

ISSUE #54 | JUNE 2021

VETERANS VOICE

THE OFFICIAL NEWS OF NEW RICHMOND / ST. CROIX COUNTY VFW MEMORIAL POST 10818



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

OUR MISSION

TO FOSTER CAMARADERIE AMONG UNITED STATES VETERANS OF OVERSEAS CONFLICTS. TO SERVE OUR VETERANS, THE MILITARY AND OUR COMMUNITIES. TO ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF ALL VETERANS.

OUR VISION

ENSURE THAT VETERANS ARE RESPECTED FOR THEIR SERVICE, ALWAYS RECEIVE THEIR EARNED ENTITLEMENTS, AND ARE RECOGNIZED FOR THE SACRIFICES THEY AND THEIR LOVED ONES HAVE MADE ON BEHALF OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY.

The VFW is a dynamic United States combat veterans organization that serves, advocates and fosters camaraderie for ALL veterans, service members, their families and our community. The VFW harnesses its recognized authority, experience and resources to deliver comprehensive financial, educational, health and well-being programs and services at every stage of the veteran's military and civilian life.

ADDRESS

310 W N SHORE DRIVE

NEW RICHMOND, WI 54017

PHONE: 715-246-0226

EMAIL: ADMIN@VFWPOST10818.ORG

PUBLICATION AWARDS

- 1st Place 2019 Wisconsin VFW Publications Contest
- 1st Place 2019 National VFW Publications Contest
- 1st Place 2018 Wisconsin VFW Publications Contest
- 3rd Place 2018 National VFW Publications Contest
- 1st Place 2017 Wisconsin VFW Publications Contest
- 2nd Place 2017 National VFW Publications Contest

ALL-STATE POST

2019-2020	2013-2014	2002-2003
2018-2019	2012-2013	2000-2001
2017-2018	2011-2012	1998-1999
2015-2016	2007-2008	
2014-2015	2004-2005	

ALL-AMERICAN POST

2018-2019	2012-2013
2015-2016	2011-2012
2014-2015	1998-1999
2013-2014	

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Every month our Post has a monthly membership meeting. This meeting is for YOU, our members, to find out the latest and greatest of what your officers are doing, volunteer opportunities, voice your concern about veterans issues, vote on new projects and ideas, and to tell us what you want out of your membership and the VFW. Share your ideas on how to improve your Post and get the most out of your membership. It is also a great opportunity to connect with friends and meet other veterans with similar goals.

When: 3rd Tuesday of every month

Time: 6 PM - Social Hour 7 PM - Meeting starts

Location: New Richmond Civic Center - 156 East 1st St, New Richmond, WI 54017
(located in the downstairs of the Civic Center)



Post 10818

VFW Veterans Voice magazine is the official publication of the VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES POST 10818

OUR OFFICERS

Commander Greg Veldhouse 651-271-2177	Chaplain Mel Zehm 715-255-0770
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Sr Vice Cmdr Jeff Rusinko 651-600-7499	Judge Advocate Dave Green 651-247-1801
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Jr Vice Cmdr Brina Haglund 612-499-0882	Surgeon Ben Anderson 715-245-6281
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Quartermaster Mitch Cline 651-492-9634	Adjutant Ron Ramos 715-928-3606
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Service Officer
Ben Anderson
715-245-6281

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the VFW Veterans Voice may be submitted online at: <https://bit.ly/3jMPqcK> no later than the 25th of the month. If pictures are included, please provide names of all in the photo.

CONTACT THE COMMANDER

You can contact the commander by email at: commander@vfwpost10818.org or by cell phone at: 651-271-2177.

VFW OBJECTIVES

To ensure national security through maximum military strength.

To speed the rehabilitation of the nation's disabled and needy veterans.

To assist the widows and orphans and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans.

To promote Americanism through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Whenever you move or have a change of address, please drop us a line at 715.246.0226 or shoot us an email at admin@vfwpost10818.org. Every time we get a Post magazine returned by the U.S. Postal Service because NO change of address was filed, the Post gets charged for the return postage. If you would prefer to receive your magazine by e-mail, let us know and we can get you on our e-mail distribution list. Please help us - we don't want to waste money.

HOME OF
VFW POST 10818



2019-2020 NATIONAL OUTSTANDING
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



COMMANDER
GREG VELDHUSE

Hello Everyone!!

June has arrived and summer is here. As it is with the rest of the country; all post meetings and events are now mask free if you have received your COVID-19 vaccination. If you have not been vaccinated, it is suggested to wear a mask, but the choice is ultimately yours. It feels nice getting back to normal and I hope it stays this way.

I would like to start out by saying thank you to all our members for another outstanding year. For the 3rd consecutive year, our post was awarded Wisconsin All-State. That is no small feat in a pandemic year and, out of over 260 posts in the state, only about 20 were able to do this. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication from our membership to be this successful year in and year out. We are always looking for help. I encourage everyone who is able to participate in even just one event per year, if you don't already. This would really help take the pressure off of others. These events are also a great opportunity to meet new people, network, and be a part of the community. If you would like to help, give us a call or stop by the post and we can find an event for you.

Anyone interested in attending the Wisconsin State Convention is welcome and encouraged to do so. This year, it will be held on June 23rd to June 26th in Green Bay, WI, at the Tundra Lodge Resort and Conference Center. It is open for any member to attend and you can register online on the VFWWI.org website. This will be my first one and I am looking forward to it. Our very own past Commander, Ron Ramos, is running for State Junior Vice Commander. We will be there to support him and cast our vote in the election on that Saturday. Good luck Ron!!

On the building front, the 652nd Engineering Co. from Hammond spent two weeks in May working on the walking trail in Freedom Park. The weather was not always pleasant, but they stuck it out and got approximately one third of the trail done. Due to soil conditions, they had to dig 10 to 12 feet deep to get the trail established. In the words of member Ken House, "You can drive a tank on it." Thank you to all the post members, auxiliary, scouts, restaurants, and others community members who went out there every morning to cook breakfast for the soldiers. That was a very nice gesture and I am confident the soldiers are grateful they didn't have to eat MREs at 7 a.m. Although the trail was not finished, they will be back during their battle assembly weekends this summer until it is complete. Additionally, in August, the 612th Engineering Co. out of Duluth will be coming down to assist them. They also intend to move all our fill dirt the railroad donated into place where our building is going to be built so it can settle for a year before construction begins.

That is all the updates for now, see you next month!

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

BLESSED ARE THE “POOR IN SPIRIT”

As Veterans we all have experienced highs and lows in our daily walk. When life brings us down, we can dwell on our circumstances or turn to a higher calling to bring new perspective. In Matthew Chapter 5:3, Jesus tells us “blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”. This statement or sermon took place in front of his disciples, or followers. It is the first statement that speaks directly of our spiritual bankruptcy to those who recognize that they are in need of God’s help. He is speaking of those who have made a confession of faith to follow him regardless the cost. D.A. Carson states that this concept reflects “a poverty of spirit in that it is a personal acknowledgement, a conscious confession of unworthiness before God, and is the deepest form of repentance. It is a confession that of a man’s rebellious and utterly without moral virtue”. In summary, we don’t have the resources to expect that God will give us a free pass, but that we must accept Jesus as he is, and what he alone can offer us.

This may seem like a mouthful, and it is. In this month’s article, we are looking straight and true as to why the Founder’s of our organization thought of this passage as the cornerstone for us. In this passage, Jesus’s words are rich in wisdom because it gives us a platform for excellence, passion, compassion, and the deep desire to help others. It simply requires us to be authentically humble in our deliberations, to be spiritually minded in our discussions, and enthusiastic in

the welfare of others. We see ourselves striving for the good of those who have gone before us to fight valiantly for our Nation’s cause. We can recall times of looking at our fellow service members with hope for a favorable outcome. We see pain when our fellow comrade is in a compromising position. When you see these scenarios, we can also reflect on the fact that self-righteousness is gone and personal vainglory takes a back seat to the God-given desire to have the courage to help our neighbor or comrade. We desire for what’s best, and have allowed ourselves to be the conduit of selflessness.

When we look towards the tragedy and hope in the brutal beating, crucifixion, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, we can be encouraged to follow the footsteps of Jesus who sacrificed it all for our sins and inspires us to accomplish great things. As we anticipate the future of our organization, we should be joyful for what has been accomplished. I would strongly encourage you to thank the Lord for this. It is He and He alone that has allowed our successes, and we are His instruments of service. One of my favorite verses is Matthew 25:21, stating, “Well done, good and faithful servant. You were faithful over a little. I will set you over much.” This simply gives us the desire to strive for more, continually pursuing the best with humility. Enjoy the coming summer.

Prayers that we can all be together again someday soon!

VETERANS & FAMILIES IN NEED & ON SICK CALL

- John Heulling

If you would like a name added or removed from the list, please let me know.



Please remember to pray for our comrades & their families & any we may have missed.



CHAPLAIN
MEL ZEHRM



FOR MORE INFORMATION about specific legislation or VA benefits, contact VFW's Washington Office at vfw@vfw.org. A member of VFW's National Veterans Service staff will respond as soon as possible.

Steer Clear of VA 'Claim Sharks'

The VFW urges veterans to verify disability claim agents through VA's website

As the presence of unaccredited VA disability claim representatives continues to rise, VFW wants to make sure veterans and dependents know their options when it comes to applying for earned VA benefits and disability compensation. VFW General Counsel John Muckelbauer said veterans and their dependents need to be aware of companies that offer help filing a VA claim with promises of boosting the veteran's current disability compensation. VA claim sharks are taking advantage of veterans. Often, companies will charge five times the amount of the veteran's retroactive compensation, potentially costing him or her thousands of dollars. "These companies are not accredited by VA," Muckelbauer said. "A lot of them require a membership fee. All of them require a portion of a veteran's disability compensation." These companies are often referred to as "claim sharks." Muckelbauer said these unaccredited companies often advertise on social media and added that they have become "more aggressive" during the COVID-19 pandemic. "These companies are advertising to a receptive audience as a result of regional offices being closed during the pandemic," Muckelbauer said. "They promise things that a veteran or dependent can receive for free." Muckelbauer said some tell-tale signs unaccredited companies use to attract veterans and dependents include:

- Promising a "guaranteed" raise in disability compensation.
- Telling clients that they can "start for free."
- Providing "coaching" during the VA disability claims process.

"They use language such as, 'If you don't get any benefits, you don't pay anything,'" Muckelbauer said. "It belies the fact that there are organizations, such as VFW, that have been doing this for much longer, with more proficiency and free of charge." Muckelbauer said many of these organizations might advertise that they will review VA rating letters to find claims veterans service organizations are neglecting to file. He also said veterans and dependents might find these companies enticing to work with because of current delays at VA. "People could see this as a way to shorten the process and receive an expedited return on their compensation," Muckelbauer said. "What veterans and dependents need to understand is that they will have to go through the same VA process as everyone else."

Muckelbauer said that depending on his or her contract, a veteran might not be able to get out of an agreement with an unaccredited organization or person. He said VFW currently is finding ways to protect those who have been affected by claim sharks. "VFW continues to explore consumer financial protection available to ensure that the rights and benefits of veterans and other claimants are protected," Muckelbauer said.

A FREE OPTION FOR VETERANS

VFW National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci said anyone filing a VA disability claim should only work with organizations that are accredited with VA. "The first question anyone should ask is, 'Are you accredited with the Department of Veterans Affairs?'" Gallucci said. "Veterans should always work with someone who is VA-accredited. I prefer it if they use a VFW service officer, but if it's not us, find any organization, agent or attorney that is accredited." Gallucci said veterans, whether they are VFW members or not, can expect to receive a full claims assistance service — free of charge — when working with a VFW Service Officer. VFW's VA-accredited service officers can help with all aspects of the process. "VFW Service Officers act as a veteran's power of attorney when it comes to handling VA disability claims," Gallucci said. "This is something unaccredited consulting groups are not legally allowed to do. The reason VFW can do that is because we carry accreditation with the VA."

Gallucci said VA's accrediting process includes having strict training requirements so veteran service officers can keep pace with federal regulations, as well as to better understand how VA evaluates and rates disability claims. He added that accredited organizations are held to a high standard of privacy when dealing with a veteran's health care information. Though most VFW service officers have been forced to work remotely for the past year, VFW has continued to provide high quality claims assistance virtually the whole time. Many locations are reopening for in-person visits, but the best way to contact a VFW service officer is by email or phone. "If you call one, please leave a message. They are checking voicemails and they are calling everyone back," Gallucci said. Gallucci also encourages anyone who feels uncomfortable working with an organization on their VA disability claims to reach out to one of many VFW service officers across the country. "Just have a conversation with the service officer," Gallucci said. "We are here to help and answer questions. We try to clear up any misconceptions a veteran might have about the process."

This article was written by Dave Spiva, associate editor, for the VFW magazine. June 4, 2021.



Gulf War: Breach Phase beginning 15 Feb 91.-Battle of Norfolk and Task Force 1-41

Task Force 1-41 Infantry was the first coalition force to breach the Saudi Arabian border on 15 February 1991 and conduct ground combat operations in Iraq engaging in direct and indirect fire fights with the enemy on 17 February 1991. Prior to this action the Task Force's primary fire support battalion, 4th Battalion of the 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, participated in a massive artillery preparation. Around 300 guns from multiple nations participated in the artillery barrage. Over 14,000 rounds were fired during these missions. M270 Multiple Launch Rocket Systems contributed an additional 4,900 rockets fired at Iraqi targets. Iraq lost close to 22 artillery battalions during the initial stages of this barrage, including the destruction of approximately 396 Iraqi artillery pieces.



By the end of these raids Iraqi artillery assets had all but ceased to exist. One Iraqi unit that was totally destroyed during the preparation was the Iraqi 48th Infantry Division Artillery Group. The group's commander stated his unit lost 83 of its 100 guns to the artillery preparation. This artillery prep was supplemented by air attacks by B-52 bombers and Lockheed AC-130 fixed wing gunships. 1st Infantry Division Apache helicopters and B-52 bombers conducted raids against Iraq's 110th Infantry Brigade. The 1st Engineer Battalion and 9th Engineer Battalion marked and proofed assault lanes under direct and indirect enemy fire to secure a foothold in enemy territory and pass the 1st Infantry Division and the British 1st Armored Division forward.



On 24 February 1991 the 1st Cavalry Division conducted a couple artillery missions against Iraqi artillery units. One artillery mission struck a series of Iraqi bunkers, reinforced by Iraqi T-55 tanks, in the sector of the Iraqi 25th Infantry Division. The same day the 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division with the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, 1st Battalion, 32nd Armor, and the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry destroyed Iraqi bunkers and combat vehicles in the sector of the Iraqi 25th Infantry Division. On 24 February 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division rolled through the breach

in the Iraqi defense west of Wadi Al-Batin and also cleared the northeastern sector of the breach site of enemy resistance. Task Force 3-37th Armor breached the Iraqi defense clearing four passage lanes and expanding the gap under direct enemy fire. Also on 24 February the 1st Infantry Division along with the 1st Cavalry Division destroyed Iraqi outposts and patrols belonging to the Iraqi 26th Infantry Division. The two divisions also began capturing prisoners. The 1st Infantry Division cleared a zone between Phase Line Vermont and Phase Line Kansas. Once the 1st Infantry Division's 3rd Battalion, 37th Armor reached the Iraqi rear defensive positions it destroyed an Iraqi D-30 artillery battery and many trucks and bunkers.

Task Force 1-41 Infantry was given the task of breaching Iraq's initial defensive positions along the Iraq-Saudi Arabia border. The 1st Squadron, 4th Armored Cavalry Regiment handled similar responsibilities in its sector of operations. The 1st Infantry Division's 5th Battalion, 16th Infantry also played a significant role clearing the trenches and captured 160 Iraqi soldiers in the process. Once into Iraqi territory Task Force 1-41 Infantry encountered multiple Iraqi defensive positions and bunkers. These defensive positions were occupied by a brigade-sized element. Task Force 1-41 Infantry elements dismounted and prepared to engage the enemy soldiers who occupied these well-prepared and heavily fortified bunkers. The Task Force found



itself engaged in six hours of combat in order to clear the extensive bunker complex. The Iraqis engaged the Task Force with small arms fire, RPGs, mortar fire, and what was left of Iraqi artillery assets. A series of battles unfolded resulting in heavy Iraqi casualties and the Iraqis being removed from their defensive positions with many becoming prisoners of war. Some escaped to be killed or captured by other coalition forces. In the process of clearing the bunkers, Task Force 1-41 captured two brigade command posts and the command post of the Iraqi 26th Infantry Division. The Task Force also captured a brigade commander, several battalion commanders, company commanders, and staff officers. As combat operations progressed Task Force 1-41 Infantry engaged

at short range multiple dug in enemy tanks in ambush positions. For a few hours, bypassed Iraqi RPG-equipped anti-tank teams, T-55 tanks, and dismounted Iraqi infantry fired at passing American vehicles, only to be destroyed by other US tanks and fighting vehicles following the initial forces.

The 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 2-16 Infantry cleared four lanes simultaneously through an enemy fortified trench system while inflicting heavy casualties on Iraqi forces. Task Force 2-16 continued the attack clearing over 21 km (13 mi) of entrenched enemy positions resulting in the capture and

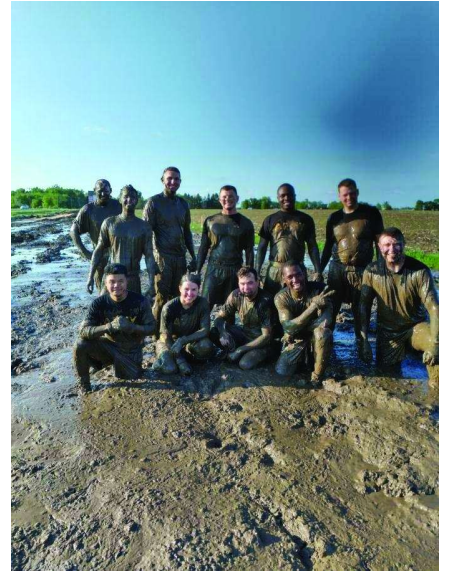


destruction of numerous enemy vehicles, equipment, personnel and command bunkers.

(Source: Wikipedia)

FREEDOM PARK UPDATES

Several members of the 652Nd Engineer Company out of Hammond, WI spent their two weeks of annual training preparing the ground for additional walking trail around freedom park. Breakfast was served by Gene Arnst, Jerry Simon, Dave Sharretts, and Ken House.





PORK CHOP FEED AT ST. CROIX HARLEY-DAVIDSON

Jerry Simon and an enthusiastic group of Post volunteers manned the chow line for a BBQ pork chop feed at the Star Prairie Harley dealership on Saturday 22 May. The event was a big success with all food out. Thanks to Jerry and the crew. As an added bonus, the generous patrons of St Croix Harley donated \$169 to the Post poppy fund. Thanks to Harley and their customers for supporting vets!



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- ✧ June 23 - Department Convention
- ✧ June 26 - Serving Food at St. Croix Harley-Davidson, Contact Jerry Simon
- ✧ July 1 - Post Honor Guard Practice, 6:30PM, Contact Tom Smrz
- ✧ July 15 - **Finance Committee:** Finance meeting starts at 6PM. The management meeting will begin shortly after the closing of the finance meeting. The management meeting will **only** consist of the Post Officers unless invited by an Officer.
- ✧ July 20 - **Post & Auxiliary Meeting:** Social hour begins at 6:00PM. Auxiliary meeting starts at 6:30PM. Post meeting promptly begins at 7:00PM. Every month at our Post Meeting, we have a drawing for some very neat prizes. **Post meetings will take place in the downstairs of the New Richmond Civic Center, 156 East First Street (across from the Fire Department). See Facebook page for Zoom information.--**
- ✧ July 8-11 - Fun Fest, New Richmond
- ✧ July 14-18 - St. Croix County Fair, Contact Dave Green
- ✧ August 12 - **Finance Committee:** Finance meeting starts at 6PM. The management meeting will begin shortly after the closing of the finance meeting. The management meeting will **only** consist of the Post Officers unless invited by an Officer.
- ✧ August 17 - **Post & Auxiliary Meeting:** Social hour begins at 6:00PM. Auxiliary meeting starts at 6:30PM. Post meeting promptly begins at 7:00PM. Every month at our Post Meeting, we have a drawing for some very neat prizes. **Post meetings will take place in the downstairs of the New Richmond Civic Center, 156 East First Street (across from the Fire Department). See Facebook page for Zoom information.--**

FUN FEST will be back downtown New Richmond this year. Being back downtown is only temporary with Freedom Park being eyed as the new location for FUN FEST going forward. Lets make the most of being back downtown, volunteer!



There's another way to support the Veterans of foreign Wars of the U.S.

DONATE YOUR CAR!

Donate your car, truck, or van to the VFW and your generous donation will qualify for a tax deduction.



Get started on your vehicle donation!

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Receive a tax receipt for
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The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is dedicated to providing vital programs and services to America's service members, veterans, and their families. Donate your vehicle to help us continue our efforts to support our nations heroes.



Support the VFW today! 715.246.0226 | vfwpost10818.org

Post 10818

Looking for other ways to donate and support the VFW? Have a vehicle that is just taking up space in your driveway?

The VFW Car Donation program allows you to donate your vehicle to assist in supporting local veterans, service members, and their families! All proceeds from these vehicles go **ONLY** to our VFW Unmet Needs Program. The Unmet Needs Program helps provide a one-time grant to service members and veterans in financial hardships. We've assisted veterans in St. Croix County with over \$12,000 since its inception.

It's easy to donate your salvaged or running vehicle. Call us and schedule a free pickup. Your donation also qualifies for a tax deduction for charitable organizations.

Please contact us for more information!



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