

ISSUE #43 | JULY 2019

VETERANS VOICE

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



POST 10818 EARNS "ALL-STATE" TITLE AGAIN!



Pictured left to right: VFW Post 10818 Commander Ron Ramos and VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence at the Awards Banquet during the 2019 State Convention

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

HOURS

MONDAY 9:00AM - 12:00PM

FRIDAY 9:00AM - 12:00PM

PUBLICATION AWARDS

- 1st Place 2019 Wisconsin VFW Publications Contest
- 1st Place Grand Award 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

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

ALL-AMERICAN POST

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

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)



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

Commander Ron Ramos 715-928-3606	Chaplain Mel Zehm 715-796-2915
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Sr Vice Cmdr Russ Donaghue 715-222-2659	Judge Advocate Dave Green 651-247-1801
--	---

Jr Vice Cmdr Jasen Pomroy 715-377-6307	Surgeon Bruce Taylor 651-253-4160
---	--

Quartermaster Mitch Cline 651-492-9634	Adjutant Ron Ramos 715-928-3606
---	--

Service Officer
Bruce Taylor
651-253-4160

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the VFW Veterans Voice may be submitted by email to: admin@vfwpost10818.org 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 me by email at: commander@vfwpost10818.org or by cell phone at: 715-928-3606. If calling during the day, you may have to leave a voicemail as I do not have my phone while working. You can also text. I will try to answer as soon as I can after work.

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 dependent 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.

COMMAND POST ★ FROM THE ALL-STATE COMMANDER



**COMMANDER
RON RAMOS**

The 2018-2019 year is officially over, and what a year it was! We've had a wildly successful year thanks to YOU, our members.

Your Quartermaster and I attended the State Convention last month and received quite the accolades. We were able to achieve these accomplishments because of our outstanding members. We received the "All-State" Award on behalf of the Post. Our Post was also recognized as the TOP Post in Wisconsin by earning the designator as "Captain" of the "All-State" team. Thank you, comrades, for a great year.

As you've already noticed, our summer season has started, and it's been full speed ahead. Park Art Fair was a great weekend, and we've already had two Harley-Davidson events. Fun Fest and the St. Croix County Fair are our next significant events that'll be happening in the next couple of weeks. If you have some free time those weekends, please consider coming out and volunteering for a few hours.

Your officers of the Post will be heading to the VFW National Convention in Orlando, Florida this month. When there, we will attend program classes and award ceremonies.

We finished off our year with our membership at 420 members! Our new members make up over 70% of all new members in our entire District. Our membership drive does not stop. We must continue recruiting so that we can provide the numbers needed to fight legislative battles at the Hill. When we recruit new members, we must get them involved and feel welcomed at all events. Our Membership Committee will be doing a few new things this year, so be on the lookout. If you know a veteran who may be eligible for the VFW, invite them to a meeting, give them an application, and sign them up to be a part of the most exceptional veterans service organization in America.

On July 13th, there will be a groundbreaking at 10 am in Freedom Park for the Walking Trail. The 652nd Engineer Company, City of New Richmond, and our VFW will be hosting the ceremony, and all are invited. We ask that if you have the official VFW overseas cap, you were that if attending the groundbreaking.

Kings Day at Kings Veteran Home will be on August 17th at 11 am. I will be heading up there to partake in the celebration. If anyone is interested in attending, please let me know.

We also have the trip to the National Home for Children in October. It'll be a weekend trip to Eaton Rapids, MI from October 25-27. If you've never been to the National Home, I highly recommend going at least once!

Congratulations to our new State Commander Don Lynch and the new officers of the State VFW. Also congratulations to Past State Commander Gundel Metz for being elected as the National Representative of Wisconsin. Bravo Zulu to PSC Metz for her outstanding job as Commander and a great year!

I look forward to another record-breaking year and another year of serving our communities. We have lots of things planned for the upcoming year and will put out information as it becomes available.

Once again, thank you for a fantastic year and for allowing me to represent and lead the BEST VFW post in Wisconsin!



THE PRICE OF INDEPENDENCE: PEACEFUL LIVING

As we come to celebrate Independence Day, whether we are sitting around the barbecue pit or campfire and watching the skies light up, let us remember the sacrifices our fellow comrades have made for our nation's freedom. Our American flag is an enduring reminder of the blessings and privileges we have fought hard to obtain. Although it may not seem like it with the increased divisiveness we have come to experience these past few years, one of our greatest privileges is having the opportunity to live at peace with each other. Peace is not a wonderful slice of greatness from the oven, but the result of having reconciled differences with someone else and also the result of coming to a suitable understanding of circumstances we're involved in. Hebrews 12:14 says to "strive for peace with everyone." How is this even possible? Is world peace possible? Can we have peace with one another? The answers to these questions raise another important question of whether we can even be peaceful on our own.

Aside from the very beginning of time, peace has always followed conflict. We have seen treaties, surrenders, embargo's relieved, and truces made in efforts to obtain peace. Marriages find peace after reconciling differences. So let's dig in and make some peaceful progress. True peace will only be found in the relationship with our Creator. Most other relationships, whether personal, professional, or international all share conflict, largely due to differing opinions and mindsets. We see this daily within our post where great minds consider issues based on individual interpretations. This can be an extraordinary blessing or challenge, depending upon our outlook. One of the truly amazing aspects of this post is that there are committed members sacrificing their time and energy for the good of other Veterans. This is the same principle to peaceful living, in that being more willing to serve than be served. On one side, you have the person graciously giving of their resources and the other humbly accepting the gift of service.

This has always been the motto of Veterans and should not be lost, regardless of our circumstances. Isn't it amazing that when we put our focus on service rather than being served that we can achieve peaceful living? It's about caring enough for our fellow Veteran that we sacrifice our time for a greater cause. You and I can experience that if we are willing and able to be ever mindful of the perfect example of Christ in that he came to serve and not be served. He perfectly modeled peace through service first, then reward. So, when those lights of glory fill our sky this Independence Day, let us all look to the sky that our Creator, the Prince of Peace will one day return and be filled with a "Peace that Surpasses all Understanding." I am praying you all have a blessed and joy-filled time with your families.

VETERANS & FAMILIES IN NEED & ON SICK CALL

- John Heulling
- Jack Erickson

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.



Almighty God, we, Your servants, turn to You for the continuance of Your blessings upon us. You who have spared us veterans from the grasp of our enemies, grant us the full understanding of Your precious comfort. We thank You for the privileges of life and the blessings we enjoy through Your graciousness in our country, the land in which we are given freedom of speech, religion and the pursuit of happiness. Assist us to know You better and the wisdom to acknowledge You as the God of the universe and our ideal. In Your mercy, may we the living find our peace. Grant us from above, this day, the challenge of high endeavor, the beauty of a humble spirit, the steadfast courage and will, without exertion, to continue to glorify You; to praise You, and to love You to the end of time.



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Sprains, Strains, and Other Pains

The most common soft tissues injured are muscles, tendons, and ligaments. These injuries often occur during sports and exercise activities, but sometimes simple everyday activities can cause an injury. Sprains, strains, and contusions, as well as tendinitis and bursitis, are common soft-tissue injuries. Even with appropriate treatment, these injuries may require a prolonged amount of time to heal. When an injury occurs, initial treatment with the RICE protocol is usually very effective.

RICE stands for Rest, Ice, Compression, and Elevation.

Rest: Take a break from the activity that caused the injury. Your doctor may recommend that you use crutches to avoid putting weight on your leg.

Ice: Use cold packs for 20 minutes at a time, several times a day. Do not apply ice directly to skin.

Compression: To prevent additional swelling and blood loss, wear an elastic compression bandage.

Elevation: To reduce swelling, elevate the injury higher than your heart while resting.



A sprain is a stretch and/or tear of a ligament, a strong band of connective tissue that connect the end of one bone with another. Ligaments stabilize and support the body's joints. For example, ligaments in the knee connect the thighbone with the shinbone, enabling people to walk and run. The areas of your body that are most vulnerable to sprains are your ankles, knees, and wrists. A sprained ankle can occur when your foot turns inward, placing extreme tension on the ligaments of your outer ankle. A sprained knee can be the result of a sudden twist, and a wrist sprain can occur when falling on an outstretched hand. A twisting force to the lower leg or foot is a common cause of ankle sprains.

Sprains are classified by their severity:

- Grade 1 sprain (mild): Slight stretching and some damage to the fibers (fibrils) of the ligament.
- Grade 2 sprain (moderate): Partial tearing of the ligament. There is abnormal looseness (laxity) in the joint when it is moved.
- Grade 3 sprain (severe): Complete tear of the ligament. This causes significant instability and makes the joint nonfunctional.

While the intensity varies, pain, bruising, swelling, and inflammation are common to all three categories of sprains. Treatment for mild sprains includes RICE and sometimes physical therapy exercises. Moderate sprains often require a period of bracing. Severe sprains may require surgery.

A strain is an injury to a muscle and/or tendon. Tendons are fibrous cords of tissue that attach muscles to the bone. Strains often occur in your foot, leg (typically the hamstring) or back. Similar to sprains, a strain may be a simple stretch in your muscle or tendon, or it may be a partial or complete tear in the muscle-and-tendon combination. Typical symptoms of a strain include pain, muscle spasm, muscle weakness, swelling, inflammation, and cramping. Contact sports put any of us at risk for strains, as do sports that feature quick starts. Running races or marathons, long distance biking, golf and other sports that require extensive gripping, have a high incidence of hand sprains. Elbow and shoulder strains frequently occur in tennis, throwing ball, and contact sports. The recommended treatment for a strain is the same as for a sprain: rest, ice, compression and elevation. This should be followed by simple exercises to relieve pain and restore mobility. Surgery may be required. A contusion is a bruise caused by a direct blow or repeated blows, crushing underlying muscle fibers and connective tissue without breaking the skin. A contusion can result from falling or jamming the body against a hard surface. The discoloration of the skin is caused by blood pooling around the injury. Most contusions are mild and respond well with the RICE protocol.

Prevention

Injuries often occur when people suddenly increase the duration, intensity, or frequency of their activities. Many soft-tissue injuries can be prevented through proper conditioning, training, and equipment. Use proper equipment. Replace your athletic shoes as they wear out. Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothes that let you move freely and are light enough to release body heat. Balanced fitness. Develop a balanced fitness program that incorporates cardiovascular exercise, strength training, and flexibility. Add activities and new exercises cautiously. Warm up. Warm up to prepare to exercise, even before stretching. Run in place for a few minutes, breathe slowly and deeply, or gently rehearse the motions of the exercise to follow. Warming up increases your heart and blood flow and loosens up other muscles, tendons, ligaments, and joints. Drink water. Drink enough water to prevent dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Drink 1 pint of water 15 minutes before you start exercising and another pint after you cool down. Have a drink of water every 20 minutes or so while you exercise. Stretch. Begin stretches slowly and carefully until reaching a point of muscle tension. Hold each stretch for 10 to 20 seconds, then slowly and carefully release it. Rest. Schedule regular days off from vigorous exercise and rest when tired. Fatigue and pain are good reasons to not exercise. Avoid the "weekend warrior" syndrome. Try to get at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity every day. If you are truly pressed for time, you can break it up into 10-minute chunks. Whether an injury is acute or due to overuse, if you develop symptoms that persist, contact your doctor.

VFW AUXILIARY ★ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your President. I was humbled by the amount of support I was shown last month and my genuine hope is that I will prove to be deserving of this assignment - but the key to our success is not me - it is with all of you! We have a common goal (helping our vets) and differing thoughts on how to achieve that goal. I want to hear **ALL** of your ideas. If you have ideas on how to improve things we already do - I want to hear those too! Each of us has a unique gift that we were either born with or learned over time. It's time to let those gifts **SHINE**! When I count my blessings, I count all of you. **TOGETHER** we can make anything happen.

- On June 1st and on June 22nd, our auxiliary assisted the post at the events at St. Croix Harley Davidson.
- June 7th and 8th was the Park Art Fair at Mary Park.
- June 8th was also the (Baldwin) June Bug Days and (Somerset) Pea Soup Days parades.
- June 9th was (Roberts) Good Neighbor Days parade.
- June 13-15 was the VFW State Convention in Appleton, WI.
- June 19th the auxiliary hosted a Flag Day Ceremony at Our House Senior Living. Wanda and Rhonda did a wonderful job at setting this up and making it happen.
- June was a busy month, and July is going to be busy as well...
- I am inviting you all to attend our open meeting on July 9th at 4:30 pm at the Post.
- Our Monthly meeting will be on July 16th at the NR Civic Center. 6pm Social time, 6:30 Meeting starts.
- July 11-14 is Fun Fest Weekend and on the 14th is the parade at 12:30 pm.
- July 17th is the beginning of the St. Croix County Fair. It runs through the 21st.
- July 20 - 24 is VFW National Convention in Orlando, FL.

PLEASE contact Commander Ron Ramos or myself and get on those volunteer lists!!! Thanks!

Yours truly,

Jen Donaghue

President



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FOR UNCOMMON HEROES**

OUR OFFICERS

President	Secretary
Jen Donaghue	Gayle House
715-222-9868	651-770-6429

Sr Vice	Chaplain
Rhonda Rimarcik	Wanda Viellieux
715-246-4334	715-246-6867

Jr Vice	Guard
Kathy Berends	Pat Cunningham
715-246-4843	715-246-3598

Treasurer	Conductress
Karen Cline	Kerri Casey
715-381-6567	715-377-6860

Patriotic Ins.
To Be Appointed

CONTACT US

You can contact us by email at:
auxiliaryvfw10818@gmail.com

WHAT IS THE VFW AUXILIARY?

Established 1914, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary set out to serve the veterans of this country and our communities in honor of the sacrifices and commitment of every man and woman who has served in uniform.

Through our National Programs, we assist the VFW pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families, provide nearly a million volunteer hours in the VA medical system, conduct patriotic programs with thousands of students and offer hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for our nation's youth.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Every month our Auxiliary holds a monthly membership meeting to inform our members what is going on with their Auxiliary. This is your time to vote on projects and make this Auxiliary your own.

When: 3rd Tuesday of every month

Time: 6:30 PM

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



Flag Day Ceremony at Our House Senior Living

Aux members in picture: Wanda, Delphine, Dorothy, Karen G., Gayle, Marian, Mary H., Denny, Rhonda.



President Donald Trump bestows Medal of Honor on David Bellavia, the first living Iraq War recipient

In the most harrowing days of the Iraq War, one Army noncommissioned officer distinguished himself when he rescued an infantry squad pinned down by machine gun fire as they went door-to-door clearing insurgent strongholds.

That battle, on Nov. 10, 2004, made former Staff Sgt. David Bellavia the Iraq War's first living recipient of the military's highest award for valor, bestowed by President Trump on Tuesday at a White House ceremony.

"America's blessed with the heroes and great people, like Staff Sgt. Bellavia, whose intrepid spirit and unwavering resolve defeats our enemies, protects our freedoms and defends our great American flag," Trump said. "David, today we honor your extraordinary courage, we salute your selfless service and we thank you for carrying on the legacy of American valor that has always made our blessed nation the strongest and mightiest anywhere in the world — and we're doing better today than we have ever done."

Bellavia's A Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, was in the midst of the weeks-long Operation Phantom Fury, also known as the second Battle of Fallujah.

"The first thing you're thinking about is, I mean, you're scared," he told reporters Monday. "Your life is on the line. The second thing you're thinking about is, you're angry. How dare anyone try to hurt us? How dare you try to step up against the United States military?"

On Nov. 9, his battalion's top enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Faulkenburg, died in a direct-fire attack.

"But the other thing is, you have people that they day before, risked their life to save you," Bellavia said. "You have people the following two days would risk their lives to save you. And you have people within 24 hours who are killed in direct fire attacks that are your senior leadership."

On Nov. 13, company commander Capt. Sean Sims was killed by small-arms fire during another mission to clear buildings. Their families joined Bellavia's at the ceremony Tuesday, along with three others killed during the operation.

All of that pushed him to step up in the moment, he said, when he had the choice to either wait outside the building for back-up, or go in again and take on the half-dozen insurgents he knew were inside.

"What he did, going back into that nightmare, saved all those men's lives," journalist Michael Ware, who was embedded with the unit while writing for Time Magazine, told reporters.

Bellavia credited Ware, whom he previously considered a nuisance, with giving him the confidence to take on the house alone.

"Peer pressure might make you smoke cigarettes when you're 13, but peer pressure might also make you do things you wouldn't do," he said. "It's who your peers are."

Bellavia was nominated for the Medal of Honor in early 2005, his former company commander told reporters, but it was downgraded to a Silver Star. Then, seven months ago, Trump called him to let him know an upgrade had come through — the result of a Defense Department-mandated review of Global War on Terror valor awards.

"For 15 years, people that heard about Fallujah or heard about Baqubah...now, they look into this unit, they look into what happened, what we did," he said. "This is a snapshot of our year. And now they look back and say, wow, there were examples every single day of what people are sacrificing for this way of life."

Reflecting on the recent 75th anniversary of D Day, he made a plug for his own peer group.

"This is an all-volunteer force...college debt repayment, a dental plan, a paycheck? There's no reason that a rational person is paying off college to clear a road with IEDs. We are not kicking down doors because we want to make sure we get paid on the first and the 15th," he said. "That is what has kept this country free and it's why we're going to be safe for generations to come."

"I think of that generation and the Iraq War and I'm mighty proud to be part of it."



VFW Testifies in Support of Medicinal Cannabis Research:



VFW National Legislative Service Director Carlos Fuentes testified during a hearing of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and offered the VFW's support for legislation to require VA to research the efficacy of medicinal cannabis and other alternatives to high-dose prescriptions VA provides veterans who suffer from chronic pain and other health conditions. Committee members also discussed the need to improve VA Specially Adaptive Housing program by increasing the number of applications VA is able to process per year and expediting the process for veterans with serious illnesses.

The VFW also supported legislation to improve the reimbursement of ambulance service costs when veterans are transported to emergency rooms, expand a successful health care seminar during the Transition Assistance Program for servicewomen transitioning out of military service, and others.

Blue Water Navy Act Now Law:

The president signed the VFW-championed Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 into law in June. It now restores VA benefits to thousands of Vietnam veterans who had their disability eligibility taken away in 2002 after arbitrary regulatory changes. For Korean DMZ veterans, it provides an earlier start date to encompass the timeframe when various defoliants were tested — from April 1, 1968, to Sept. 1, 1967. The new law expands benefits to children born with spina bifida due to a parent's exposure in Thailand, coverage that already exists for the children of Vietnam and Korean DMZ veterans, and it requires the VA to report on research being conducted on a broad range of conditions possibly related to service in Southwest Asia. "The VFW is proud to have helped lead the charge to return benefits to these deserving veterans and to expand existing benefits to dependent children," said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. The VA has yet to update its webpages to reflect the new law, but veterans and their families can still learn more about VA benefits associated with Agent Orange exposure, and about spina bifida birth defects related to exposure.



Legislation to Give Student Veterans Break Pay Introduced:

Senators Stabenow (D-Mich.) and Roberts (R-Kan.) introduced the VFW supported S. 1946, Student Veterans Housing Act which

would extend housing payments for student veterans during certain breaks between semesters. This proposed change would allow student veterans to focus on their educational goals by reducing the burden of housing costs. The VFW thanks Senators Stabenow (D-Mich.) and Roberts (R-Kan.) for their bipartisan efforts to enhance the lives of student veterans.

Defense Leadership Changes:

It was announced last month that Patrick Shanahan will resign as acting defense secretary at midnight, Sunday, and that Secretary of the Army Mark Esper will assume the duties as acting defense secretary at 12:01 a.m., Monday. Esper, a retired Army lieutenant colonel and Life member of the VFW Department of Pennsylvania, is a 1986 West Point graduate who served as an infantry officer with the 101st Airborne Division during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. It is not yet known whether the president intends to nominate him to fill the position permanently. Esper has led the Army since November 2017, and his priorities have focused on rebuilding combat readiness against near-peer competitors.

SCOTUS:

Bladensburg Peace Cross Stays: The U.S. Supreme Court announced its decision that the World War I memorial in the shape of a 40-foot-tall cross can continue to stand on public land in Maryland. The court's 7-2 decision in favor of allowing the cross to stand, clarifies the fact that the mere shape of a monument does not create an "Establishment" of religion. Therefore, the nearly 100-year-old memorial will be allowed to stay on public land. The VFW's amicus brief is cited in the opinion. "The Supreme Court made the right call," said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. "Today's decision not only protects this memorial outright, but helps to establish a precedent to protect thousands of other veterans' memorials that currently reside on federal, state or municipal land. "My hat's off to all of the organizations that joined the VFW in filing amicus briefs concerning this case."

Women Veterans Taskforce Roundtable:

VFW Department of Maryland Quartermaster Denise Perry attended a Women Veterans Taskforce roundtable to discuss how the VFW and other veterans organizations learn from and advocate for women veterans. Members of Congress asked representatives from veterans organizations what they believe is needed to ensure women veterans have their voice represented in the fight to improve veteran benefits. Perry discussed the need to ensure servicewomen know about the benefits that come with joining veteran service organizations such as the VFW. She discussed how the VFW provided the camaraderie she needed after leaving military service and the work the VFW does to improve care and service for women veterans.



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.

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July 2018 - June 2019

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Sponsor our VFW Magazine

Sponsorship helps our VFW pay for our award winning magazine as well as our website.

The cost for magazine sponsorship is \$250 for a one (1) year period. This includes your business or organizations high resolution advertisement in our monthly magazine. Our magazine goes out to our 400+ members, as well as the VFW Department of Wisconsin and our National VFW. If you wish to sponsor our renowned magazine, would like to take an ad out, sponsor an event we have, or have any questions, please email all inquiries to Ron Ramos at: admin@vfwpost10818.org

LOCAL NEWS FROM VFW POST 10818



Above: Gayle House, Karen Cline, and Karen Green of our Auxiliary running the food wagon and serving the masses.



Center: Commander Ron Ramos with some candied bacon which have been a big hit at our events.



Right: Dave Green cooking our famous turkey legs.

Our next event where we will be cooking and selling food will be at the New Richmond Fun Fest from July 11 - July 14. We'll be serving burgers, brats, hot dogs, turkey legs, candied bacon, lemonade, and root beer floats. Please consider volunteering at our booth and assisting during the 4-day event.



2019 Rally in the Valley

St. Croix Harley-Davidson hosted its first Rally in the Valley event on June 21 & 22. It was a great time to have all the bikes out, get some good food, listen to awesome bands, and support a business that supports veterans. Our Post setup shop in their parking lot to sell food and boy did we have a great time. We look forward to next years Rally in the Valley!




Eisenhower Bridge of Valor

Our Post had the privilege of attending the governor's ceremonial bill signing for legislation to name the new Highway 63 bridge in Red Wing the "Eisenhower Bridge of Valor".



VFW Post 10818 Color Guard with Minnesota Governor Tim Walz





"I just want to thank everyone who is responsible for this great remembrance. There isn't many of the family left, but there's family following and believe me, we will never forget this. Thank you so much,"

AN IMPROBABLE JOURNEY HOME

BY TOM LINDFORS, RIVER/TOWN MULTIMEDIA

"Man is of few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth as a flower and is cut down. He fleeth also as a shadow and continueth not. Forasmuch as God hath taken out of the world the soul of our departed comrade, we therefore commit his body to the ground to sleep and his soul to endless peace to rest. The dust returneth to earth as it was, and the spirit returneth unto God who gave it. The government of the United States presents to you through American Legion Post 432, the flag under which our comrade served."

With those words, Gerrilee Hafvenstein received the American flag properly folded with 13 folds, while standing alongside the clean, white marble headstone inscribed with an epitaph for her uncle, World War I veteran Private Harry Brill.

The story of the headstone's improbable journey, originally documented by Eau Claire Leader-Telegram reporter Christena T. O'Brien, came to a conclusion Friday afternoon, May 31, at St. Mary's Cemetery in Hammond. The stone had been found in the woods on a town of Ludington property, in Eau Claire County. The property's owner, Gary Kunz, embarked on a journey to lead the stone to its rightful place, which led him to Post 432 Commander Fred Jourdeans. It is still unclear how the stone ended up in the town of Ludington.

There was a reverence in the air as veteran members of American Legion Post 432 Hammond and VFW Post 10818 New Richmond / St. Croix County executed a full military ceremony reuniting the military grave marker with the remains of Brill.

"Today we gather to place a headstone in its rightful place, we finish what Nellie Brill started 83 years ago and to honor not only Harry

but his two brothers Hue and Walter as well," said Legion Sgt. at Arms Jim Bevilacqua.

According to Hafvenstein, Harry was one of 12 brothers and three sisters born to John and Nellie Brill on a farm just outside of Hammond. Hafvenstein, who was raised by one of the sisters, never met her Uncle Harry but did meet ten of his brothers including Walter, Billy, Pete, Matt and Frank.

"Not much was said about family life. The boys left home at a young age. Uncle Frank left at the age of 17. Uncle Hue and Uncle Harry were the only ones that I know of that were in the service," said Hafvenstein.

As far as Hafvenstein knows only two of the brothers ever married.

"They made their own lives and had their own stories," added Hafvenstein.

Turns out Harry's brother Walter also served in the military.

According to O'Brien's story, Nellie Brill ordered the headstone from the U.S. War Department in March 1936, 12 years after Harry's death.

"Harry at the early age of 34 had succumbed to influenza in 1924. After his death, Nellie applied for the military headstone in March of 1936. It was delivered to Hammond in May of 1936. Why it never got placed is unknown. Nellie's husband John died 10 months later and Nellie followed two years later in 1939. Whether



Gerrilee and Lauri Hafvenstein were joined by several friends and several dozen veterans and supporters at Saint Mary's Cemetery on Friday, May 31 at a ceremony for WWI veteran Harry Brill. Tom Lindfors / River/Town Multimedia

it was financial or Nellie just never got around to placing the headstone, we'll never know," said Bevilacqua.

Following the folding of the flag, Legion Veteran Bruce Bond presented the flag to Hafvenstein and her daughter, Lauri Hafvenstein.

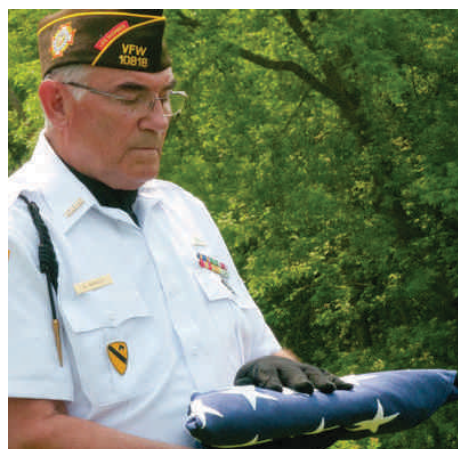
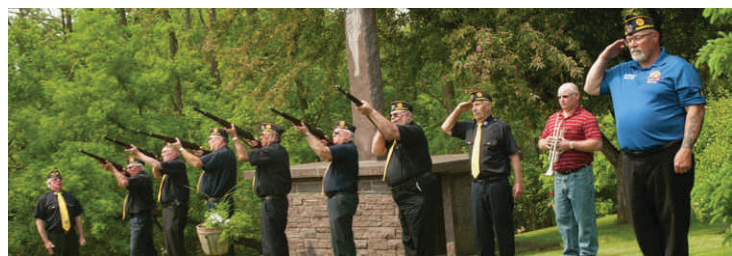
"I just want to thank everyone who is responsible for this great remembrance. There isn't many of the family left, but there's family following and believe me, we will never forget this. Thank you so much," said Gerrilee.

For most, the relationship to the flag is distant. We see it flying at a bank or a school, recite the Pledge of Allegiance in its presence before a meeting or remove our caps for the national anthem.

It's different when it's placed in your hands, folded meticulously 13 times in honor of a soldier you knew, you loved. You can feel the stitching around each star, the courage imbued in the fabric, the immeasurable sacrifice it requires. Tears falling on the field of blue complete our communion with our fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, brothers and sisters lost on the field of battle.

"It was such an honor. Just holding the flag with the history of the 13 folds, I had no idea. It was hard to hold back the emotions. It feels like a continuation, a way of making a connection with the past and then being able to pass it forward. It's so much more present for us now as a result of what happened here today. It's really an honor to be here today," said Lauri.

"It's indescribable. I never expected this. I wish there was some way I could repay everyone. You can tell everyone put their heart and soul into this project," said a grateful Gerrilee.



2019 STATE CONVENTION

The white-sided hats recently seen being worn by our Commander and Quartermaster are not about making a fashion statement.

These covers (also known as white-hats) designate our VFW post a newly conferred "All-State" Post for our support of the VFW mission to help veterans and their families.

Wisconsin has about 263 VFW posts spread throughout the entire state.

For the 2018-19 VFW year ending on June 30, twenty of the 263 VFW posts were granted "All-State" status.

Here at VFW Post 10818 we most certainly are no stranger to receiving this prestigious designation. In fact, this is the post's second year in a row with a Commander and the line officers all earning eligibility in the VFW due to current conflicts such as OIF & OEF.

There are a couple of things that set this year's designation apart from previous achievements. Commander Ron Ramos is now the youngest Commander in the history of the post to receive the "All-State" designation at only 32 years old. You may also notice a small detail if you pay close attention to the white-hats of the Commander and Quartermaster. On their caps, you will see the prestigious title of "Captain" above the "All-State" designator. The "Captain" signifies that our posts' Commander and Quartermaster are the "Captains" of the entire "All-State" team of Wisconsin. That team consists of the twenty posts which received the "All-State" designation. VFW Post 10818 has been recognized this year as the Best-of-the-Best! To top off the already prestigious award, Commander Ron Ramos and Quartermaster Mitch Cline had their caps placed at the awards ceremony by the National VFW Commander B.J. Lawrence who attended as the National Representative to the State Convention.

For a VFW post to achieve the honor of the "All-State" designation, they must have successfully completed a broad range of VFW mission projects, such as community service activities, veterans service, youth programs, support of military personnel/ families, support of public safety and honoring veterans.

"It means our post is very well-run and is recognized as being the best in the state of Wisconsin," Post 10818 Commander Ron Ramos said.

Commander Ron Ramos and Quartermaster Mitch Cline attended the Wisconsin VFW State Convention from June 13 - 15 in Appleton, WI. Commander Ramos says "Lots of awards were given and it was an awe-inspiring sight to see so many younger veterans, woman veterans, and families all attending the convention and taking leadership roles within the organization."

This year's accomplishments include:

- VFW Red Carpet Award
- 2018 National Outstanding Community Service Program Award
- 1st Place VFW Dept. Of Wisconsin Publications Contest
- Grand Award National VFW Publications Contest
- VFW member nominated for New Richmond Citizen of the Year
- Commander Ron Ramos appointed National Aide-de-Camp
- Past Commander Dave Green appointed Special National Aide-de-Camp
- Certificate of Appreciation from the 652nd Engineer Company for the continued support of the unit
- 2nd Place winner in District 9 Patriots Pen essay contest
- 2nd Place winner in District 9 Voice of Democracy audio essay contest
- Color Guard Award 2019 Loyalty Day Parade
- Outstanding Patriots Pen Program
- Outstanding Voice of Democracy Program
- VFW Community Activities Award of Excellence for Special Project "A Day to Change Direction"
- Over 100% in membership

2019 ALL-STATE ★ TEAM CAPTAINS



From left to right: National VFW Commander B.J. Lawrence, Post 10818 Commander Ron Ramos, Post 10818 Quartermaster Mitch Cline, and State Commander Gundel Metz

These are just a small part of the impact and success VFW Post 10818 is known for. This year, you, the members of VFW Post 10818 and its Auxiliary put in over 12,000 hours of volunteer & community service throughout St. Croix County.

"The "All-State" designation and the success of VFW Post 10818 lie within our membership," says Commander Ramos. This year, the current membership of the post stands at 420 members. That's a growth of 46 new members this year.

"Our post continues to sets the example for other Posts to follow due to our reach in the community and our eagerness to welcome veterans. We continuously fight to advocate on behalf of veterans for rights that have been earned in blood. The attractiveness of the VFW is that most military veterans want to help those who have served. It is a basic instinct after being trained to watch out for each other under the most adverse of conditions. Finding an organization that promotes both this type of comradeship and directly supporting veterans can be therapeutic," Commander Ramos said. "It is perhaps the main reason why the VFW has been around for more than a century."



From left to right: Commander Ron Ramos, Past State Commander John Schultz, Quartermaster Mitch Cline



National Commander B.J. Lawrence placing the Captain All-State Commander cap on Commander Ron Ramos



National Commander B.J. Lawrence placing the Captain All-State Quartermaster cap on Commander Ron Ramos



All of the "All-State" Posts in District 9 with our National Commander and State Commander



Current State Senior Vice Commander Jason Johns with Commander Ron Ramos



National Commander gives a talk about relevance as a veterans service organization



From left to right: (tallest guy in picture...) State Senior Vice Commander Jason Johns, Post 7591 Commander Kerry McAllen, National Commander B.J. Lawrence, State Commander Don Lynch, Past State Commander Gundel Metz, State Jr Vice Commander Cory Geisler, and State Chief of Staff Michele Rathke



We think the Chief was tired of Wisconsin at this point...



Commander Ron Ramos with Past State Commander Gundel Metz



Officers of the State VFW Auxiliary being installed at the convention



State VFW Officers being installed



VFW State Line officers for the 2019-2020 year



State Commander Don Lynch passes his State Senior Vice Commander pin to new Senior Vice Commander Jason Johns



State Senior Vice Jason Johns passes his State Jr Vice Commander pin to new Jr Vice Commander Cory Geisler

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- ✦ **July 3 - 10 - Drill Team:** 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30PM. This will be for those in the Color Guard and Honor Guard.
- ✦ **July 11 - 14 - New Richmond Fun Fest** - Volunteers needed for food wagon and grill. Sign up sheets will be at the post. Point of Contact: Ron Ramos 715-928-3606
- ✦ **July 13 - Freedom Park Walking Trail Groundbreaking** - Groundbreaking for the walking trail with the 652nd En Co, City of New Richmond, and VFW at Freedom Park at 10AM
- ✦ **July 14 - Fun Fest Parade** - 11:30 - 1 - Color Guard for parade. Point of Contact: Jerry Simon (715) 977-2875
- ✦ **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 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).***
- ✦ **July 17 - 21 - St. Croix County Fair:** Information & recruiting booth will be setup during the fair. More info to follow.
- ✦ **July 20 - 24 - National VFW Convention:** Officers will be attending the National VFW Convention in Orlando, FL.
- ✦ **August 1- First National Bank 100th Anniversary:** Our Post will be selling beer during their celebration. 3PM - 10PM.
- ✦ **August 7 - 14 - Drill Team:** 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30PM. This will be for those in the Color Guard and Honor Guard.
- ✦ **August 11 - Hammond Heartland Days Parade:** Color Guard for parade. Point of Contact: Jerry Simon (715) 977-2875
- ✦ **August 11 - Commander & Quartermaster Training:** Training at VFW Post 305 Eau Claire 1PM - 4PM.
- ✦ **August 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.
- ✦ **August 17 - 63rd Annual King Day:** Lunch will be served and festivities will start at 11AM at the Veterans Home in King, WI. Program to start at 12:30PM.
- ✦ **August 18 - Ox Cart Days Parade:** Color Guard for parade. Point of Contact: Jerry Simon (715) 977-2875
- ✦ **August 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).***
- ✦ **September 4 - 11 - Drill Team:** 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30PM. This will be for those in the Color Guard and Honor Guard.
- ✦ **September 7 - Harley Feed:** We will be doing a Harley Feed for Customer Appreciation Day at St. Croix Harley Davidson. Point of Contact: Russ Donaghue 715-222-2659
- ✦ **September 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.
- ✦ **September 14 - 100 Yr Anniversary of American Legion Post 80:** Butler Harmon American Legion Post 80 will be celebrating 100 yrs of service
- ✦ **September 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).***
- ✦ **September 28 - District 9 Meeting:** Meeting will be at Cochrane Post 10406 starting at 9AM
- ✦ **September 29 - National VFW Birthday - 120 yrs old**
- ✦ **October 2 - 9 - Drill Team:** 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30PM. This will be for those in the Color Guard and Honor Guard.
- ✦ **October 10 - 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.
- ✦ **October 11 - VFW Meat Raffle:** Meat Raffle held at Cedar Creek Inn. Starts at 6:30PM. Chairperson: Mitch Cline 651-492-9634
- ✦ **October 15 - 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).***
- ✦ **October 20 - Annual Fall Pancake Breakfast:** More information to follow.
- ✦ **October 25 - 27 - Trip to the National Home for Children:** Wisconsin will be heading to the Annual Meeting at the National Home for Children as well as assisting with their Annual Halloween Party. Info on registration to follow.
- ✦ **October 30 - VFW Post 10818 30th Birthday**
- ✦ **November 6 - 13 - Drill Team:** 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30PM. This will be for those in the Color Guard and Honor Guard.
- ✦ **November 8 - VFW Meat Raffle:** Meat Raffle held at Cedar Creek Inn. Starts at 6:30PM. Chairperson: Mitch Cline 651-492-9634

GUN RAFFLE

VFW 6-GUN RAFFLE WITH 3 WINNERS

*THREE WINNERS WILL BE
DRAWN*

1ST PLACE: FIRST CHOICE
OF 1 HANDGUN AND 1 RIFLE

2ND PLACE: SECOND
CHOICE OF 1 HANDGUN AND
1 RIFLE

3RD PLACE: REMAINING
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Ruger Super
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Sig Stand 380
\$738 Value

Drawing to be held on Sept. 10, 2019
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Star Prairie, WI 54026

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN. GUNS **MUST** BE PICKED UP WITHIN 7 DAYS OF DRAWING OR WINNERS WILL BE REDRAWN

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STAR PRAIRIE, WI

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ROBERTS, WI

WEST WIND SUPPER CLUB -
RIVER FALLS, WI

AMERICAN LEGION POST 111 -
SOMERSET, WI

UNCLE MIKE'S M POUR E YUM -
HUDSON, WI

CHAMPS -
NEW RICHMOND, WI

READY RANDYS -
NEW RICHMOND, WI

CEDAR CREEK INN -
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DECOSSEE -
DEER PARK, WI

STRIKERS -
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SOMERSET, WI



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