



VFW Post 5864 Newsletter

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

Greenwood Memorial VFW Post 5864 – March 2024 Newsletter

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

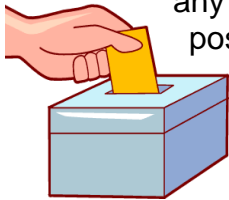
"Like us" on [Facebook -- Greenwood VFW 5864](#) and visit our [Website--greenwoodvfw.com](#)

2017, 2018 and 2023 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

All positions require time to do the job

VFW nominations and elections in March and April

Nominations of officers for Greenwood VFW Post 5864 for the 2024-2025 year will be held on Tuesday, March 5, and Tuesday, April 2, 2024. The annual elections will be held at the Tuesday, April 2, 2024, meeting. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and the elections will be held first. If there is any other business, it will come after the election of officers has been completed or it is possible that other business may be postponed until the May 7, 2024, meeting depending on the urgency.



Positions available are -- Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain, 3-Year Trustee, and 3-Year House Committee member.

All of these positions have a one-year term except the House Committee member and Trustee position, and they each have three-year terms.

If you plan to seek any of the positions mentioned above, please remember that all of these except the Quartermaster are non-paid, working positions.

Over the past several years, the House Committee members have also been members of the "Clean-Up Crew." The "Clean-Up Crew" has been responsible for sweeping and mopping the floors in the Banquet Room; moving the tables and chairs from the floor, taking out trash, setting up tables and chairs for Bingo and Banquet Room rentals and other related events. On page 2 of this newsletter are the specific rules for members of the House Committee. House Committee members are very critical for the day-to-day operation of the Post.

Duties and rules for the other elected and appointed positions are in the Podium Edition of the National VFW Manual of Procedure – Article II – Posts, Section 218 – Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations, pages 73, 74, 75, and 76.

If you are interested in any position and cannot be at the meeting to be nominated, you are welcome to write a letter which would include the date, what position you would be interested in and sign the letter. Please make sure the letter has your handwritten or typed name and signature on the document.

You can give the letter to another member or the Post's Adjutant, Richard Dennis. When the position you are interested in comes up, your name will be announced.

The VFW Auxiliary positions open for election include -- President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President, Treasurer, Chaplain, Guard and Conductor / Conductress. The Auxiliary elections will also be on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 7 p.m.

To vote, you must be a current, paid, member of Greenwood VFW Post 5864 or VFW Post 5864 Auxiliary and you must be present. **Proxy votes are not allowed for either organization.**



Plan to stop by Greenwood VFW on Saturday, March 23 around 5 p.m. to join in the Celebration of Vietnam Veterans Day. All veterans and guests are welcome. See Page 2.

VIETNAM VETERANS CELEBRATION

OBSERVING NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY
FREE ★ OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ★ ALL VETERANS WELCOME



**GREENWOOD VFW
POST 5864**

1842 Veterans Way
Greenwood, IN 46143

Hosted by VFW Colts Fans Contributions
and Indy Vet House, Inc



**INDY
VETERANS!**
Events • Resources • Support



**HELPING HEROES
OF AMERICA**
HHOFA.ORG

DAR
Daughters of the American Revolution

Thank you!

VIETNAM VETERANS

MARCH 23, 2024

Saturday 5:00-8:00pm

Music 'til Midnight

**2 FREE DRINK COUPONS FOR
ALL VIETNAM ERA VETERANS
& THEIR GUEST**

MEAL INCLUDED

DOOR PRIZES ★ RAFFLES ★ 50/50

It's a Party!



**Huey Helicopter Flights
WEATHER PERMITTING**



A FREE GIFT OF GRATITUDE PRESENTED
TO INDIANA RESIDENTS WHO SERVED IN
THE MILITARY DURING THE VIETNAM
WAR ERA 1965-1975
ANY DUTY STATION



Event info: Jill Fewell 317-549-5900 or Jill@whvv.org
VFW IGC Reference No. is 159060 License No. 002855

A Message from the Commander . . .

Dear Members, Supporters, and Friends:

This month we have a few events coming up. **Tuesday, March 19**, the annual Community Service Awards will be held to present certificates to a number of people and money to several students.

Are you interested in playing Trivia? The cost will be minimal and there will be prizes – some cash – some liquor -- etc. We will start on **Tuesday, March 26**, beginning at either 6:30 p.m. or 7 p.m. We are working on that. It will be held every Tuesday thereafter. Although there are some meetings on Tuesdays, many of those who would attend the meetings would not play Trivia.

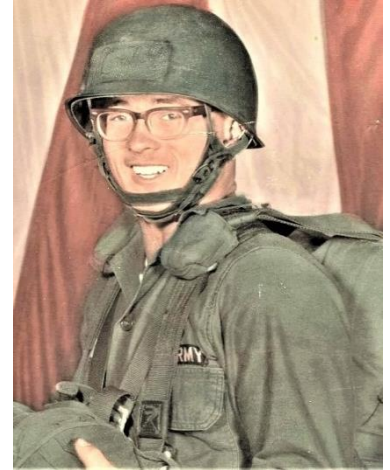
In the near future, we will look at costs for materials for a Shelter House of just over 4,000 sq. ft. with two bathrooms, and storage space of roughly 1,100 sq. ft. This space would alleviate all of the items in the Day Room and give us space to play pool, and darts.

Remember, **nominations for the VFW and VFW Auxiliary** are this month, and then in April, we have additional nominations and elections. Those newly elected individuals will assume their positions on the last of the State VFW Convention on June 15, 2024.

There are many things that need around the Post, we just need some help getting everything done. Since our building and property are nearly twice the size of our former building, it takes more people to "get the job done."

We would certainly appreciate any help that you can provide.

Thank you.



Steve Milbourn
Post Commander

All-American Quartermaster

Mike Tomes appointed Interim Quartermaster

Mike Tomes, Greenwood VFW Post 5864's Quartermaster for over 12 years has been appointed as the Interim Quartermaster. He decided to step down and take a deserved break. Tomes has helped turn the VFW's financial picture around over his time as Post Quartermaster. Tomes

remarked, "The Post has done very well because we have kept an eye on what we do and the expenditures we have made."

Tomes has also previously been named as an "All-American Post Quartermaster," the highest distinction a Post Quartermaster can earn.

As the Quartermaster, Tomes and the Commander are both members of the House Committee.

Being a Quartermaster is at times somewhat overwhelming with 8 to 10 employees and the various issues that come up on a day-to-day basis.

In his new role as Interim Quartermaster, he will work directly with the Post Commander. Milbourn was previously a Quartermaster for one year at a different Post and served as Quartermaster at VFW Post 5864 in 2014-2015.

The new officers will assume their positions on Saturday, June 15 upon the swearing-in of the new VFW State of Indiana officers.



Mike Tomes

Banquet Rentals



Are you or one of your relatives or friends looking for a place to host a wedding reception, high school class reunion, 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 | ■ 13 – 5 ft. round tables | ■ 174 parking spaces |
| ■ Air conditioned & heated | ■ 41 – 6 ft. long tables | ■ 4 restrooms |
| ■ On-site management | ■ 16 – 8 ft. long tables | ■ Very inexpensive |
| ■ Kitchen not available due to liability | ■ No alcohol allowed to be brought into VFW | ■ 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 – 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



This includes all military-related non-renters, non-profit groups, and individuals

Use of facilities in the VFW must be requested

The use of any room in the VFW must be requested prior to its use. Generally, there is no charge to military-related organizations. There is, however, a charge for those individuals and companies who make a profit from what they are doing. **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 for 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 **Use of Facilities** form, which is required 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, the form will be signed and you will be called to let you know everything is fine or you need to provide us with an alternate date for your meeting, etc.

Please do not advertise or promote your event at our location without having this signed document in your hands. 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.

Service dogs are welcome at the VFW, but leashed

Service dogs and other animals (check with us) are welcome in our establishment however the animal must be leashed at all times. The animal cannot walk or run throughout the VFW without having a leash on the animal and the owner must be with the animal at all times.



If you are working at a business or state/local government facility and it is unclear to you whether someone's dog is a service dog, **you may ask for certain information using two questions.**

You may ask: Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability and / or What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

If you have questions, we are willing to answer them. We are a business and as such we must maintain our ability to make sure animals do not interfere with our food and kitchen areas.

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

The concept of giving 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



Named after Ralph D. Napier

Scholarship program applications now available

Greenwood VFW Post 5864's annual Scholarship program is named for former Greenwood VFW Post Commander, District, and State Commander, Ralph D. Napier. Ralph served with the U.S. Army in the Korean War and became eligible when he was awarded the Korean Service Medal with five bronze stars which was representative of five different battles he was involved in.

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 "Poncie" (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, built dugouts, and coached. Mr. Napier stayed with the Little League long after his own children moved on and then became President of that organization.

Ralph was a very 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 foresight."

■ *Continued to page 7*

**Transportation
Associate**

Greenwood, IN



**We will pay you to get a
CDL – Class A license!**

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Are you ready to drive commercial motor vehicles locally from building to building and help Amazon deliver world class service?

- ❖ You'll be home every day! Work 4-days, off for 3!
- ❖ Work/Life Balance!
- ❖ Get paid while training and earning a new skill-set!

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS

- High school or equivalent diploma
- Driver's license
- Are 21 years of age or older
- Work 40 hours/week, and overtime as required
- Work a flexible schedule/shift/work area, including weekends, nights, and/or holidays
- Can lift up to 49 pounds, stand/walk during shifts lasting up to 12 hours, and be able to frequently push, pull, squat, bend, and reach



Search "Military
Transportation"
and the city you're
interested in!

www.amazon.jobs





Greenwood Memorial

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5864

1842 Veterans Way -- Greenwood, IN 46143

Phone 317-888-2488

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2024 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 at least two (2) graduates of the class of 2024 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 2024 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 noted. 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:

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 Friday, May 31, 2024. 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. The presentation of these awards will take place on the evening of August 6, 2024, at the VFW Post 5864 meeting.

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Greenwood Memorial

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5864

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

2024 Ralph D. Napier Scholarship Application

(Attach all Supporting Documentation)

■ **Continued from page 7**

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: _____

2 Shotguns – 2 Winners

120 Tickets @ \$10 each



Number 1 (above) -- Model 98 -- Norinco 1897 Trench Gun is a contemporary reproduction of a 12 Gauge WW-I / WW-II Winchester 1897 Trench Shotgun, known as the M97 or 97 Trench Sweeper used in both World War I and World War II.



Number 2 (above) – W-87 – Lever Action Shotgun – Reproduction of the Model 87 12 ga. “Stagecoach” gun. Replaces the older double bbl. 12 ga. Stagecoach shotgun.

Once all tickets have been sold, the two drawings will be held. The first ticket pulled out will have the choice of either shotgun. The second ticket pulled will receive the remaining shotgun.

For the benefit of the 40 & 8 Voiture 14555

■ IGC Reference No. is 159060 / ■ License No. 002855

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

Mark Your Calendars:

March 26, Promenade at 7 p.m.

April 30, Promenade at 7 p.m.

Americanism: Sometime between Mid-May and Mid-June 2024, our 40 & 8 will be going to Washington, D.C. by bus to visit the various War Memorials. We are still waiting for a response from "The Tomb of the Unknowns." We will be taking 50 veterans who have honorably served their Nation. Once a date is set, we will begin accepting sign-ups. First to sign-up, first-to-go. Please note Tee-Shirt size and preferred "room" mate when signing up. Voyageur P.G. Gentrup and I (Chef de Gare) will be the primary contacts and will coordinate all aspects of the V-145 Honor Trip.



As soon as a firm date for the trip is announced details will be forthcoming.

Thank You's: V-145 received two thank you notes: one from the University of Indianapolis School of Nursing and the other from Ivy Technical University School of Nursing. In addition to thanks for the scholarships and the invitation to the holiday party, they expressed a desire to host a visit from V-145 on their campus later this year. Ivy Tech expressed their gratitude for what V-145 does for the nursing students and looks forward to a continued relationship. Marion University School of Nursing did not attend our Christmas dinner.

Voiture Membership: Our membership now stands at 85.15%. We still need 15 members to renew / or sign-up new members to reach our goal of 100%. It is well into our Voiture year but still not too late to send in your dues to: **Voiture Locale 145, Attn: Membership, 1842 Veterans Way, Greenwood, IN 46143.**

New Business: A donation of \$500 dollars was made to Hoosier Veterans Assistance Fund (HVAF). This organization helps veterans and their families in times of need / distress.

Life Membership: **Join our other Life Members by signing up today!** We will base your Life Membership on your age at the \$18.50 per capita tax level. This reduces the total cost for a Life Membership considerably.

Jay Collars -- Chef de Gare Voiture 145

This year's celebration will be on Saturday, March 23, 2024

Vietnam Veterans War Day designated March 29

Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA) introduced legislation in 2017 to permanently designate March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. It subsequently became law. In March 2018, events were hosted throughout the United States to honor Vietnam veterans, many of whom did not receive the recognition they deserved when they came home following their service.

According to the American War Library, located in Long Beach, California, they have stated that **faulty record keeping resulted with no confirmed exact number of Americans who served in Vietnam.** The best estimate that the Department of Defense can conclude is that between 2,709,918 to 3,173,845 GI's served in-country and in-waters Vietnam between 1954 and 1975 (this does not count the handful of Americans who served in Vietnam during WW-2). Many veteran's groups estimate that approximately 9 to 12 million Americans fraudulently claim they served in Vietnam.

Veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam War often claims they are "Vietnam veterans." Simply put, they are not Vietnam veterans. Vietnam veterans, for the most part had to have "boots on the ground" in Vietnam, Laos, or Cambodia. U.S. Navy personnel who were off the coast within 12 miles of Vietnam are also included as "Vietnam Veterans."

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 6- or 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 at the Burger King Restaurant. 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. 159060

■ Bingo License 002855



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary to VFW Post 5864

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

The Auxiliary in Progress

At the February 6 meeting, 10 members and one new applicant were present. A new membership application was presented for Belinda Barnes and the Auxiliary voted approval unanimously. The January treasurer's report was presented by the treasurer. A thank you card was received from Greenwood Fire Department Chaplain, Bob Anderson, recognizing the Auxiliary for the toys and winter items donated. The children's Easter party will be on March 24, co-chairman, Mary Canner. A budget of \$200 was approved for the Easter party. Volunteers are needed for the Easter Party. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Post hallway. Robin Wood volunteered to make a Vietnam centerpiece for the district meeting on March 17.

President Linda Kessinger announced that the Voice of Democracy first place winner was Raelyn Smith who attends Rock Prep Academy in Cartage, Indiana. The Auxiliary voted to pay half of the scholarship awards for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen winners. The amount approved was \$650. A monetary love gift of \$50 will be given to the district president. The first Mega Prize Bingo committee meeting will be held at the Post on March 7 at 3:30 p.m. Brenda Lippert is chairman and Robin Wood is co-chairman of the Mega Prize Bingo that will be held on August 4.

New Members: The Auxiliary welcomes new member: Belinda Barnes

Election of New Officers: Auxiliary members should be thinking about who they would like to nominate as an officer for the forthcoming fiscal year (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025). Candidates considered should be someone who attends meetings regularly, supports events throughout the calendar year and builds rapport within our community, with our Post members and other Auxiliary members. The district provides guidelines and training for each officer's role. We



value all members whether they are an officer or not. Your support in any shape or form is always appreciated.

February 10 – The Auxiliary hosted a spaghetti dinner at the Post. Around 50 people were in attendance. All present commented the food was great and the atmosphere pleasant. Thanks to everyone for supporting this event. A big thanks to Don Harris for providing relaxing music.

March 5 – 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

The Auxiliary in Progress . . . ■ Continued from page 12

a planning event committee. New members come and pick up your membership packet and get acquainted with others.

Bar Bingo at the Post: March 5, 12, 19, and 26. Food is available for ordering. The kitchen is open until 7 p.m. Patrons can bring their own food when the kitchen is not open. Drinks at the bar are available until closing. Bingo starts at 6 p.m. Bingo consists of 8 regular games at \$2 per sheet, two coverall games at \$5 per sheet and one M game at \$5 per sheet.

Come and join us for a fun night out.

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

Renewal of Membership: If you did not pay your dues by December 31, 2023, your membership is not in good standing. Calendar Year 2023 dues not paid by June 30, 2024, will result in your membership lapsing and you will be required to rejoin and complete an application. Thank you for promptly paying your \$20 dues in a timely manner and avoiding a rejoining process.

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 March.

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

Calendar Year 2024 Events:	March 24	1 - 3 p.m.	Kid's Easter Party
	May 25	8 -10 a.m.	Veterans Free Breakfast
	August 4	1 - 6 p.m.	Mega Prize Bingo – VFW Post In the Banquet Rooms
	September 5	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	911 Luncheon for Greenwood First Responders
	October 26	1 - 3 p.m.	Kid's Halloween Party
	November 9	8 - 10 a.m.	Veteran's Free Breakfast
	December 15	1 - 3 p.m.	Kid's Christmas Party

Volunteers are needed for all events held by the Auxiliary. Please contact Brenda Lippert at 317-432-5146 or e-mail her at brenjobennett@gmail.com if you would like to be a volunteer for any of the above events. Your help and dedication to support are always appreciated.

***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

More than 31,000 Veterans sign up for new VA life insurance program in first year

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that its new guaranteed-acceptance life insurance program, VALife, has issued more than \$950 million in coverage to 31,400 Veterans in its first year.

When VALife first launched in January 2023, it became the first new VA life insurance program for Veterans in more than 50 years and extended life insurance access to millions of Veterans. VALife provides up to \$40,000 of whole life insurance to our nation's Veterans. For all Veterans age 80 or under with service-connected disabilities from 0-100%, acceptance in the program is guaranteed and no medical underwriting is required. Veterans can apply online through VA.gov and receive an instant decision. This program also allows self-service functions like electronic payments and beneficiary updates.

President Biden believes we have a sacred obligation to care for our nation's Veterans and their families, and he has made delivering for Veterans is a key part of his Unity Agenda for the nation. In total, VA is now providing more insurance coverage to more policyholders than ever before in our nation's history – currently serving 5.6 million Veterans, service members, and their families with \$1.5 trillion of insurance.

“All Veterans deserve to know that their families will have financial support when they pass away,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough. “VALife helps make that happen, providing well-earned peace of mind to Veterans and their families nationwide.”

VALife increases Veteran access to life insurance in several ways:

- **There is no time limit to apply:** VA's previous life insurance program for service-disabled Veterans, Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI), required most Veterans to apply for insurance within two 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, rates for policies with similar coverage available in the private sector, and \$40,000 of coverage is more coverage than what other similar products offer. 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. VALife does not offer waiver of premiums. Veterans currently enrolled in S-DVI have the option to keep their current coverage or switch to VALife. These Veterans can apply for VALife at any time; however, if they apply before 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. To learn more visit va.gov/life-insurance/.

VFW Post 5864 opens at 2 p.m. Monday thru Friday

Greenwood VFW Post 5864 opens Monday through Friday at 2 p.m. On Saturdays, the building opens from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and then closes until 12 noon and then reopens. The doors are locked until the opening time. Closing time varies based on the amount of people who are in the building purchasing beer, liquor, and wine.

If the phone rings, the bartender for the day may be cleaning restrooms, mopping, or doing other chores or any officer who may be present outside of the above hours **does not answer the phones**.

The bartenders get in about an hour ahead of opening time so they can stock, clean, make sure they have everything at the bar they will need for their shift.

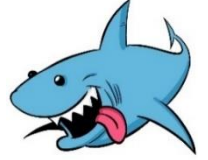
Stop Veteran Claim Sharks Now

A Claim Shark is an individual or company that charges hefty fees to “assist” or “consult” veterans and survivors with filing their VA benefits claims. This practice is illegal! In fact, none of these private companies is better than the others. They are all operating illegally.

Claims Sharks are not VA-accredited, meaning they are not required to adhere to professional and ethical standards, so their advice can be misleading or even fraudulent.

Some of their predatory practices include guaranteeing an increased disability rating or percentage increase; advertising expedited VA claims decisions; requesting login credentials to access a veteran’s personal information through secure VA websites like eBenefits or VA.gov; imposing their predatory contracts; and telling veterans to forego VA medical examinations while consulting from their own network of doctors.

The VFW opposes proposed legislation like the *PLUS for Veterans Act* or any legislation that would assign future benefits and legalize these practices to allow companies to charge up to \$12,500 for claims assistance. No veteran should have to pay for earned benefits.



More volunteer operators needed for gaming

With the advent of more bingo players coming to our Wednesday night game, we are in need of additional help. If you wish to help us with gaming once a month or more often, you will need to be an operator or a worker. Bingo, Bar Bingo, Euchre, selling raffle tickets or any other form of gaming requires those helping have an operator or worker’s status. **An operator is an individual who has been a member for a minimum of sixty (60) days or longer** and a worker must be a member for at least thirty (30) days.

Operators can perform any function including paying out large sums of money, selling tickets, tallying, and reconciling all the paperwork we complete after each event. Workers are limited in what they can do. Members who wish to be an Operator must have been a member for at least 60 days.

The Post would need some basic information including your full legal name, home address (no post office boxes), your driver’s license number, date of birth, daytime telephone number, and the date you joined the VFW or VFW Auxiliary. It takes about four to six weeks for the Indiana Gaming Commission to approve the applicants. Once you are approved, your name will be placed on a list, and it is posted in the Post. See Sherri Jones or Steve Milbourn to get added to the licenses.



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 during the day, she can’t go to the bar area and purchase pull tabs 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.

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.



Credit Cards accepted at VFW

The VFW's bar and kitchen have been accepting credit cards for about four years. Since that time, gross and net income have increased tremendously.

Banquet rentals can also be paid by credit card as can VFW Post and Auxiliary membership and membership to American Legion Centennial Post 1919 and its' Auxiliary.

Also, dues can be paid for the 40 & 8 Voiture 145.

The only thing the VFW cannot accept credit cards for is anything to do with gaming. The Indiana Gaming Commission does not allow credit cards to be accepted for this type of purchase.

News and photo submission policy is announced

Members of the VFW, VFW Auxiliary, American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and the 40 & 8 are encouraged to submit news articles and photos to be published in the Post's monthly newsletter.

All 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. All names must be legible. The article may be edited for clarity.

All photos and / or news articles must have the following information with them -- who, what, when, where, why, and who is in the photo.

Please submit all articles by the date shown below for 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 April 2024 newsletter is Thursday, March 21 at 5 p.m.



Free teeth cleaning at Ivy Tech for all Veterans

Please let all members know that they can get their teeth cleaned for free at the Ivy Tech Dental School in Anderson, Indiana.

Included in this service is a free dental exam, oral cancer screening, x-rays, and fluoride treatment. For an appointment call (765) 643-7133 extension 2321.

Make sure that you get your teeth cleaned for absolutely nothing. What a wonderful offer!

Greenwood VFW Post 5864's

Annual Bingo License,
Annual Casino Game Night License,
and Annual Raffle License

IGC Reference No. is 159060 ■ License No. is 002855

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 with proper flag disposal.

Items inside the VFW or on our property

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 or if we are unable to prepare food in the VFW’s kitchen. Those requests must go through the House Committee.

VFW Post 5864 would appreciate and welcome any Donations for the purpose of a Shelter House, a new floor for the bar area, new tables, and chairs, a soft drink machine, a new pull-tab machine, and other much needed items.

Your donation can be used when you file your taxes.

Thank you!

Recognizing those who have gone above and beyond

2024 annual Community Service Awards, March 19

The 2024 annual Community Service Awards, hosted by VFW Post 5864 and VFW Post 5864 Auxiliary, will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The VFW and its Auxiliary recognize students in the area who have competed in the VFW's Voice of Democracy and the Patriot's Pen programs.

The two programs begin at the Post level, then the District level, State level, and then on to the National VFW level in Washington, D.C.

There are four recipients for the Voice of Democracy, and five recipients for the Patriot's Pen program. An essay with that year's selected topic is written by the students and then they are judged by a number of different people. Also recognized is a Boy / Girl Scout of the year.

A special award or awards are presented to unknown individuals by Commander Steve Milbourn for the person's outstanding performance during the past year. To date, none of the recipients have ever known they were receiving a certificate.

In conjunction with the City of Greenwood, an Outstanding Citizen, Outstanding Police Officer, an Outstanding Firefighter, and an Outstanding EMT are presented awards for their outstanding service during the past year. These four awards are presented by the individuals who oversee the various city departments. Plan to attend this event and see the real work we do in the community.

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](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/Chat)
or by texting 838255



Link to VA Benefits for Disabled Veterans

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gW9Ta2IW9Qc4>

VFW District 7 and VFW Post 5864 have dual winners

Raelyn Smith, Evan Ayro earn two first places each

The annual Voice of Democracy program and the Patriot's Pen program both had the same winners in the VFW District 7 and VFW Post 5864 programs. The two first place winners participated against 67 students from 19 VFW Posts in District 7.

The 2023-2024 Greenwood VFW Post 5864 Voice of Democracy program ended up with the 1st place winner as Raelyn L. Smith and she will receive \$300. She attends Iron Rock Prep Academy in Cartage, Indiana. The 2nd place winner was Zoe E. Lowe, and she will receive \$200. She attends Indiana Online from Whiteland, Indiana. The 3rd place winner was Cara J. Daly, and she will receive \$100. She attends Center Grove High School in Greenwood, Indiana. There was one Honorable Mention recipient, and his name is Josiah A. DuFault, and he will receive \$75. He attends DuFault Academy in New Castle, Indiana. There were four entrants to the Voice of Democracy at VFW 5864.

The 2023-2024 Greenwood VFW Post 5864 Patriot's Pen program ended up with the 1st place winner as Evan Ayro, and he will receive \$150. He attends Greenwood Middle School, Greenwood, Indiana. The 2nd place winner was Amelia S. Agresta, and she will receive \$125. She attends Greenwood Middle School, Greenwood, Indiana. The 3rd place winner was Evan L. Strong, and he will receive \$100.00. He attends Greenwood Middle School, Greenwood, Indiana. There were two Honorable Mention winners -- Elyza Tschopp, and she will receive \$75. She attends Greenwood Middle School, Greenwood, Indiana. And Ngung Tha Par, and he will receive \$75. He attends Greenwood Middle School, Greenwood, Indiana. There were 120 entrants to the Patriot's Pen contest, which primarily came from the Greenwood Middle School to VFW 5864.



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 18, 2024 (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. 20, 2024 (third Friday in Sept.); and Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

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.

It is time for your 2023-2024 membership dues.

VFW Post 5864 -- \$35 per year

VFW Post 5864 Auxiliary -- \$20 per year

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

VFW Post 5864 Riders Group -- \$150 for Lifetime

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.

VA gives \$5M in grant funding for transitional supportive housing for homeless Veterans

As a part of ongoing efforts to end Veteran homelessness, the Department of Veterans Affairs published a Notice of Funding Opportunity for approximately \$5 million in grants per year (for up to two years) to help Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

The funds are available through VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, which offers financial assistance to eligible community organizations that provide Veterans with transitional housing and case management — including connecting eligible Veterans to VA benefits, community-based services, and permanent housing. These special needs grants support homeless Veterans who are women, elderly, terminally ill, chronically mentally ill, or who have care of minor dependents.

Ending Veteran homelessness is a top priority of VA and President Biden, who has made supporting Veterans a key pillar of his Unity Agenda for the nation. Earlier this week, VA announced that it permanently housed 46,552 homeless Veterans in 2023 — surpassing the calendar year goal to house 38,000 Veterans by 22.5%. Thanks in part to these efforts, the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness has fallen by 4% since early 2020 and by more than 52% since 2010.

"We won't rest until every Veteran has the safe, stable home that they deserve," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "These grants will allow VA — alongside community organizations — to help provide housing and wraparound services to more homeless and at-risk Veterans."

VA's efforts to combat Veteran homelessness are grounded in reaching out to homeless Veterans, understanding their unique needs, and addressing them. These efforts are built on the evidence-based "Housing First" approach, which prioritizes getting a Veteran into housing, then providing them with the wraparound support they need to stay housed, including health care, job training, legal and education assistance, and more. This initiative is part of the Biden-Harris Administration's broader efforts to reduce homelessness.

Only the 16 existing special need grantees are eligible to apply. Awards will fund two years of operations starting fiscal year 2025 on Oct. 1, 2024, and ending Sept. 30, 2026. Grant applications must be received by 4 p.m. Eastern Time on April 15, 2024.

View the special need NOFO, and learn more about GPD or email GPDGrants@va.gov. For more information about VA's comprehensive efforts to end Veteran homelessness visit [VA.gov/homeless](https://va.gov/homeless)

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 is 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.

**Bar Bingo on Mondays at 6 p.m. and
Regular Bingo on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.**

17th annual VFW Golf Tournament set for June 8

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5864 in Greenwood, Indiana will host their 17th Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 8, 2024, at Valle Vista Golf Course.

The net proceeds of the tournament will be used to fund programs for homeless veterans and many local charitable programs which include the Patriot's Pen for junior high school students; Voice of Democracy for high school students; Boy and Girl Scouts of the Year; Teacher of the Year in elementary, junior, and senior high school categories; and two or three college scholarships.

VFW Post 5864 awards plaques annually to the Outstanding Citizen of the Year; Police Officer of the Year; Firefighter of the Year and EMT of the Year in the City of Greenwood. The Post helps homeless veterans in the community; and assists local veterans and their families in financial need.

VFW Post 5864 acts as a resource to veterans by locating other organizations as needed to help the veteran confront the issues they may be facing today.



You can join with VFW Post 5864 to achieve the mission of helping veterans by becoming a sponsor of our 17th Annual Golf Tournament. If you are unable to provide a sponsorship with a cash donation, please consider donating merchandise to be awarded as prizes to our players or items to raffle to help pay for the annual program. Each player will be provided with a "Ditty Bag" which will include coupons and business gratuities.

Contributions and Sponsorships are 100% tax deductible as VFW Post 5864 is a non-profit organization. Sponsors will receive a letter acknowledging the contribution or donation provided.

There are seven levels of sponsorship available to both businesses and individuals: Presenting and Co-Sponsor - \$2,500; Diamond - \$1,000; Platinum - \$750; Gold - \$500; Silver - \$250; Bronze - \$100; and Individual Sponsors - \$50.

Sponsors will receive a complimentary meal at the VFW after the golf tournament concludes.

We thank you in advance for your support of VFW Post 5864 and the veterans of this area.

By the way, the VFW is now located at 1842 Veterans Way, Greenwood. You can Google 578 Commerce Parkway West Dr., Greenwood to locate us. That was the former address.

Thank you very much for your participation in this event and we also welcome you to sign up to play golf for our tournament. If you have any questions, please call Steve Milbourn, 317-525-7291 or e-mail him at steve.milbourn@aol.com.

Greenwood Memorial VFW Post 5864

1842 Veterans Way ■ Greenwood, IN 46143

317-888-2488

Golf Tournament played at Valle Vista Golf Course on

Saturday, June 8, 2024





Greenwood VFW Post 5864

17th Annual Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 8, 2024

Valle Vista Golf Course



Check In – 7:30 a.m. – Shotgun Start – 8:30 a.m. – Florida Scramble

Team Registration (First 25 Teams to pay will play)

Prizes:

01. -- Putting contest prior to start of event – **Starts at 7:30 a.m.** – Winner gets \$40
 02. -- 4 – 1st Place -- \$50 in Cash to each golfer
 03. -- 4 – 2nd Place -- \$35 in Cash to each golfer
 04. -- 4 – 3rd Place -- \$25 in Cash to each golfer
 05. -- 1st Place team gets their team's name proudly displayed on our Winner's Plaque.
 06. -- Closest to pin on Holes 3, 8, 11, and 17
 07. -- Longest Drive – Men – Hole 2 and Women – Hole 13
 08. -- Longest Drive – 65 and Over – Hole 1
 09. -- Longest Putt – Hole 9
- Fantastic Door Prizes after the Golf Tournament**
- 4 -- \$25 Gift Certificates (4 Holes)
2 -- \$25 Gift Certificates (2 People)
1 -- \$25 Gift Certificate
1 -- \$25 Gift Certificate

The Cost is \$280 per foursome or \$70 per person. The price includes green fees, cart, unlimited beverages on the course, a buffet with hamburgers / bratwurst, baked beans, potato salad, chips, and of course various beverages at the VFW after the tournament.

Please mail or drop off this entry form with payment to VFW Post 5864, 1842 Veterans Way, Greenwood Indiana 46143. Make checks payable to VFW Post 5864 and write Golf in the memo area. **Please print** the team information below.

This form must accompany your payment. No exceptions!

Name	Phone	E-mail
Team Captain		
Player 2 Name		
Player 3 Name		
Player 4 Name		

Stop by VFW Post 5864 at 1842 Veterans Way in Greenwood if you need an additional registration form or go to our website – greenwoodvfw.com and go to the Events / Events Calendar and print. For additional information call Steve Milbourn at 317-525-7291.

What Is a Total Solar Eclipse?

By Vigdis Hocken, Aparna Kher, and Graham Jones

A total solar eclipse happens when the Moon completely covers the face of the Sun. To see it, you have to be somewhere within a narrow path of totality.

Next Total Solar Eclipse: Monday, April 8, 2024.

Next Eclipse: Penumbral Lunar Eclipse – Monday, March 25, 2024.

Totality: the length of time that the Moon completely covers the Sun can vary from a few seconds to over six minutes.

©Anne Buckle/timeanddate

Only Visible along a Narrow Path -- Every 18 months or so—somewhere in the world—a **total solar eclipse** takes place. The total phase of the eclipse, where the Moon completely covers the Sun, is visible from along a narrow **path of totality**. Typically, this path across the globe is around 15,000 km (9000 miles) long, but only about 150 km (90 miles) wide.

Not Total Everywhere -- Observers outside the path of totality may see a partial eclipse. By convention, eclipses are named after their darkest phase—if a solar eclipse is total at any point on Earth, it is called a total solar eclipse. Hybrid solar eclipses or annular-total eclipses are an exception to this rule. This is because they change from an annular to a total eclipse or from a total to an annular eclipse along their path.

Complete Solar Eclipse Has Five Phases -- There are five stages in a total solar eclipse:

1. Partial eclipse will begin (1st contact): The Moon becomes visible over the Sun's disk. It looks like the Moon has taken a bite out of the Sun.

2. Total eclipse begins (2nd contact): The Moon covers the entire disk of the Sun, and observers are now within the Moon's umbra, the darkest part of the Moon's shadow. A **diamond ring effect** and **Baily's beads** are visible just before totality.

3. Totality and maximum eclipse: The Moon completely covers the disk of the Sun. Only the Sun's **corona** is visible. This is the most dramatic stage of a total solar eclipse. At this time, the sky goes dark, temperatures can fall, and birds and animals often go

■ **Continued to page 25**



What Is a Total Solar Eclipse? . . . ■ *Continued from page 24*

quiet. The midpoint of time of totality is known as the maximum point of the eclipse.

4. Total eclipse ends (3rd contact): The Moon starts moving away, and the Sun reappears. Those fortunate enough to be in the Moon's umbral can see **Baily's beads** and the **diamond ring effect** just after totality ends.

5. Partial eclipse ends (4th contact): The eclipse ends as the Moon leaves the Sun's disk.

Protect Your Eyes! -- Never look directly at the Sun, eclipsed or otherwise, without proper protective eyewear. The Sun's radiation can burn your eye's retinas and cause permanent damage or even blindness. To safely watch a solar eclipse, wear protective eclipse glasses or project an image of the eclipsed Sun using a pinhole projector.

Only Safe during Full Eclipse -- It is safe to view a fully eclipsed Sun, totality, with the naked eye. It is also safe to observe totality through cameras, telescopes, or binoculars without any special filters. Do not look at the Sun with naked eyes unless the Moon blocks the entire Sun. Even a small amount of direct sunlight can damage your eyes. Make sure you know how long totality lasts in your location.

Are you a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one?

Find support anytime day or night.

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, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text 838255.

Learn About Resources and Support -- VA has a variety of mental health resources, information, treatment options and more — all accessible to Veterans, Veterans' supporters, and the general public. Explore the pages below to learn more about a specific mental health topic or to find



information specifically tailored to your needs. You can also visit the Get Help page to explore VA resources that address the unique stressors and experiences that Veterans may face.

Explore by Topic -- VA provides support for a variety of mental health conditions and other challenges. If you have Anxiety, Bipolar, Depression, Effects of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Military Sexual Trauma, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Schizophrenia, Substance Use, Suicide Prevention, or Tobacco.

Find the Support You Need --

Browse our catalog of resources for specific types of Veterans and civilians -- Transitioning Service Member, Veteran Looking for Support, Woman Veteran, LGBTQ+, Veteran, Family Member or Friend, Older Veteran, Health Care Provider, College Faculty Member, and Learn about VA Benefits.

Treatment -- VA will provide and connect you with clinical resources and peer support so you can confront and manage any mental health challenge. They offer more treatment options and more ways to access treatment than ever before.

Health care

After VA waives copays, American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans save \$2.5 million in costs

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it has exempted or reimbursed more than 143,000 copayments totaling approximately \$2.5 million for more than 3,800 eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans.

This is a result of VA's new 2023 policy that eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans are no longer required to make copayments for VA health care, urgent care, or prescriptions. Under this policy, VA also reimburses for copayments paid on or after Jan. 5, 2022.

"To live their best lives, Veterans need access to affordable health care," said VA Under Secretary for Health Shereef Elnahal, M.D. "This copayment exemption honors our treaties with sovereign nations and the distinguished service of American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans."

Eligible Veterans include any American Indian and Alaska Native Veteran who meets the definitions of "Indian" or "urban Indian" under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

VA is continuing to receive, review, and process documentation for the copayment exemption. To apply for the copayment exemption, Veterans should mail 1) a completed VA Tribal Documentation Form (VA Form 10-334), and 2) a copy of official tribal documentation to VHA Tribal Documentation at P.O. Box 5100, Janesville, WI 53547.

2023-2024 District 7 meetings are scheduled

There are two (2) District 7 meetings left for the 2023-2024 year.

The Sunday, March 17, 2024, meeting will be held at Vincennes VFW Post 1157; and the Sunday, May 19, 2024, meeting will be held at Clay City VFW Post 6606.

Meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. on the day listed above. District 7 has 18 Posts. They are included alphabetically by first name: Bloomington VFW Post 604, Brazil VFW Post 1127, Clay City VFW Post 6606, Crane VFW Post 9297, Gosport VFW Post 7850, Greenwood VFW Post 5864, Linton VFW Post 7118, Loogootee VFW Post 9395, Martinsville VFW Post 1257, Mooresville VFW Post 1111, New Whiteland VFW Post 6978, Odon VFW Post 9627, Shoals VFW Post 8589, Spencer VFW Post 1405, Sullivan VFW Post 2459, Vincennes VFW Post 1157, Washington VFW Post 3321; and Worthington VFW Post 7117.

Proof of service to establish eligibility to join the VFW rests entirely with the applicant. That proof could be a DD-214 or similar document.

**Greenwood VFW Post 5864 is not responsible
for Lost, Stolen or Misplaced Items**

**Please make sure you know where your belongings
are at all times or leave them with someone you can
trust if you need to be out of the room.**

Considering Surgery

VA launches new surgery initiative across the nation, a critical step to saving Veteran's lives

Recently, the Joint Commission and National Quality Forum announced VA's Surgical Pause practice has been recognized with the prestigious John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award in the National Level Innovation in Patient Safety and Quality category for its innovative efforts resulting in improved health care outcomes of frail Veterans considering surgery.

The Surgical Pause is an initiative that uses a risk analysis index to screen Veterans for frailty in 30 seconds, effectively flagging high-risk Veterans so the surgical team can ensure the proposed treatment plans both mitigate known risks and align with the Veterans' overarching life goals.

Routine frailty screening with the RAI rapidly identifies the 5-10% of patients who experience disproportionately high rates of postoperative complication, loss of independence and mortality. For these patients, a brief "pause" permits further evaluation to review of goals of care and optimize treatment plans.

This initiative, which has already been launched at 50 VA facilities and is rolling out across the nation, has been proven to decrease mortality among Veterans. A 2023 study published in JAMA Surgery reported that from July 1, 2016 to May 31, 2019, one-year mortality fell from 20% to 16% after implementing the Surgical Pause in a sample of more than 50,000 patients.

"The Surgical Pause is an innovative, data-driven clinical practice that saves Veterans lives by predicting and preventing complications before they happen," said **VA Under Secretary for Health, Shereef Elnahal, M.D.** "We are thrilled to be rolling out the Surgical Pause across the nation as a part of VA's steadfast commitment to providing Veterans with high-quality, world-class health care they deserve."

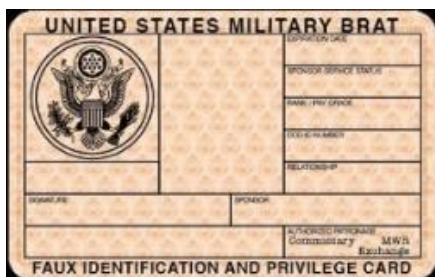
VA is proven to be the best, most affordable health care in America for Veterans. In 2023, peer-reviewed studies showed that VA health care is better than or equal to non-VA health care; nearly 70% of VA hospitals received 4 or 5 stars in the annual CMS Hospital ratings, compared to just 41% of non-VA hospitals; VA hospitals outperformed non-VA hospitals in all 10 patient satisfaction metrics in Medicare's latest survey of patients; and more than 91% of Veterans trust VA with their care.

Surgical Pause is led by VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Surgeon Daniel Hall, M.D., with support from VHA's National Surgery Office, Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care and VHA's Diffusion of Excellence program.

VHA's National Surgery Office serves as a champion for the Surgical Pause, formally adopting it as a national initiative in 2023. The National Surgery Office will support implementation at VA facilities with surgical programs to further improve outcomes and align treatment plans with Veterans' overarching life goals. To learn more, visit the Surgical Pause page.

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 at the East end.

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

VA housed over 46,000 homeless Veterans in 2023

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it permanently housed 46,552 homeless Veterans in 2023 — surpassing the calendar year goal to house 38,000 Veterans by 22.5%. In 2023, VA also engaged with 40,203 unsheltered Veterans to connect them with the housing and resources they need, exceeding the Department's calendar year goal by 43.6%; ensured that 95.9% of Veterans housed have remained in housing, exceeding the Department's calendar year goal by 0.9%; and ensured that 96.4% of the Veterans who returned to homelessness have been rehoused or are on a pathway to rehousing, exceeding the Department's calendar year goal by 6.4%.

Ending Veteran homelessness is a top priority of VA and the President, who has made supporting Veterans a key pillar of his Unity Agenda for the nation. Thanks in part to these efforts, the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness has fallen since early 2020 and by more than 52% since 2010.

"No Veteran should ever experience the tragedy and indignity of homelessness. More than 46,000 formerly homeless Veterans are going to sleep tonight in good, safe, stable homes — and there's nothing more important than that," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "While this is an important step forward, we're not stopping here — we're going to keep pushing until every Veteran has a safe, stable place to call home in this country they fought to defend."

VA's efforts to combat Veteran homelessness are grounded in reaching out to homeless Veterans, understanding their unique needs, and addressing them. These efforts are built on the evidence-

based "Housing First" approach, which prioritizes getting a Veteran into housing, then providing them with the wraparound support they need to stay housed, including health care, job training, legal and education assistance, and more. This initiative is part of the Administration's broader efforts to reduce homelessness.

VA has also made progress in combating Veteran homelessness in the Greater Los Angeles area, providing 1,790 homeless Veterans with permanent housing in 2023 — which is the most of any city in America and exceeding the local calendar year goal for 2023 by 19.3%.

This is the second year in a row that VA has housed more than 40,000 homeless Veterans. In 2022, VA housed more than 40,000 formerly homeless Veterans, prevented more than 17,700 Veterans and their families from falling into homelessness, and helped nearly 191,700 additional Veteran families who were experiencing financial difficulties to retain their homes or avoid foreclosure.

VA staff and its community partners nationwide help Veterans find permanent housing such as apartments or houses to rent or own, often with subsidies to help make the housing affordable.



Members dress up for "Theme Party"

At left, Erica Carhuff, and her husband "Billy" recently dressed up for a "1980's Theme" party which she created. Her husband, a VFW 5864 member, is a veteran of Iraq and

Afghanistan, and she is a member of the VFW Auxiliary.

She is also an excellent cook and spends some of her time at the VFW catering various events. She and Banquet Manager Cindy Reinert are in the process of dreaming up a few events like this one for the membership and / or anyone who wishes to attend. More information will be coming soon.

First U.S. Aerial Victory by Stephen D. Thompson

On February 5, 1918, Stephen D. Thompson shot down a German aircraft, making him the first person in the American military to shoot down an enemy plane. Born in Missouri, Thompson was a senior at the University of Missouri when the U.S. entered World War I. His school then announced that seniors that joined the military before graduation would receive their diplomas in June. So, Thompson enlisted in the Army and went for training at the Coast Artillery Corps. On the train there, he saw an airplane flying overhead for the first time.



Thompson was fascinated by aviation and visited a flying field near his training center. He got to ride in a plane, and after that decided to apply for the Air Service. He was accepted and joined the U.S. 1st Aero Squadron as an observer.

In February 1918, Thompson's unit had yet to begin their combat operations, but they would occasionally visit a nearby active French bombardment squadron. On Feb. 5, Thompson and a fellow member of his unit visited the French squadron, who were preparing to go on a mission. One of the French observers became ill, and Thompson and the other American pilot were invited to join in the mission in his place.

After conducting a bombing raid over Saarbrücken, Germany, they were attacked by German Albatross D.III fighters. During that fighting, Thompson shot down one of the German planes. He was the first member of the U.S. military to shoot down an enemy plane (American members of the Lafayette Escadrille had shot down German planes earlier in the war, but they were serving as part of the French military).

For his victory, Thompson received the Croix de Guerre with Palm from the French government. That May, Thompson was assigned to the 12th Aero Squadron. Then in July, he was conducting artillery spotting near Chateau-Thierry. His plane came under attack by four German planes. Thompson succeeded in shooting down two of them, but one of the other fighters shot his gun, disabling it. They also hit the pilot in the stomach and Thompson in the leg. The pilot managed to land the plane before dying from his wounds.

For years, Thompson didn't receive official recognition for the first victory, because he wasn't serving with his own unit at the time. In 1967, the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force helped him to get that official recognition. They also have his uniform on display to honor his role in history.

Greenwood VFW Post 5864 will be hosting



Weekly Trivia Night

Are you interested in playing? The cost would be minimal.

There will be prizes – some cash – some liquor -- etc.
We will start on **Tuesday, March 26**, beginning at 6:30 p.m.
and every Tuesday thereafter. Although there are some meetings on Tuesdays, many of those who would attend the meetings would not play Trivia.

Please send a text or e-mail concerning your interest to
Steve Milbourn – 317-525-7291 or steve.milbourn@aol.com

Battle of Kwajalein, a major morale booster for U.S.

U.S. Postage Stamp No. 905 – Kwajalein was a major morale booster for the U.S.; it was the first time American troops pushed through Japan's "outer ring." The Battle of Kwajalein began on Jan. 31, 1944. Part of the World War II Pacific Campaign, it was a hard-fought, but quick victory for the U.S., allowing commanders to launch the next battles sooner than expected.



Marines assault Tarawa, November 1943

Following World War I, Japan was granted control of the Marshall Islands in the western Pacific. The Allies knew going into World War II that these islands would be an important target. U.S. forces changed their training and tactics after the costly battle of Tarawa, which aided in the quick capture of Kwajalein.

After the Japanese had several successive victories in the early months of the war, U.S. Admiral Chester Nimitz developed an "island-hopping" strategy. This counteroffensive consisted of a series of landings on certain Japanese-held islands along the way to the Philippines and eventually Japan.

This battle was part of the Gilbert and Marshall Islands campaign that ran from November 1943 to February 1944. After two months of air and naval bombardments in the area, U.S. Marine and Army units landed on Kwajalein, Roi, and Namur on January 31, 1944. A total of 85,000 U.S. Marines and Army men aboard 300 warships participated in the assault.

One Marine regiment captured Roi on the first day and Namur was taken by noon on the second day. The battle on Kwajalein was more difficult, with the U.S. 7th Infantry Division bombarding the Japanese garrison for three days before it was declared secure on February 4.

Ford served aboard the USS *Monterey* during the battle, supporting the landings there. The Japanese forces were outnumbered by more than 40,000 on Kwajalein but fought to the end. They suffered 7,870 dead and 105 captured in the battles on Roi and Namur, while the Marines lost 200 of their own with 500 wounded. On Kwajalein, 5,000 Japanese were killed, and a small number captured. The Americans on Kwajalein saw 372 killed and 1,592 wounded.

Indiana lawmakers vote to lift ban on happy hours

Indiana lawmakers voted to lift a ban on happy hours that has been illegal for nearly 40 years. Legislators sent House Bill 1086 to the governor's desk with bipartisan support in a 38-10 vote. The bill would allow restaurants to sell alcoholic beverages at a reduced price for portions of the day.

State Sen. Kyle Walker, the bill's sponsor, told lawmakers Tuesday, February 20, that the tourism and restaurant industries would certainly like to have the legislation in order to attract more patrons and increase food sales. He said the bill would "generally assist an industry that is still fighting its way back after severe losses due to the pandemic."



Some restrictions accompany the times businesses can reduce prices, or in other words, host a happy hour. The time may not exceed four hours in one day and 15 hours in one week. The proposal also says discounts could not be offered between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m.

Currently, if an establishment wants to offer drink specials, they have to offer them all day long. But happy hour supporters say it would be a way to help retailers boost sales, specifically during slow hours. If signed by the governor, the law would go into effect July 1.

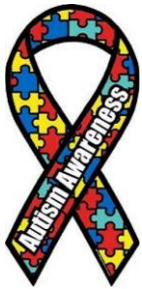
Once the bill becomes law and is signed by the Governor, VFW Post 5864 will consider holding our "Happy Hours" on Tuesday and Thursday from 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Sunday hours would allow the VFW to open at 12 p.m. and close at 6 p.m. as well as giving an opportunity for patrons who could not get to our business on the other days.

The VFW's days and times will be determined after the "Happy Hour" becomes law on July 1.

**Indiana Widows Sons
Motorcycle Riders Association
Gatekeepers Chapter**

11th annual ride for Autism Awareness

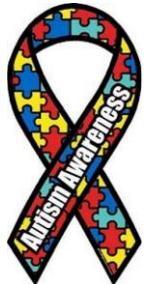
4 Sunday, May 5, 2024



**Registration – 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Ride Leaves – 11:30 a.m.**

Rain Date is Saturday, May 11, 2024

\$35 per rider - \$10 per passenger



Ride leaves VFW Post 5864

1842 Veterans Way
Greenwood, Indiana 46143

Breakfast Available for Purchase -- 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Ride ends at Crowbar Restaurant and Lounge

209 State Rd. 135 – Trafalgar, IN 46181

Raffles – Silent Auction – Door Prizes – 50 / 50

All to benefit Autism Awareness



Indiana Widows Sons Gatekeepers – 501-c3 No. 46-4525406.

All contributions are tax deductible.



And to Reduce Veterans' Homelessness

U.S. Dept. of Labor announces \$12 million funding opportunity to help deliver employment supports

The U.S. Department of Labor has announced a \$12 million funding opportunity for organizations to provide training and employment services to help veterans combat homelessness.

Administered by the department's Veterans' Employment and Training Service, the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program awards seek to reduce homelessness among veterans by assisting them in overcoming obstacles to reenter the workforce successfully.

The HVRP grants will provide each awardee a maximum of \$600,000 annually for up to three years, for a total of \$1.8 million. They will help deliver occupational skills training, support participation in Registered Apprenticeship programs or other on-the-job training opportunities, and supply employment placement assistance.

This initiative aligns with the administration's efforts to reduce homelessness among U.S. military veterans and the public at-large through collaboration between the department and other federal stakeholders, including the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care Program, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Homeless Programs Office.

Nonprofit and for-profit organizations, faith-based groups, Native American tribal governments, state and local workforce development boards, state and local government agencies and higher education institutions – including Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic Serving Institutions – are eligible to apply for the grant.

VETS will offer two sessions of a prospective applicant webinar to provide specific information on this funding opportunity and answer questions about the application process:

The grant application for this funding opportunity will be open until March 11, 2024.

In first year of new policy

VA provides free emergency suicide prevention care to nearly 50,000 Veterans and former service members

In the first year of VA's new policy allowing eligible Veterans and certain former service members in acute suicidal crisis to go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for no-cost emergency health care, 49,714 Veterans and former service members have used this benefit — providing them with lifesaving care and saving more than \$64 million in health care costs.

This policy has helped prevent Veteran suicide by guaranteeing no cost, world-class care to eligible individuals in times of crisis — including emergency room care, inpatient, or crisis residential care for up to 30 days, outpatient care for up to 90 days, and transportation costs. The policy has also increased access to no-cost emergent suicide care for up to 9 million Veterans, because eligible Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system or go to a department facility to use this benefit.

Ending Veteran suicide is VA's top clinical priority and a key part of President Biden's Unity Agenda. Since 2021, VA has worked aggressively to expand support for Veterans in crisis, including launching the 988 (then press 1) to help Veterans connect more quickly with caring, qualified responders through the Veterans Crisis Line; partnering with community-based suicide prevention organizations to provide Veterans with on-the-ground support; expanding firearm suicide prevention efforts; and encouraging Veterans to reach out for help through a national Veteran suicide prevention awareness campaign.

VA provides free emergency suicide prevention care

■ Continued from page 32

Moving forward, VA and the Biden-Harris Administration will continue to work urgently to end Veteran suicide through a public health approach that combines both community-based and clinically based strategies to save lives. “There is nothing more important to VA than preventing Veteran suicide — and this expansion of no-cost care has likely saved many lives this year,” said VA Secretary. Denis McDonough. “We want Veterans to know they can get the care they need, when they need it, no matter where they are.”

Any Veteran – enrolled in VA or not – can go to a VA or non-VA emergency room for no cost emergency suicidal care under this policy. Additionally, this benefit covers certain individuals who do not meet the requirements to be considered a Veteran, including those who were released from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable.

It also covers service members — including reservists and national guard members — who served at least 100 days on active duty under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location. Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma are also covered.

This benefit was created by the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment (COMPACT) Act of 2020. Under this policy, eligible individuals receive:

- Emergent suicide care provided by, paid for, or reimbursed by VA.
- Expanded access and eligibility (Individuals do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit).
- Assurance that they will not be responsible for costs associated with emergency suicide care, including emergency transportation.
- Referral for appropriate VA programs and benefits they may be eligible for following the period of emergent suicide care.

To use this benefit, any eligible individual who is experiencing an emergency suicidal crisis should go to the nearest ER as soon as possible — transportation costs are covered by VA — and tell the ER staff that they are covered by this policy.

The ER staff or someone acting on the individual’s behalf should notify VA right away by calling 844-724-7842 (TTY: 711) or using VA’s Emergency Care Reporting (ECR) portal.

If an eligible individual receives a bill for community care after receiving emergency care during or after a suicidal crisis that they believe should be covered by VA, they should contact VA’s customer service center as soon as possible at 877-881-7618.

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, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text 838255.

GI Bill is stifled by overregulation per VFW

VFW National Legislative Deputy Director Kristina Keenan spoke on a legislative panel at the midwinter meeting of the National Association of State Approving Agencies. These agencies have responsibility to review, approve, and monitor all programs and schools to ensure quality education for those using VA benefits such as the GI Bill.

Keenan presented the VFW’s concern that overregulation has caused too many schools to stop participating in the GI Bill program due to increasingly burdensome requirements. She also stressed the need for student veterans who take some or all college courses online to receive a more realistic monthly housing allowance, currently set at half the national average.

The VFW supports increasing this amount to ensure that veterans do not experience housing insecurity while pursuing an education.



American Legion District 11 Honor Guard Members give Veteran Military Rites

The American Legion District 11 (Marion County) Honor Guard included: Hal Daniels, Captain of the Color/Honor Guard, Post 510; Wayne Yankovich, Post 510; Paul Norton, Post 510; Joy Koester, Post 220; and Steven Vaughn, Post 276. Hal, Wayne, and Joy were on rifle duty. Paul spoke and played Taps. Steven was calling the commands for the rifle team. The Color/Honor Guard is located in Lawrence at 5745 Lee Rd. Gary Shonk, a Vietnam veteran was the veteran being celebrated at this event. His wife, Linda, organized the Celebration of Life.

They also assist in medical programs for children and veterans

Founding of the Elks in 1868 by an 8 to 7 vote

U.S. Stamp No. 1342 was issued for the Elks' 100th anniversary and their "Support Our Youth" service program. On February 16, 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) was founded in New York City.

The story of the Elks begins on November 15, 1867, when British comic singer Charles A. Vivian arrived in New York. That night, he visited the Star Hotel and met piano player Richard R. Steirly.

Vivian offered to sing a few songs with Steirly and the two became fast friends.



Steirly soon introduced Vivian to his friends and fellow entertainers, and they spent much of their free time together drinking and playing games. Vivian introduced the group to a game of corks, in which they dropped their corks on the bar and picked them up as quickly as possible, with the last to pick up the corks bought the drinks. The game proved popular among the group, and

they eventually were known as the Jolly Corks.

That December, one of their friends, Ted Quinn, passed away, leaving his wife and children impoverished. Group member George McDonald suggested that the Jolly Corks should become a protective and benevolent society, complete with rules and regulations, rituals, and a new name. Vivian suggested The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffalos, a British organization. However, the rest of the group wanted something entirely American.

Members of the group then visited the Cooper Institute Library where they read the description of the elk: "fleet of foot, timorous of doing wrong, but ever ready to combat in defense of self or of the female of the species." They thought this was fitting and suggested the elk for the group name.

In a meeting on February 16, 1868, the Jolly Corks assembled and voted eight to seven to become the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. In addition to the library's description, they chose the elk because it was "a readily identifiable creature of stature, indigenous to America."

“We Can Do It” a famed “Rosie the Riveter” poster

U.S. Stamp No. 3186e from the Celebrate the Century – 1940s sheet. On February 15, 1943, the famed Rosie the Riveter “We Can Do It” poster was first displayed in Westinghouse factories. One of the most dramatic social changes during World War II was the new job opportunities for women. As men left the country to fight the war overseas, millions of women entered the workforce. Virtually overnight, housewives and mothers were transformed into welders, electricians, mechanics, taxi drivers, attorneys, firefighters, and police officers.



Between 1940 and 1944, the number of working women increased from 12 million to 18.2 million. Many who worked at service-related jobs before the war moved to higher-paying skilled positions. Appeals were made to housewives, asking “Can you use an electric mixer? If so, you can learn to operate a drill.” Some information was aimed at husbands, many who did not support the idea of their wives working.

Throughout the war years, women who took these jobs entered a male-only world. Working conditions were difficult and dangerous.

Women also had to deal with sexual harassment and were paid less than their male counterparts.

In 1942, Redd Evans and John Jacob Loeb composed the song “Rosie the Riveter,” introducing the term. Big band leader Kay Kyser made the song popular. A national hit, the song talked about an assembly-line worker who was doing her part for the war effort. Rosie was a symbol of all the women who were supplying the weapons, ships, and supplies to America’s war machine.

The real-life inspiration for the song was Rosalind P. Walter, who worked on the night shift building the F4U Corsair fighter plane. Another Rosie, Rose Will Monroe, who worked as a riveter in Michigan, starred in promotional films and posters. She became one of the most recognized icons of the era.

In 1942, Westinghouse Electric’s War Production Coordinating Committee hired graphic artist J. Howard Miller to create a series of posters to hang in their factories. The goal was to increase worker morale and efficiency and prevent any potential strikes. In all, Miller designed 42 posters, each of which was displayed in the factory for just two weeks before being replaced by the next one.

On February 15, 1943, the now famous “We Can Do It!” poster began its two-week run in several Westinghouse factories in Pennsylvania and the Midwest. Only about 1,800 copies of the poster were printed, only for use in these Westinghouse factories. The poster was hung in factories where women made plasticized helmet liners with Micarta resin.

After its two-week stint at Westinghouse, the “We Can Do It” poster disappeared for decades. Then in 1982, it was included in a *Washington Post Magazine* article about posters from the collection of the National Archives. Upon its rediscovery, it became a symbol for feminism and women’s economic power. The image continues to appear on countless collectibles including shirts, coffee cups, and even action figures.

Elks assist children, veterans . . . ■ *Continued from page 34*

From its simple beginnings, the Elks Lodge has grown into a major service organization with over one million members in over 1,900 lodges. They provide youth programs such as Boy and Girl Scouts, Little Leagues, and Special Olympics. They also assist in medical programs for children and veterans. The Elks have given disaster relief to affected communities since the Chicago fire of 1871.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is one of the oldest and largest fraternal organizations in America. During its long history, the Elks have contributed more than \$2.69 billion in cash, goods, and services to America’s youth, its veterans, the disadvantaged and handicapped, and in support of patriotic and civic programs. Elks’ headquarters are located at Elks National Memorial Building in Chicago, Illinois.

U.S. Army Veteran and member of VFW Post 5864

Patrick D. Cramer passed December 8, 2023

Patrick D. Cramer, 36, of Kansas City, KS, and former Alexandria resident, passed away on December 8, 2023, at his residence. Born in Alexandria, Patrick was a proud graduate of Alexandria-Monroe High School. He dedicated a significant part of his life to the United States Army, where he served honorably in South Korea.



Beyond his military service, Patrick was a captivating actor, leaving an indelible mark on the stage. His talent illuminated the Mainstage Theater, Muncie Civic Theater, and Chicago's Hale's Theater. Patrick's passion for the arts was a testament to his vibrant spirit and creativity. A devoted member of the Alexandria First Baptist Church, Patrick actively participated in the music ministry and was a proud member of Greenwood VFW Post 5864. His commitment to community and country reflected his deep sense of duty and love for those around him.

Left to cherish his memory are his beloved mother, Lucinda Cramer, his brothers Matthew Brian (Amanda) Cramer and Michael (Amanda Reed) Cramer, and his sisters Michelle Cramer, Jaime Cramer, and Laura Cramer. Patrick is also survived by several nieces and nephews who will carry his legacy forward.

A memorial service to celebrate Patrick's life was held on January 15, 2024, in the Alexandria First Baptist Church, Alexandria, IN. Reverend Michael Deutsch officiated the service, with burial at IOOF Cemetery, Alexandria, with military honors bestowed by the U.S. Army and Elwood VFW Post 5872.

Parents mail children through Parcel Post

U.S. Stamp No. Q5 – Several instances of children traveling through the mail were by train. On February 19, 1914, parents in Idaho took advantage of the affordable Parcel Post rate to mail their daughter to her grandmother's house. It was one of many instances of people mailing children using stamps.



A year earlier, the Post Office Department had initiated its Parcel Post service for fourth-class mail on January 1, 1913. Parcel Post service could be used to send items weighing 16 ounces or more through the mail. The mail is divided into four classes, with Parcel Post making up the fourth class.

Almost any type of merchandise could be mailed parcel post, including day-old chicks, baby alligators, and honeybees. Only items that could be dangerous to handle could not be sent via Parcel Post.

It wasn't long after the new service began that parents found an interesting loophole. None of the regulations concerning parcel post prohibited the mailing of people, and other living beings were being mailed that way. In January 1913, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Beauge of Glen Este, Ohio, sent their young son via Rural Free Delivery one mile to his grandmother's. The parents paid 15¢ for the stamps and insured their son for \$50. Later that month, a family in Pine Hollow, Pennsylvania mailed their daughter to relatives in Clay Hollow at a cost of 45¢.

Then on February 19, 1914, five-year-old May Pierstorff's parents in Grangeville, Idaho, wanted to send their daughter to visit her grandparents 73 miles away. They placed 53¢ in stamps on her coat and handed her over to the postal worker on the railway mail train. Despite her safe delivery to her grandmother's doorstep, once Postmaster General Albert S. Burleson heard her story, he officially prohibited postal workers from accepting humans to be mailed.

In spite of this, a woman mailed her six-year-old daughter 720 miles from Florida to Virginia the following year for 15¢. The last known instance of a child being mailed came in August 1915, when three-year-old Maud Smith was mailed from her grandparents to her sick mother in Kentucky. Even after this, some people attempted to mail children, but postmasters rejected their applications claiming they couldn't be classified as "harmless live animals."



Are you a SON?

We want you!

*to be a member of the **Sons of The American Legion***

Sons of The American Legion Eligibility

All male descendants, adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, and December 7, 1941, to date, as set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

contact

Dave Everett
317-502-1080

Squadron & Telephone Number

- *Serving State & Nation*
- *Veterans & Families*
- *Children & Youth*
- *Veterans Rehabilitation (VAVS)*
- *Youth Programs*
- *Americanism*
- *Community Service*

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



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 2024, the average age of a Vietnam Veteran is around 77 years old. Of the 2,709,918 Americans who served in the Vietnam theater of operation, less than 530,000 (19.55%) are estimated to be alive today.

**Greenwood VFW Post 5864 will celebrate this day
on Saturday, March 23, 2024, from 5 p.m. to ????**

Annual day remembers sacrifices of nearly 3,000,000 service members

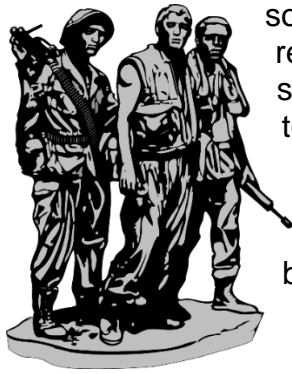
National Vietnam War Veterans Day is March 29

Friday, March 29, 2024, is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The day honors the men and women who served and sacrificed, at that time, during the longest conflict in United States history.

Greenwood VFW Post 5864 will celebrate this event on Saturday, March 23, 2024. The celebration will get underway around 5 p.m. and there will be some food and drinks. Plan to stop by and “Welcome Home” our Vietnam Veterans.

It was on March 29, 1973, when combat and combat support units withdrew from South Vietnam. Generations later, Veterans of this time period are gaining the respect that was not so freely given upon their return. Involving five U.S. presidents, crossing nearly two decades and 500,000 U.S. military personnel, it left an indelible mark on the American psyche.

Returning Veterans did not always receive respectful welcomes upon their arrival on American soil. There were 58,000 killed, never to return. National Vietnam War Veterans Day recognize the military service of these men and women who answered the call to service for their country when she needed them. They did not make the decision to go to war.



On National Vietnam War Veterans Day, we recognize the service and duty rendered by all servicemen and women of this era.

Around the country, commemorative events, speeches, and luncheons are being held inviting Vietnam Veterans as honored guests. Thank a Vietnam Veteran. Buy them a drink or lunch. Send them a shout out using #VietnamWarVeteransDay on social media.

U.S. Senators Pat Toomey, R-Pa., and Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., introduced legislation in 2017 to honor Vietnam Veterans with a day on the anniversary of the withdrawal of military units from South Vietnam. President Donald Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Day Act on March 28, 2017, calling for U.S. flags to be flown on March 29 for those who served.

Vietnam War Veterans Day was first observed as a one-time occasion on March 29, 2012, when President Barack Obama issued a proclamation calling on “all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.” The day was then introduced as an annual event in 2017 when President Donald Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017.

Lasting from 1955 to 1975, the Vietnam war engulfed the Southeast Asian country of Vietnam as well as its neighboring countries, Cambodia and Laos. It resulted in several million deaths, most of whom were Vietnamese civilians.

The conflict began during the 1950s when the struggle between the country's communist northern part and the anti-communist south escalated. The United States began its military involvement to back the South's effort to quell the communist onslaught, which, at the height of the Cold War, was feared to promote the spread of communist ideology and influence worldwide.

During the war, about 500,000 U.S. troops were dispatched to Southeast Asia. The conflict ended in 1975 with the fall of Saigon and the victory of North Vietnam.



**If you have some time to donate to help out, let us know.
Remember, the three B's – Bar, Banquet Room, and Bingo.
Those are the three events that will keep us going. Please.**

2.8 million total military served in Vietnam

VFW to celebrate Vietnam War -- 51 years later

Greenwood VFW Post 5864 will host their annual Vietnam War celebration on Saturday, March 23 beginning at 5 p.m. Any Vietnam veteran, or veteran from another war, whether a member or not, is invited to attend. Food, drinks, and music are all available.

Last year, over 60 members gathered to reminisce about their time in Vietnam. The beginning of

ground operations began with the first combat troops deploying to Vietnam in 1965.

There were 3,500 U.S. Marines who landed near Da Nang in South Vietnam. Their primary purpose was to guard airfields, airports, and supply depots.

Unfortunately, the Marines began combat operations within a few months of arriving and thus began the 10-year war.

Other combat troops arrived shortly thereafter from the 173rd Airborne Brigade, elements of the 9th U.S. Marines Expeditionary Brigade; 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry



Division and the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division.

The VFW, through the Dept. of Defense's Vietnam War Commemoration partnership program, is working in local communities to recognize the sacrifice, service and tremendous contribution Vietnam War veterans made to our nation.

This year, all Vietnam Veterans who were "on the ground," or within 12 miles of Vietnam on a ship and those who served in all branches of the military during that time will be honored.

Medicaid Waiver provider

New Whiteland has new, low-income housing

Vita Senior Living in New Whiteland will open their doors in April. It is a brand new, vibrant community which will offer Assisted Living, Memory Care, and Independent Living apartments at very affordable rates. With income-restricted private pay options, as well as offering services under Medicaid Waiver, they are excited to meet the needs of seniors at varying stages of retirement.

Brady McClure is the Sales Counseling Director of the facility, and he can be reached by at 317-463-7155, his cell phone at 317-460-6882 or his e-mail at brady.mcclure@vitaneewwhiteland.com. The new senior living facility is located at 594 Country Gate Dr., New Whiteland, IN 46184. It is just off U.S. 31, just north of Tracy Rd.

St. Patrick's Day still celebrated for over 1,000 years

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17, the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. St. Patrick's Day 2024 will take place on Sunday, March 17. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years.

On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink and feast on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.



St. Patrick's Day observes the death of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. The holiday has evolved into a celebration of Irish culture with parades, special foods, music, dancing, drinking and a whole lot of green. St. Patrick was born in Great Britain -- not Ireland -- to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D.

The shamrock, which was also called the "seamroy" by the Celts, was a sacred plant in ancient Ireland because it symbolized the rebirth of spring. By the seventeenth century, the shamrock had become a symbol of emerging Irish nationalism. As the English began to seize Irish land and make laws against the use of the Irish language and the practice of Catholicism, many Irish began to wear the shamrock as a symbol of

their pride in their heritage and their displeasure with English rule. *Did you know? The color traditionally associated with St. Patrick was blue, not green.*

Music is often associated with St. Patrick's Day -- and Irish culture in general. From ancient days of the Celts, music has always been an important part of Irish life. The Celts had an oral culture, where religion, legend and history were passed from one generation to the next by way of stories and songs.

After being conquered by the English, and forbidden to speak their own language, the Irish, like other oppressed peoples, turned to music to help them remember important events and hold on to their heritage and history. As it often stirred emotion and helped to galvanize people, music was outlawed by the English. During her reign, Queen Elizabeth I even decreed that all artists and pipers were to be arrested and hanged on the spot.

Today, traditional Irish bands like The Chieftains, the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem are gaining worldwide popularity. Their music is produced with instruments that have been used for centuries, including the fiddle, the uilleann pipes (a sort of elaborate bagpipe), the tin whistle (a sort of flute that is actually made of nickel-silver, brass, or aluminum) and the bodhran (an ancient type of frame drum that was traditionally used in warfare rather than music).



Each year, thousands of Irish Americans gather with their loved ones on St. Patrick's Day to share a "traditional" meal of corned beef and cabbage. Though cabbage has long been an Irish food, corned beef only began to be associated with St. Patrick's Day at the turn of the 20th century. Irish immigrants living on New York City's Lower East Side substituted corned beef for their traditional dish of Irish bacon to save money. They learned about the cheaper alternative from their Jewish neighbors.

40 & 8 Voiture 145 hosts

Grande du Indiana Cheminot and La Femmes

At the recent Grande du Indiana Grande Cheminot, La Femmes Lady Kelley Farrell of Lafayette, IN, below, won the “Pull-Tab” event. Presenting the painting to Lady Farrell is V-145’s Chef de Gare Jay Collars on the left and Mike Delaney, Commissaire Intendent.



The oldest living Past Grande Chef de Gare, Art Parkhurst, above on the right, was at the Cheminot held in January in Greenwood.

Grande Chef de Gare John VanNatta, on far right was assisted by Janet Garrison, the Treasurer of American Legion Auxiliary Post 1919, cuts the first piece of cake at the January Grande Cheminot as Chef de Gare Jay Collars looks on.

Below, Chef de Gare Jay Collars presenting the Grande Cheminot cake to the Grande Chef de Gare John Van Natta and Grande Correspondent Bob Hock.





Art Parkhurst receives plaque from 40 et 8

Art Parkhurst, the oldest living past Grande Chef de Gare du Indiana and a member of Voiture Locale 145 of the 40 et 8 was presented a plaque on Feb. 27 from the Voiture's members.

Jay Collars, Chef de Gare of Voiture 145, at right, and Tim Turner, Grande Garde de la Porte, a member of the Shelbyville Voiture 967 and Art Parkhurst is in the center with the plaque.

The plaque, a World War II Honor Plaque, was presented with pride and gratitude to Art Parkhurst.

The plaque states, "For your faithful and dedicated service in the United States Navy during World War II in the Atlantic-Caribbean theater. As a member of America's Greatest Generation

you served from 12-05-1944 to 08-04-1945 as a Seaman First Class Radioman aboard the USS Kearsarge. Thanks to you and other Veterans who served, we are able to live the American Dream. You live by those words of Duty – Honor – Country. You are a True American Patriot. May God Bless you, your family and the United States of America." – *Presented by Voiture Locale 145, Forty et Eight.*



40 et 8 Grande Voyageurs and La Femmes gather at the Grand Cheminot held in Greenwood in January.