

ISSUE #51 | FEBRUARY 2021

# VETERANS VOICE

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



**BUILDING UPDATES:**  
DETAILS INSIDE ON CURRENT BUILDING PROGRESS

**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](mailto:ADMIN@VFWPOST10818.ORG)

## PUBLICATION AWARDS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place 2019 Wisconsin VFW Publications Contest
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place 2019 National VFW Publications Contest
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place 2018 Wisconsin VFW Publications Contest
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place 2018 National VFW Publications Contest
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place 2017 Wisconsin VFW Publications Contest
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month

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

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



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 10818

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

## OUR OFFICERS

<b>Commander</b> Greg Veldhouse 651-271-2177	<b>Chaplain</b> Mel Zehm 651-278-5185
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<b>Sr Vice Cmr</b> Jeff Rusinko 651-600-7499	<b>Judge Advocate</b> Dave Green 651-247-1801
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<b>Jr Vice Cmr</b> Brina Haglund 612-499-0882	<b>Surgeon</b> Ben Anderson 715-245-6281
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<b>Quartermaster</b> Mitch Cline 651-492-9634	<b>Adjutant</b> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.





COMMANDER  
GREG VELDHOUSE

Hello Everyone,

Hope you are all staying safe and healthy! The last year has been challenging to be certain and numerous post members and family members have been exposed to Covid-19, but to the best of my knowledge all have recovered. We are not out of the woods yet, but more doses of the vaccine are becoming available every day. Just a reminder that all veterans age 65 and over can go to the VA and get a shot now if they wish to do so.

I work for the VA and word has just come down that 3 new medical conditions are being added to the list of presumptive conditions due to Agent Orange exposure. Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism or Parkinson like symptoms are now eligible for VA compensation benefits. If you meet VA criteria, have one of those conditions, and served in Vietnam, in the blue water Navy off the coast of Vietnam, etc you may file a claim for disability benefits. If you were previously denied any of these conditions due to Agent Orange exposure you

should file a claim to reopen your case.

We are currently in the middle of a membership drive as well. If you know of anyone who is eligible to join sign them up or send them to us. Our post is currently at 85% and we need to get to 100% or more. I encourage anyone who is not paid up on their dues to do so immediately or even better get yourself a life membership and then you never have to worry about it again. And if you are already a life member become a Bronze, Silver or Gold Legacy Life member. Once you get a Legacy Life Membership an annual endowment in your name will be made to our Post in perpetuity and you can continue to help future veterans long after your gone. So as your Commander, I challenge everyone to sign up at least one new member this year or at least send one our way. And for existing members to attend a meeting, volunteer to help, or just ask what you can do and we will find something.

Lastly, its been a little slow going due to Covid, but our post is doing our best to remain active. On January 6th Congressman Tom Tiffany held a veteran drive though event in Hudson, WI. I coordinated with Congressman Tiffany's representative Sean Lybert (who is also a post member) and various persons at the VA regional office in St. Paul, including Heather Stevermer, who helped me put together bags of VA benefits information, VFW literature, and membership applications to our post. It wasn't the greatest of weather that day, but we still managed to get over 100 bags out to veterans. I would like to thank everyone who took part in making this event happen.

And also don't forget about our car donation program. If you, or someone you know, has a vehicle (need not be running) and would like to donate their vehicle to us, please contact us. We use the funds from reselling and scraping these vehicles to finance our unmet needs program. This program helps support veterans who may be down on their luck and need an extra financial boost.

### **VFW at a Glance**

The VFW is a nonprofit veterans service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. The VFW and its Auxiliary are dedicated to veterans service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs.

### **Origins**

In 1899, the American Veterans of Foreign Service (Columbus, Ohio) and the National Society of the Army of the Philippines (Denver, Colorado) were organized to secure rights and benefits for veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippines War (1899-1902). These two organizations merged in 1914, creating the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The VFW was chartered by Congress in 1936.

### **Membership Size**

More than 1.5 million VFW and Auxiliary members in all 50 states, and many foreign territories.

## CHOOSE LOVE

Greetings to my fellow comrades in arms and your families as we embark 2021 in a changing world of uncertainties. February has universally been the month of celebrating love in the holiday, Valentine's Day, and with entering in our current social climate, we need love more than ever before. This year, many of us may find it difficult to celebrate because of the added stress of our current political scene and the COVID 19 pandemic. Some may find Valentine's Day a reminder of loss and sorrow. I am lifting us all up as we face these unprecedented times and embark this holiday during a pandemic. Regardless as to how we choose to observe Valentine's day, our concept of love is oftentimes vastly different from the selfless love God demonstrates in His daily mercies that are new each morning and washes our sins away like fresh snow. God's steadfast love and mercy is contrary to human nature in a self-serving world of division, hatred, and trauma. In this world, we are taught to follow our hearts, seeking a gratifying love that we walk away from when we do not feel it. When we follow our hearts, we experience disappointment, hurt, and heartache. The way we feel, treat each other, and love each other comes down to the condition of our hearts. Scripture tells us "the heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure" (Jeremiah 17:9). In reflecting on this verse, we may ask ourselves how can we be capable of love if our hearts are by nature selfish and deceitful? The answer to this question is by the supernatural power of the Lord.

How do we love like God does? The best way to find this answer is by turning to the greatest love story of all time, the Bible. The Bible mentions the word love more than 500 times, and love is the greatest commandment of all to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and 'Love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27). One of the most well-known passages in the Bible on the subject, 1 Corinthians 13, also

known as "The Way of Love" tells us that "Love is patient and kind; Love does not envy or boast; It is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on Its own way; It is not irritable or resentful; It does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things endures all things. Love never ends... So now faith, hope, and Love abide these three, but the greatest of these is Love" (1Corinthians 13:4-8,13). Jesus Christ gave us the perfect example of unconditional and undeserving love when He laid down His life for us on the cross. When we think about our sinful, selfish, and self-seeking nature, we can be in awe of how personally and unconditionally Jesus loves us. All we need to do is accept this incredibly special gift that is free for all. How amazing is that!

Take heart my friends if you do not feel capable of giving or receiving love. Know that God loves you just as you are, faults and all. If you turn to Him and allow his love to shine, you just might be amazed at what you are capable of. The type of love God gives us shines a light in the dark places of our hearts when we simply abide in Christ, and He will shine love through us. Pure and purposeful love does not come by a feeling or whim of the heart but is a daily choice to walk in step with God's divine plan for us. I encourage you to choose love and walk by faith, not sight. Start by choosing to love God first by talking to Him and getting to know Him in prayer and Bible study; and then choosing to love your "neighbor." I also encourage you to love others by taking a step of kindness at a time. Do something nice for someone in your life. Tell your spouse, child, sibling, or parent what they mean to you. If you have a grudge or have wronged someone, choose to forgive, and ask for forgiveness. These small steps can transform our lives and guides us when we walk in step with Christ's generous and self-sacrificing love. I am praying that you will discover God's abundant grace and blessings in the coming month. God Bless you all!

## 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 ZEHM

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE KOREAN WAR

June 25 marks the 70th anniversary of the Korean War — it is perhaps the conflict paid the least attention in contemporary history. As such, it is also known as the “Forgotten War” or the “Unknown War” to most, save those who fought in it. Because of this status, the details surrounding the war, why it took place and its aftermath, are presented more as a Cold War footnote in Western world history lessons.

At the end of World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union had liberated annexed Korea then one country, from the Japanese. The U.S. and the Soviets then split the nation into two occupation zones: North and South, with the U.S. advising the south as it transitioned to a republic and the Soviets taking the north and installing communist leader Kim Il Sung, grandfather to current Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un. As the Cold War began, two sovereign countries were then effectively established in 1948 — the south as a republican state, and the north, communist. The border between the two was named the 38th parallel.

On June 25, 1950, North Korean forces, the Korean People’s Army, backed by China and the Soviet Union, crossed the 38th parallel into South Korea. Their plan was simple: unify the Korean Peninsula once more, but under the Kim’s rule. It would make Korea the first battleground of the Cold War.

As a result, the newly formed United Nations and its Security Council authorized the dispatch of forces to quell the conflict. It was a physical war fought about differing philosophies: Communism versus capitalism.

Dean Acheson, then-Secretary of State said: “If the best minds in the world had set out to find us the worst possible location in the world to fight this damnable war, the unanimous choice would have been Korea”.

Though the United States made up the bulk of the fighting force during the Korean War with nearly 5.3 million troops deployed worldwide by its end, more than 55 nations contributed to the South Korean cause with troops, supplies, or other forms of aid. Twenty-one countries participated militarily. The South Korean forces, which formed the Republic of Korea Army, were established in August 1948, with Syngman Rhee as president. By the end of the conflict, 30,000 ROCA were lost to the cause.

Over the course of the three-year war, more than three million North Korean, Chinese and Russian troops participated in what would become a gruesome border war.

“The toll of the war included about 1.2 million deaths in South Korea, 1 million deaths in North Korea, 36,500 deaths for U.S. troops and 600,000 deaths for Chinese soldiers,” CNN reported.

Check out your library for more information or ask one of our Post Korean War vets!

Your Sr. Vice Comrade,  
Jeff Rusinko  
Source: Military Times

## SERVICE OFFICER

Scuttlebutt for Vets

1. County vet services officers are a valuable ally for you if you’re looking for government assistance or advice. Their stated mission includes: assistance for veteran benefits, including pensions, compensation, education reimbursement, medical, government insurance, correction of military records, burial benefits, housing loans, and grants. Two of our local reps:

- St Croix County: Phil Landgraf, 715-386-4759
- Pierce County: Dave Till, 715-273-6753

2. Finding a job at any time is a challenge but you have advantages being a vet. Aside from your impressive military skill set you may also be able to take advantage of hiring preferences. Many companies know what you bring to the table and are looking for you. Here are some of the many job search websites set up for vets:

- [www.gijobs.com](http://www.gijobs.com)
- [www.fedshirevets.com](http://www.fedshirevets.com)
- LinkedIn for vets. Offers a free premium job search service.

I would like to take time to mention and thank the following establishments in St Croix County that have helped us out this year by allowing us to have gun raffles.

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Cave Inn-Roberts                 | 2. Willow River Saloon-Burkhardt        |
| 3. Uncle Mike's M Pour E Yum-Hudson | 4. Star Prairie Sports Bar-Star Prairie |
| 5. Mallalieu Inn- North Hudson      | 6. UW Wanderoos Bar-Wandroo             |

Also I can't forget Russell's Sport & Bike for working with us to supply us with the guns.

These raffles have been the only source of income this year. So we are grateful for the support from the businesses and all those who have bought tickets. We are looking forward to continuing this coming year too.

Mitch Cline

Quartermaster

## VFW member urges others to meet with veterans and break bread

February 06, 2021

– A Vietnam War veteran in Washington hopes a program that he began continues for generations to come.

VFW Department of Washington member Bob Rawe, who served in the Air Force, began treating veterans to a meal at his home in 2008.

“My goal was to thank our military veterans – young and old – for the honorable service,” Rawe said. “When the bombs quit falling, we veterans are forgotten. Before they die, we need to take them to lunch and listen to their stories. They would be very thankful.”

To help fund the program, Rawe would take reservations from nonveterans who pay \$40 for a meal for 4 people. This would help with the cost of feeding a veteran and their family for free. Rawe also said he would receive food donations from the community.

“I would always start with a funny story from when I was in the Air Force,” said Rawe, who served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969. “Some veterans would also tell a funny story, but some would tell more serious stories. It was one way to honor them.”

Rawe said he no longer sponsors meals with veterans but wants to continue the program through others.

“I’m too old to keep the program going,” Rawe said. “I have all this information about the program, including how I made it a nonprofit organization through the state of Washington. I don’t want this program going to waste. I would rather give someone this information than end this wonderful program.”

Rawe encourages VFW members to contact him to learn more about how to start a program like Take a Vet to Lunch.

For those interested in learning more about the program, send an email to [dspiva@vfw.org](mailto:dspiva@vfw.org).

## COVID-19: Vaccine:

**Wisconsin Department of Health Services** – DHS is working to get COVID-19 vaccine to Wisconsinites as equitably, quickly, and safely as possible. Because of the limited supply of vaccine, certain groups of people will be prioritized to receive it before others. The State of Wisconsin is committed to the equitable and fair distribution of the vaccine, and is following prioritization guidelines from the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC).

### Who is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine?

#### Current eligible populations

- Frontline health care personnel
- Residents in skilled nursing and long-term care facilities
- Fire and police personnel, Correctional staff
- Adults aged 65 and over

#### Next eligible populations

Starting around March 1:

- Education and child care
- Individuals enrolled in Medicaid long-term care programs
- Some public-facing essential workers
- Non-frontline essential health care personnel
- Staff and residents in congregate living facilities



Due to the quickly evolving nature of the COVID-19 vaccination initiative, information may change or be updated frequently. Visit our COVID-19 weekly newsletter webpage to sign up for weekly updates and see past versions.



Post 10818



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

## Building Update:



We have been at this building project for about 7 years to date. By now most of you are probably wondering if this thing will ever be built. You are not alone. I have been coordinator of the project for all 7 years and sometimes I've asked the same question. At this time the answer to that question is the only simple thing that has been involved with the project. The answer is YES, we will build Freedom Park Center.

We recently received a materials grant of between 15,000 and 18,000 cu. yds. of fill and topsoil from the Canadian Railroad spur line. The dollar value estimate is between \$ 175,000 and a quarter of a million dollars. The soil is now in our possession and stored in the Monarch Paving gravel pit south of town. **(Continued next page)**



## LOCAL NEWS FROM VFW POST 10818

We have a verbal commitment from the 372nd Engineering Brigade out of Ft. Snelling MN. (Approximately 3,500 soldiers) along with additional military participants to construct the facility. Representatives from the 372nd have been on site to review the location of the project and begin work. Specific units to be assigned to do the construction will be determined by the military in February for the 2021 and 2022 work cycle.



The plan is to complete the walking trail around the northern section of the park in May of this year. The trail will be completed to the point of a gravel trail to be paved by the city at a later date. While we have soldiers and equipment in the park some work on the landscaping of the building site will begin with an eye towards completing landscaping in August. We will be elevating the topography between 6 and

8 feet in height. Our construction experts suggest that we allow the soil to settle out over the winter before beginning construction on the building. That fits perfectly with the planned groundbreaking scheduled for spring of 2022.

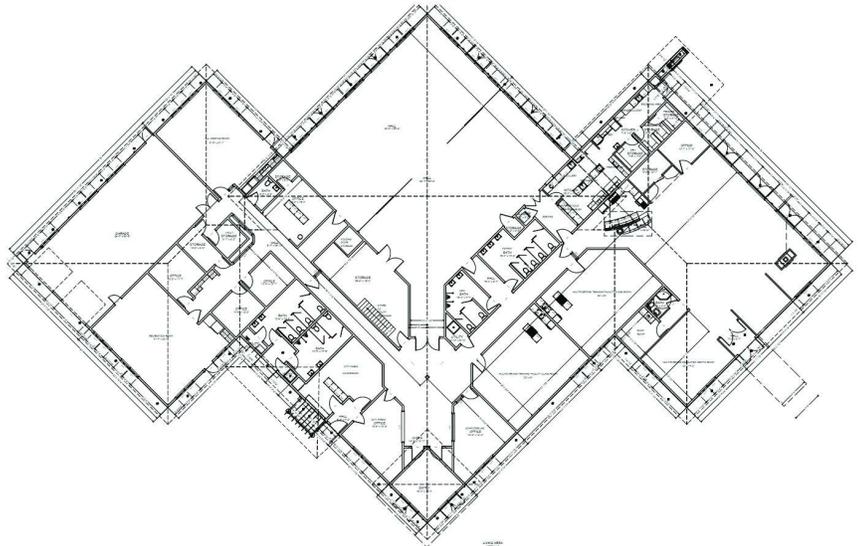
We are working on final drafts of documents committing Derrick Building Solutions as our general contractor, and Countryside Plumbing and Heating as well as Simon Electric to train the soldiers under the IRT and providing backup support for technical aspects of the project as needed.

Dr. Kari Weiss, of the University of Wisconsin Extension Service is providing leadership on the strategic plan to ensure that proposed end users of the facility are able to financially sustain it.

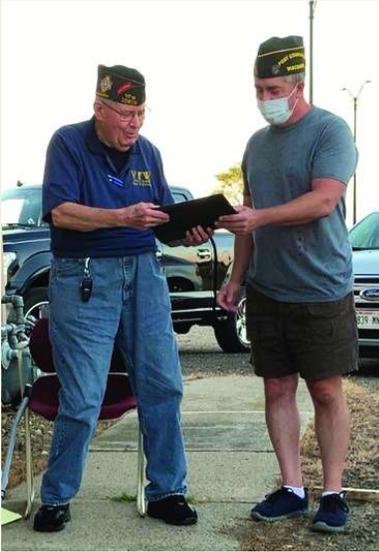
We have engaged the law firm of Jeff Redmon and Richard Lau to collaborate with Nick Vivian, the City Attorney, to move the project forward.

We have secured the support of grant writers to apply on our behalf to various foundations and businesses to provide the financial support and raw materials for the completion of the facility.

CBS2 has informed us that the site plan and Department of Natural Resources permits allowing us to begin work will be complete the first or second week in February. We will be working closely with the Steering Committee, city staff, and the New Richmond City Council to move the project forward. If you have any questions about the process of the project in general feel free to contact me at your convenience.



Ken House Freedom Park Center Project Coordinator



### Bronze Legacy:

During the regular post meeting on September 15, 2020, Commander Greg Veldhouse presented a Bronze Legacy Life Membership to John Mortensen. John was taken completely by surprise and was extremely grateful for this honor.

For a month or two prior to this happening Past Commander Ron Ramos began soliciting donations from other post members. In a short amount of time enough money was raised to purchase this award. Thanks to Ron for making this happen.

This is a well deserved award for a post member who has given a lot over the years to keep things running smoothly and efficiently. Even though he is now 90 years old, John still tries his best to support the post, continues to show up at events, and recently made a large donation to our uniform fund. Thanks John for being a member of VFW Post 10818, we wish we had more like you!

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- ✦ **District Conference:** Canceled
- ✦ **February 11 - 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.
- ✦ **February 15 - Washington's Birthday**
- ✦ **February 16 - 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).**
- ✦ **March 11 - 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.
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715.246.0226 or 651.247.1801

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Schedule your convenient and free pick up.



Receive a tax receipt for your generous donation.

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](http://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!