the base, American troops had to be stationed on the surrounding hills at all hours. This increased American presence led to a lull in fighting on the hills.

In the second half of 1967, the NVA and NLF (National Liberation Front) began launching attacks along the border of South Vietnam. However, these attacks were different – the North Vietnamese normally launched hit-and-run skirmishes, but were now fighting longer-lasting, bloody battles.

The combination of hill and border battles, as well as reports of significant enemy build up in the area, led General William Westmoreland to call in reinforcements. Then, on January 20, 1968, an NVA lieutenant defected to the base and informed the Marines of their plans to attack Khe Sanh and the nearby hills.

Shortly after midnight on January 21, the NVA launched their first attack on Hill 861. However, the Marines knew the attack was coming and were prepared, launching extensive artillery fire. In spite of this, the NVA made it through the perimeter but were eventually forced back out after close-quarters combat.



Next came a massive mortar and rocket barrage on the main base that destroyed most of the above ground buildings. Some of these shells hit the base's main ammunition dump, sending mortar flying into the air that then exploded when it landed.

Even hours after the bombardment was over, fires raged around the base, igniting C-4 and causing more explosions.

At the same time as the bombardment of the base, NVA troops attacked the village of Khe

Sanh. A group of 160 local troops and 15 American advisors protected the village until they could evacuate. The NVA then took full control of the village the next morning.

In the coming days, American and South Vietnamese (ARVN) reinforcements arrived at Khe Sanh and dug-in as the NVA launched a merciless artillery bombardment. The troops at Khe Sanh hoped that the upcoming Tet holiday truce would give them a break from the attacks, but they soon received word that the truce had been called off.

Worse, the NVA launched their Tet Offensive on January 30, striking over 100 cities across Vietnam. Westmoreland was convinced that the Tet Offensive was staged as a distraction from the real threat at Khe Sanh. President Lyndon Johnson was swayed by Westmoreland's belief in the

Battle of Khe Sanh, Jan. 21, 1968 ■ *Continued from page 34*

importance of Khe Sanh and ordered all military personnel to hold the base at all costs.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, contains the names of the 57,939 military personnel who gave their lives during the Vietnam War.

Within days of the first attacks on Khe Sanh, U.S. commanders began planning for a possible overland relief mission – Operation Pegasus. The operation began on April 1 with Marines leading a ground assault out of Ca Lu, while cavalry units launched air assaults. Along the way, these troops established fire support bases and repaired the largely destroyed Route 9.

They faced little enemy opposition in the first few days, but soon found themselves engaged in daylong battles as they neared Khe Sanh. The cavalry managed to capture the old French fort near Khe Sanh on April 7 and linked up with the Marines in KSCB on the morning of April 8. Route 9 was finally reopened on April 11 and Operation Pegasus ended on April 15.

For the next two months, U.S. Marines conducted search and destroy operations in the area. Then in early June, General Creighton Abrams replaced Westmoreland. Abrams did not want to see another battle of Khe Sanh, so he ordered the evacuation and destruction of the KSCB. The Marines removed anything useful and destroyed the rest. The NVA quickly entered the base on July 9 and raised their flag. The Battle for Khe Sanh, as well as the Tet Offensive, made 1968 the bloodiest year of the war for the American military.

Pres. Roosevelt orders “enemy aliens” to register

On January 14, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issues Presidential Proclamation No. 2537, requiring non-U.S. citizens from World War II-enemy countries -- Italy, Germany, and Japan -- to register with the U. S. Department of Justice. Registered persons were then issued a Certificate of Identification for Aliens of Enemy Nationality. A follow-up to the Alien Registration Act of 1940, Proclamation No. 2537 facilitated the beginning of full-scale internment of Japanese Americans.

While most Americans expected the U.S. to enter the war, presumably in Europe or the Philippines, the nation was shocked to hear of Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. In the wake of the bombing, the West Coast appeared particularly vulnerable to another Japanese military offensive. A large population of Japanese Americans inhabited the western states and American military analysts feared some would conduct acts of sabotage on the west-coast.

Official relations between the governments of Japan and the United States had soured in the 1930s when Japan began its military conquest of Chinese territory. China, weakened by a civil war between nationalists and communists, represented an important strategic relationship for both the U.S. and Japan. Japan desperately needed China’s raw materials in order to continue its program of modernization. The U.S. needed a democratic Chinese government to counter both Japanese military expansion in the Pacific and the spread of communism in Asia. Liberal Japanese resented American anti-Japanese policies, particularly in California, where exclusionary laws were passed to prevent Japanese Americans from competing with U.S. citizens in the agricultural industry.

In spite of these tensions, a 1941 federal report requested by Roosevelt indicated that more than 90 percent of Japanese Americans were considered loyal citizens. Nevertheless, under increasing pressure from agricultural associations, military advisors and influential California politicians, it was agreed to begin the necessary steps for possible internment of the Japanese American population.

Ostensibly issued in the interest of national security, Proclamation No. 2537 permitted the arrest, detention, and internment of those who violated restricted areas, such as ports, water treatment plants or even areas prone to brush fires, for the duration of the war. A month later, a reluctant but resigned Roosevelt signed the War Department’s blanket Executive Order 9066, which authorized the physical removal of all Japanese Americans into internment camps.

Japanese Kamikaze pilots get first major order

On January 5, 1945, Japanese pilots received the first order to become kamikaze, meaning “divine wind” in Japanese. The suicidal blitz of the kamikazes revealed Japan’s desperation in the final months of World War II. Most of Japan’s top pilots were dead, but youngsters needed little training to take planes full of explosives and crash them into ships. At Okinawa, they sank 30 ships and killed almost 5,000 Americans.

January 26, 1970

POW Lt. Alvarez, Jr. spends 2,000th day in captivity

U.S. Navy Lt. Everett Alvarez Jr. spends his 2,000th day in captivity in Southeast Asia. First taken prisoner when his plane was shot down on August 5, 1964, he became one of the longest-held POWs in U.S. history. Alvarez was downed over Hon Gai during the first bombing raids against North Vietnam in retaliation for the disputed attack on U.S. destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin in August 1964.

Alvarez was released in 1973 after spending over eight years in captivity, the first six months as the only American prisoner in North Vietnam. From the first day of his captivity, he was shackled, isolated, nearly starved, and brutally tortured.

Although he was among the more junior-rank prisoners of war, his courageous conduct under horrendous conditions and treatment helped establish the model emulated by the many other POWs that later joined him.

After retirement from the Navy, he served as deputy director of the Peace Corps and deputy administrator of the Veterans Administration during the Reagan administration, before founding his own military consulting firm.

January 27, 1973

Paris Peace Accords signed to end the Vietnam war

The United States, South Vietnam, Viet Cong and North Vietnam formally sign “An Agreement Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam” in Paris. Due to South Vietnam’s unwillingness to recognize the Viet Cong’s Provisional Revolutionary Government, all references to it were confined to a two-party version of the document signed by North Vietnam and the United States—the South Vietnamese were presented with a separate document that did not make reference to the Viet Cong government. This was part of Saigon’s long-time refusal to recognize the Viet Cong as a legitimate participant in the discussions to end the war.

The settlement included a cease-fire throughout Vietnam. In addition, the U.S. agreed to the withdrawal of all U.S. troops and advisors (totaling about 23,700) and the dismantling of all U.S. bases within 60 days. In return, the North Vietnamese agreed to release all U.S. and other prisoners of war.

Both sides agreed to the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Laos and Cambodia and the prohibition of bases in and troop movements through these countries. It was agreed that the DMZ at the 17th Parallel would remain a provisional dividing line, with eventual reunification of the country “through peaceful means.” An international control commission would be established made up of Canadians, Hungarians, Poles, and Indonesians, with 1,160 inspectors to supervise the agreement.

According to the agreement, South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu would continue in office pending elections. Agreeing to “the South Vietnamese People’s right to self-determination,” the North Vietnamese said they would not initiate military movement across the DMZ and that there would be no use of force to reunify the country.

Footnote: *The last U.S. serviceman to die in combat in Vietnam, Lt. Col. William B. Nolde, was killed by an artillery shell at An Loc, 60 miles northwest of Saigon, only 11 hours before the truce went into effect.*

January 3, 1961

U. S. severs diplomatic relations with Cuba

In the climax of deteriorating relations between the United States and Fidel Castro's government in Cuba, President Dwight D. Eisenhower closes the American embassy in Havana and severs diplomatic relations.

The action signaled that the United States was prepared to take extreme measures to oppose Castro's regime, which U.S. officials worried was a beachhead of communism in the western hemisphere. The immediate reason cited for the break was Castro's demand that the U.S. embassy staff be reduced, which followed heated accusations from the Cuban government that America was using the embassy as a base for spies.

Relations between the United States and Cuba had been steadily declining since Castro seized power in early 1959. U.S. officials were soon convinced that Castro's government was too anti-American to be trusted, and they feared that he might lead Cuba into the communist bloc. Early in 1960, following Castro's decision to sign a trade treaty with the Soviet Union, the Eisenhower administration began financing and training a group of Cuban exiles to overthrow the Cuban leader. Castro responded by increasing his program of nationalizing foreign property and companies. In return, the United States began to implement cutbacks in trade with Cuba. The diplomatic break on January 3, 1961, was the culmination of an increasingly acrimonious situation.

Severing relations marked the end of America's policy of trying to resolve its differences with Castro's government through diplomacy. Just over two months later, President John F. Kennedy unleashed the Cuban exile force established during the Eisenhower years. This led to the Bay of Pigs debacle, in which Castro's military killed or captured the exile troops. After the Bay of Pigs, the relationship between the United States and Cuba was one of the chilliest of the Cold War.

It wasn't until July 2015, more than 50 years later, that the two nations formally and fully normalized relations, with the easing of travel restrictions and the opening of embassies and diplomatic missions in both countries.

Also selling any type of products

Asking for donations at the VFW is prohibited

By Steve Milbourn, Commander

Recently I received a phone call from a man who said he was approached by an individual at our Post who may or may have been a member of our VFW, and he was asked for a donation from his organization.

Individuals who are not members of VFW Post 5864 are visitors. They are welcome to come in, eat, drink and enjoy themselves, however, **under no circumstances should a member or non-member ever ask for a donation or loan of money or goods from anyone in our VFW, and especially one of our clients or customers. This is extremely unprofessional and prohibited.**

In addition, whether they are a member, visitor or they are visiting the VFW for an event, they are not allowed to approach or ask anyone for money, favors or materials, etc., without providing the House Committee with all the information concerning what they wish to do 30 days in advance.

The House Committee will discuss the matter and determine what action to take based on the information provided. The penalty for seeking donations from our customers could get a member or a visiting veteran or other visitor barred for 30 days to life.

We simply do not want those members and individuals who come to the VFW, to be bothered with being asked for donations for themselves or their particular project.

Obviously, the exception is that members of VFW Post 5864 and the other members within our walls occasionally will seek donations from our patrons based on the needs of those organizations. We also hold raffles and other events.

-- Thanks much. We appreciate you all.



**OUR
VETS
NEED
YOU!**

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

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

Benefits Include:

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

Please contact

Johnson County Coordinator Jan Pennington

at 317-475-5906 or the

Indianapolis VTN Office 317-988-2472 / Room A-1106



Volunteers of America Services help all veterans

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

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



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

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

December 28, 1964

South Vietnamese win costly battle at Binh Gia

South Vietnamese troops retake Binh Gia in a costly battle. The Viet Cong launched a major offensive on December 4 and took the village of Binh Gia, 40 miles southeast of Saigon.



The South Vietnamese forces recaptured the village, but only after an eight-hour battle and three battalions of reinforcements were brought in on helicopters.

The operation continued into the first week of January. Losses included an estimated 200 South Vietnamese and five U.S. advisors killed, plus 300 more South Vietnamese wounded or missing.

Battles such this, in which the South Vietnamese suffered such heavy losses at the hands of the Viet Cong, convinced President Lyndon B. Johnson that the South Vietnamese could not defeat the communist without the commitment of U.S. ground troops to the war.



Darts at VFW Post 5864 are held every **Saturday at 7:30 p.m.**

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

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

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

VA has launched new life insurance program to make life insurance available to more Veterans

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

American 8th Air Force bomb Germans for first time

The 8th Air Force bombers, dispatched from their bases in England, fly the first American bombing raid against the Germans, targeting the Wilhelmshaven port. Of 64 planes participating in the raid, 53 reached their target and managed to shoot down 22 German planes -- and lost only three planes in return.

The 8th Air Force was activated in February 1942 as a heavy bomber force based in England. Its B-17 Flying Fortresses, capable of sustaining heavy damage while continuing to fly, and its B-24 Liberators, long-range bombers, became famous for precision bombing raids, the premier example being the raid on Wilhelmshaven.

Commanded at the time by Brigadier General Newton Longfellow, the 8th Air Force was amazingly effective and accurate in bombing warehouses and factories in this first air attack against the Axis power.

Through VA's Banking Program

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Participating banks and credit unions can be found at VeteransBenefitsBanking.org. 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.

VA awards \$16 million to help 13,000 Veterans and service members participate in adaptive sports

The Department of Veterans Affairs awarded nearly \$16 million in grants to qualifying organizations to help more than 13,000 disabled Veterans and members of the Armed Forces participate in adaptive sports.

Adaptive sports are competitive or recreational sports and activities customized to fit the needs of disabled Veterans and athletes, including Paralympic sports, archery, cycling, skiing, hunting, rock climbing and sky diving. These activities allow Veterans to rehabilitate through recreation and encourage an active and fit lifestyle.

This year, participants in VA's Adaptive Sports Grant program also have the opportunity -- for the first time ever -- to receive certification in scuba, CrossFit, and sailing.

“Adaptive sports empower Veterans to live without limits,” said VA *National Veterans Sports Programs & Special Events Director Leif Nelson, DPT*. “These Veteran athletes should be focused on having fun, staying healthy, competing, and rehabilitating – free of concern about the structural or financial challenges associated with adaptive sports – and that's exactly what these grants will help

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.

Kennedy, Khrushchev exchange holiday greetings

On December 31, 1961, President John F. Kennedy issued a statement extending his “sincere wishes” and those of the American people to Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev and the people of the Soviet Union for a peaceful and prosperous New Year. It was the height of the Cold War and the United States and Soviet Union were locked in a nuclear arms race.



Citing 1961 as a “troubled one” between the two superpowers, Kennedy said that it was his “earnest hope” that 1962 would see improved relations between the two countries. Kennedy then told Khrushchev he believed the responsibility to achieve world peace rested on the two men’s shoulders.

Kennedy’s message came in response to a December 29 message from Khrushchev that carried his hope that 1962 would be a “threshold” year for taking “efficient steps in the cause of liquidation of centers of military danger.”

Khrushchev was likely referring to tensions over the ongoing division of the city of Berlin into democratic and communist sectors.

In August 1961, it was Khrushchev’s government that approved East Germany’s decision to construct a physical barrier, the Berlin Wall, between the two sectors to stop communist-ruled East Germans from defecting to the West.

Although Kennedy and Khrushchev both pledged cooperation as 1961 came to a close, the two went on to play a dangerous game of chicken over Soviet missile sites in Cuba in October 1962, leading the world to the very brink of nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

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 185 “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 479,471 people viewing it for the past 86 months, or a total of 5,575 views per month. Commander Steve Milbourn remarked, “It is truly remarkable that just over 185 people per day, seven days a week are viewing our website.”



For those of you who have not been on our VFW website, go to greenwoodvfw.com and look through it. Our Facebook is updated daily. Cindy Reinert, Mary Blake, Sherri Jones, and Steve Milbourn place various news stories and photos to this media.

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

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

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

A. Kenneth “Ken” Hall, Jr. passed May 30, 2022

A. Kenneth Hall, Jr. (Ken), 78, of Indianapolis, entered into eternal rest on May 30, 2022, at the Franciscan Hospice House; thank you to those that cared for him. Ken is preceded in death by his parents, Adolph Kenneth Hall, and Jacqueline Barnhill; a half-brother, James L. Dickerson of Homerville, GA; the family’s first dog, Bridgette, who he grew to adore; and close cousins and friends.

Ken is survived by his wife, Sue; daughter, Kristin Hall of Milford, CT; and sister, Joy Lynn Hall of Miami, Florida as well as extended family in Georgia. Also surviving Ken is his beloved rescue dog, Lucy -- a spunky chihuahua/dachshund mix that he chose himself from the local shelter.



A. Kenneth Hall, Jr.

Ken was born in Valdosta, Georgia in 1943 and spent most of his childhood in Hahira, GA. Later, he moved with his family to Miami where he finished high school and went on to attend Miami-Dade Community College. Ken met his wife, Sue, while she was attending school at the University of Miami in 1966. He eventually decided his bachelor days would come to an end when he proposed; and they married in December of 1968 in Sue’s hometown of Milford, CT.

Ken served in the Army for 7 years in the Vietnam era as most men his age did. After basic training, he graduated from Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, GA and was sent to Korea to serve as a member of the military police. Ken reminisced in the weeks before his death that of the many trips he and Sue took, his favorite was from those early years when she came to visit him while serving in Korea, and they took a side trip to Japan.

Ken went on to achieve the rank of Captain before his honorable discharge in 1974. Later in life, Ken joined the American Legion and VFW. Ken served as a Commander for the American Legion Post 252, as well as a member of the American Legion Honor Guard rendering military honors to veterans during funeral/memorial services. Ken also served as the Post Chaplain for a number of years at VFW Post 5864 in Greenwood, IN.

Ken was a very proud veteran, but now his march is over.

Ken’s wife pushed him to advance his education, and that he did. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree from William Carey College (now University) in Hattiesburg, MS, and a Master’s in business from the University of New Haven in Connecticut. His first job after achieving an MBA took him and his young family to Indianapolis, IN where he had a lucrative career in food sales; he even dabbled in owning his own business and opened two Subway franchises in the 1980’s in Bloomington, IN before everyone began to “eat fresh.”

His fortune wasn’t meant to be in footlongs, but he fell back to what he knew: food sales. That career path afforded him the opportunity to enjoy many hobbies such as: season football tickets supporting his favorite Indiana Hoosiers, travel (many Caribbean destinations and cruises), SCUBA diving (he even roped his wife and daughter into get certified so he wouldn’t get “dummy dive partners”) and flying after obtaining his private pilot’s license. Ken was also an avid reader of military history, a gun collector, and a huge college football and basketball fan.

Those who knew Ken best know he was often unapologetically politically incorrect. It was often “his way or the highway!” He enjoyed rousing his Left-leaning daughter signing her up for GOP newsletters and email / text campaigns from the Trump family, as well as subjecting her to Fox News when she visited. But that’s who he was: he liked what he liked. And speaking of liked, when jokingly asked a couple of weeks before his passing whether he had any regrets marrying Sue, he looked her way and said, “She was the best thing that ever happened to me.” Indeed, she was, they were holding hands when he drew his last breath.

Ken often sent off his daughter with the phrase, “I’m glad you got to see me!” So, in this case he’d definitely say, “I’m glad you got to read about me!” In Ken’s honor, please consider a donation for the

A. Kenneth “Ken” Hall, Jr. . . . ■ Continued from page 44

animal shelter where Lucy was adopted, Rosie’s Southside Animal Shelter and/or to Greenwood VFW Post 5864. No amount is too small for either organization and will be appreciated. A memorial service is planned at the Greenwood VFW at a later date to be announced.



Ken Hall was a friend of mine. We ate lunch together on occasion, and before the VFW moved to our new location, we both went to together to various nursing homes to visit our VFW members who were there.

We usually spent 30 minutes or so and then Ken always gave a prayer. A few times we went to two nursing homes in one day. He was a kind and dedicated individual and as a friend, I appreciated him very much. This obituary was published some time back and I missed it, or we would surely have placed it in our monthly newsletter.

Ken was also very generous. He left his pistols, rifles, and shotguns to the VFW. His wife Sue is just as pleasant and nice as he was. Sometimes he could be stern, but when you got to know him, he was a great individual. He has been missed.

I did speak with his wife Sue on January 30 and she and her daughter are planning a “Celebration of Life” for Ken in the next couple of months. We will let everyone know when that transpires.

– Steve Milbourn, a good friend

Prohibition is ratified by the states in 1919

The 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, prohibiting the “manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes,” was ratified by the requisite number of states on Jan. 16, 1919. The 18th amendment passed in 1919 “with a 68 percent supermajority in the House of Representatives and 76 percent support in the Senate” and was ratified by 46 out of 48 states

The movement for the prohibition of alcohol began in the early 19th century, when Americans concerned about the adverse effects of drinking began forming temperance societies. By the late 19th century, these groups had become a powerful political force, campaigning on the state level and calling for total national abstinence. In December 1917, the 18th Amendment, also known as the Prohibition Amendment, was passed by Congress, and sent to the states for ratification.



Nine months after Prohibition's ratification, Congress passed the Volstead Act, or National Prohibition Act, over President Woodrow Wilson's veto. The Volstead Act provided for the enforcement of prohibition, including the creation of a special unit of the Treasury Department. One year and a day after its ratification, prohibition went into effect -- on January 17, 1920 -- and the nation became officially dry.

Despite a vigorous effort by law-enforcement agencies, the Volstead Act failed to prevent the large-scale distribution of alcoholic beverages, and organized crime flourished in America. In 1933, the 21st Amendment to the Constitution was passed and ratified, repealing prohibition.

American Legion, Auxiliary meets 2nd Tuesday

The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary holds their membership meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The Legion meets in Room A and the Auxiliary meets in the Day Room.

January 16, 1991

The Persian Gulf War begins at 4:30 a.m.

At midnight in Iraq, the United Nations deadline for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait expires, and the Pentagon prepares to commence offensive operations to forcibly eject Iraq from its five-month occupation of its oil-rich neighbor.

At 4:30 p.m. EST, the first fighter aircraft were launched from Saudi Arabia and off U.S. and British aircraft carriers in the Persian Gulf on bombing missions over Iraq. All evening, aircraft from the U.S.-led military coalition pounded targets in and around Baghdad as the world watched the events transpire in television footage transmitted live via satellite from Baghdad and elsewhere. At 7:00 p.m., Operation Desert Storm, the code-name for the massive U.S.-led offensive against Iraq, was formally announced at the White House.

The operation was conducted by an international coalition under the command of U.S. General Norman Schwarzkopf and featured forces from 32 nations, including Britain, Egypt, France, Saudi



Arabia, and Kuwait. During the next six weeks, the allied force engaged in a massive air war against Iraq's military and civil infrastructure and encountered little effective resistance from the Iraqi air force or air defenses.

Iraqi ground forces were helpless during this stage of the war, and Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's only significant retaliatory measure was the launching of SCUD missile attacks against Israel and Saudi Arabia. Saddam hoped that the missile attacks would provoke Israel to enter the conflict, thus dissolving Arab support of the war. At the request of the United

States, however, Israel remained out of the war.

On February 24, a massive coalition ground offensive began, and Iraq's outdated and poorly supplied armed forces were rapidly overwhelmed. Kuwait was liberated in less than four days, and a majority of Iraq's armed forces surrendered, retreated into Iraq, or were destroyed. On February 28, President George H.W. Bush declared a cease-fire, and Iraq pledged to honor future coalition and U.N. peace terms. One hundred and twenty-five American soldiers were killed in the Persian Gulf War, with another 21 regarded as missing in action.

On March 20, 2003, a second war between Iraq and a U.S.-led coalition began, this time with the stated U.S. objective of removing Saddam Hussein from power and, ostensibly, finding and destroying the country's weapons of mass destruction. Hussein was captured by a U.S. military unit on December 13, 2003, and was executed three years later. No weapons of mass destruction were ever found.

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Adaptive sports grants . . . ■ Continued from page 41

them do." Navy Veteran Brad Snyder is a six-time gold medal winning Paralympic athlete who credits VA with the opportunity to participate in grant programs that support the Paralympics.

"VA's grant program goes a long way toward alleviating the financial burdens associated with athletic competitions, paving the way for some of our country's most promising athletes to pursue dreams of victory and success in elite competitions such as the Paralympic Games," said Snyder. VA has awarded a total of \$100 million in adaptive sports grants in the last eight years to improve Veterans' well-being and independence.

U.S. Navy launches first Nuclear Submarine

On January 21, 1954, the USS *Nautilus*, the world's first operational nuclear-powered submarine, was launched.

Accounts of boats submerging in the water date back to the 1560s, though the first verifiable vessel was designed and built in 1620. Patents for submarines and submersible boats were submitted in the 1700s, and in 1800, Robert Fulton designed a human-powered submarine, also called the *Nautilus*. Improvements and advances in technology followed and by the 1900s, most submarines were diesel-powered.

Submarines were used widely in both World Wars, but their dependence on diesel fuel limited the amount of time they could be under water.



In July 1951, Congress approved the creation of a nuclear-powered submarine for the U.S. Navy. Hyman G. Rickover, known as “Father of the Nuclear Navy”, oversaw the *Nautilus*'s planning and construction.

On June 14, 1952, President Harry S. Truman visited the Connecticut boatyard to lay the keel, signaling the start of construction. Building the *Nautilus* took about a year and a half. Once it was completed, the Navy held a special launch ceremony on January 21, 1954. First Lady Mamie Eisenhower broke the customary bottle of champagne on the ship's bow. She was the first president's wife to ever christen a U.S. Navy submarine.

The *Nautilus* was commissioned into the Navy that September and the following January entered service with its commander stating, “Underway on nuclear power.” As the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, the *Nautilus* quickly broke all existing underwater speed and distance records. In April 1958, the *Nautilus* began “Operation Sunshine,” aimed at becoming the first submerged ship to travel under the North Pole. On the first attempt, the sub was unable to find enough space between the bottom of the ice and the ocean floor. But the second try was successful.

On August 3, 1958, the *Nautilus* reached the pole. The crew encountered more difficulties – navigation became difficult once the submarine approached the 85-degree latitude mark (the North Pole is at 90 degrees). Magnetic compasses and other instruments had become inaccurate. But with the use of a specially designed gyrocompass, they were able to complete the mission. To reward the success of the journey, the entire crew was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation – the first one presented during peacetime.

The *Nautilus* was decommissioned in 1980 and designated a National Historic Landmark two years later. Today it resides at a submarine museum in Groton, Connecticut.