

ISSUE #45 | SEPTEMBER 2019

VETERANS VOICE

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



September is
Suicide Prevention Month

#Be There
For Veterans and Service Members

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

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)



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
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Jr Vice Cmdr Jasen Pomroy 715-377-6307	Surgeon Bruce Taylor 651-253-4160
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Quartermaster Mitch Cline 651-492-9634	Adjutant Ron Ramos 715-928-3606
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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 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.





**COMMANDER
RON RAMOS**

Our summer season is starting to wind down as we begin to head into the Fall season. It's been a great summer, but our work isn't entirely done yet.

We have a few events we're getting ready for this month. The first being the Harley Feed on Saturday, September 7th. This is a fantastic event, community service, and an effortless day to fundraise for the Post. We will be serving and cooking cheeseburgers & beans for the customers of the St. Croix Harley Davidson from 11 am - 3 pm. We're asking that you volunteer some time to stop by and assist in cooking or serving.

Past Commander Dave Green will be announcing the winners to the 6-Gun Raffle on Tuesday, September 10th at 11 am. He will be doing this at Russell's Sport & Bike located in Star Prairie. We still have some raffle tickets to sell. If you're interested in winning a rifle and handgun per ticket, please contact Dave Green at 651-247-1801.

The Fall District 9 Meeting will be held at VFW Post 10406 in Cochrane, WI on September 28th. We encourage those who are seeking leadership positions in the VFW or who are interested in how things are run to attend this District Meeting. Registration is \$12 for lunch, and we usually carpool when heading to these functions to save on gas. Please contact Quartermaster Mitch Cline to register.

I want to welcome our new Adjutant Mike Ragsdale. He has been our Adjutant since our August Membership Meeting. Please say hi to him if you see him around as he is learning the position of Adjutant. Mike, thank you for stepping up and assisting the Post with your skills and drive.

We are currently in need of volunteers for events and as chairpersons for events. I cannot continue to chair most of the events anymore due to starting school full-time in addition to work. I have a five-year-old daughter at home and would enjoy some resemblance of family life with her in-between my full schedule. I'm asking for any amount of help. Just volunteer a few hours at an event. If you'd like to chair one of the routine activities such as Fun Fest or Park Art Fair, please let me know. All past chairpersons will be available for assistance, and you will not be doing it alone. Your Officers and I are incredibly grateful for any support in these programs.

We have started promoting our Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year programs. This year's theme for the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy is: What Makes America Great? If you know a middle schooler or high schooler (this includes those students that are homeschooling), please send them to our website and have them participate. This is an excellent way for kids to explore what their country means to them and win some scholarship money. At the local Post level, Patriots Pen 1st Place winner will win \$300, and the Voice of Democracy 1st Place winner will win \$1,000. Visit our website or stop by the Post for applications, rules, and eligibility.

This year, we must participate in ALL THREE levels of the Teacher of the Year program. If you know of a teacher that deserves to be recognized, you are encouraged to nominate them. The nomination forms can be found on our website or at the Post. All three teachers have the potential to win up to \$1,000 nationally and win a trip to the National Convention in Reno, NV on July 2020.

Brian Haglund will be chairing the Annual Fall Pancake Breakfast which will be on Sunday, October 20th at the Armory. Please provide Brian with any assistance he may need to make this a successful fundraiser.

Also in October is the trip to the National Home for Children. The Home is located in Eaton Rapids, MI. This is a weekend trip leaving very early in the morning on Friday, October 25th and arriving in the afternoon/evening on Sunday, October 27th. If you have not been to the National Home, I highly recommend going. This is a great program the VFW has, and Wisconsin sponsors a house which currently has a family residing in it. Your Senior Vice Commander and I went last year, and it was lots of fun.

At our August Membership Meeting, the membership approved to host a Legacy Life Member Raffle. Tickets and information will be ready at the September Membership Meeting. The Legacy Raffle will be an ongoing raffle as long as members stay interested. The raffle is our way of increasing our Legacy Members in the Post. All annual members will have their name put in for a Life Member upgrade every time they attend a meeting or volunteer for at least one hour at an event. In December 2020, an annual members name will be drawn, and the Post will upgrade their membership to a Life Membership.

I want to express a hearty welcome to our Honorary Member Klaas Snater! At last month's Membership Meeting, Klaas was inducted as an Honorary Member of VFW Post 10818 due to his service as a Corporal in the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps (RNLMC). Like our American troops, he served overseas in a multitude of capacities and billets. While he is not eligible to officially become a member of the VFW, Klaas is always a welcomed guest to share in the camaraderie that veterans have in common. Welcome, Klaas!

Our Meat Raffle season will be kicking off in October. These are an enjoyable way to raise funds for the VFW. It is an excellent evening at Cedar Creek Inn with friends and family. Please join us every second Friday of the month at 6:30 pm to help out.

The officers of the VFW and Auxiliary are finishing the planning for the rest of our year. Keep an eye out for events such as Veterans Day events, raffles, our Christmas Parties, etc. If you'd like to assist in any capacity or volunteer, please let us know. All activities are family-friendly, and we encourage you to bring them all!

That's all I have this month. Let's have another successful year and continue to show our community that veterans still have plenty to offer in service and advocacy for our communities and fellow veterans.

LEADING FUTURE GENERATIONS FOR GREATNESS



CHAPLAIN
MEL ZEHR

It is that time of year when new graduates are pursuing their dreams, college students are heading back to campuses, and children/teens are ready to start school again carrying back packs filled with sharpened pencils, blank notebooks, and brand-new supplies. There seems to be a renewed energy with the start of fall, a new school season, and young minds fresh for learning. The newness of everything sparks energy and vitality. The opportunities for students are much greater than when I was a student, and with these opportunities comes a great deal of responsibility as there are countless forces of information pulling for the time and attention of our children.

Our church recently presented a sermon series on our identity called, Eclipsed. In introducing this series, our pastor pointed out that our culture is going through a major shift in which we have not seen the likes of this since the start of the Industrial Revolution. When you think about it, it is just mind boggling how much information is at our fingertips, and that information is expanding exponentially on a daily basis. With all of the

fast-moving technology and information available at a simple push of a button, we are headed into some very exciting times. With this excitement, comes a great deal of turmoil and conflict that we must filter through as we cautiously tread through the cultural shift of an information age.

As parents, grandparents, educators, and mentors for today's youth, it is our responsibility to lead our children and teens into adulthood, teaching them the value of work ethic, courage, and building character by "training up a child in the way he or she should go" (Proverbs 22:6). If we do not get the attention of our youth, someone else will. How do we teach and lead our children to become strong and courageous young men and women of high integrity? The Bible has laid the foundation of building up our youth in Deuteronomy 6: 5-7 says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

In the Old Testament, God frequently commanded the Israelites to build monuments in order to remember their history and teach future generations about who God is and how He carried His people through difficult times. It is necessary that we continue with this tradition by sharing the gospel with our youth and by sharing the history of our great country with them as well. They need to know that God loves them so much that He sent His only son to die for them. They also need to understand the foundation of America and what principles our nation was built on. As Veterans, we can do this by sharing our own stories in combat and the powerful lessons we learned while serving our country. We have a voice and a story, and when we give our stories to others, we empower them to be a voice as well.

Once a year, my wife, Darcee, and I have the privilege to read through student essays for the Patriot's Pen scholarship program. It is very encouraging for us to read through these inspiring words written by local students. These essays reveal that many truly are educating our children about this great country and the pride that comes with being an American. As we continue this annual tradition, we would encourage you to ask your children to participate in writing an essay for this writing project. What a great way to sharpen their minds and help them to bring a voice for our country. We wish the best this year to all of our elementary, middle, and high school as well as both college and trade school students. May God bless you and be with you as you learn and grow academically, socially, and spiritually. Have a wonderful September folks!

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.



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.



VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

PATRIOT'S PEN

2019-2020 Theme:
"What Makes America Great"



September is Suicide Prevention Month

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. National Suicide Prevention Week is September 8 – 14, 2019, with World Suicide Prevention Day on the 10th. During this month, week, and day, individuals and organizations alike will be drawing attention to the problem of suicide and advocating the prevention of this terrible tragedy. Suicide is a national health problem that currently ranks as the 2nd leading cause of death for ages 10 – 24. Suicide is also one of the leading causes of preventable death in our nation. Awareness and education are the first steps to prevention.

People experiencing mental health conditions often face rejection, bullying and even discrimination. This can make their journey to recovery longer and more difficult because of stigma. Stigma is when someone, or you yourself, views you in a negative way because you have a mental health condition. Some people describe stigma as shame that can be felt as a judgment from someone else or a feeling that is internal, something that confuses feeling bad with being bad. People experiencing mental health conditions often face rejection, bullying and even discrimination. This can make their journey to recovery longer and more difficult. Stigma is when someone, or you yourself, views you in a negative way because you have a mental health condition. Some people describe stigma as shame that can be felt as a judgment from someone else or a feeling that is internal, something that confuses feeling bad with being bad. Navigating life with a mental health condition can be tough, and the isolation, blame and secrecy that is often encouraged by stigma can create huge challenges to reaching out, getting needed support and living well. Learning how to cope with stigma and how to avoid and address stigma are important for all of us. Many Veterans and others may not show any signs of intent to harm themselves before doing so, but some actions can be a sign that a person needs help. Persons in crisis may show behaviors that indicate a risk of self-harm:

WARNING SIGNS: Seeking access to firearms, available pills, or other means. Talking or writing about death, dying or suicide. Threatening to hurt or kill oneself. Feeling hopeless, helpless, worthless, no sense of purpose in life. Feeling as if there is no reason to live. Dramatic or noticeable mood changes. Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain. Acting anxious or agitated. Behaving recklessly or carelessly. Withdrawing or isolating from others. Talking about being a burden to others. Suddenly happier and calmer, especially after a period of depression or sadness. Giving away prized possessions, making arrangements.

People can experience an emotional or mental health crisis due to a wide range of situations. For some, it might be the end of a personal relationship. For others, it might be the loss of a job. For Veterans, these crises can be heightened by their experiences during

military service. People can experience an emotional or mental health crisis due to a wide range of situations. For some, it might be the end of a personal relationship. For others, it might be the loss of a job. For Veterans, these crises can be heightened by their experiences during military service. Crisis, stress, depression, and other issues affect people in different ways. If you feel like you might be heading toward a crisis, treatment can help. If you feel you are seeing someone having problems or in crisis

ACKNOWLEDGE THE PROBLEM: Do take it seriously. If you recognize warning signs in your friend or loved one, it is very important to take them seriously. In fact, the majority of people who die by suicide gave some indication of their intention to those close to them. Do listen attentively. Even if professional help is needed, your friend or loved one will be more willing to seek help if you have listened carefully to them.

DO SHOW YOU CARE: Don't just blow it off. Do voice your concern. Take the initiative to ask what is troubling your friend or loved one, and attempt to overcome any reluctance on their part to talk about it. Do let the person know you care and understand. Continue to be available to your friend and show interest and support. Do remain calm. Although it might upset you to hear thoughts about suicide, assure your friend or loved one that you will be there for him or her and that help is available. Do ask if the person has a specific plan. (Note: asking about suicide does not cause a person to think about or complete suicide).

How to start the conversation: Mention the things that are concerning you. Be direct. Ask if they are thinking of harming themselves. Listen and remain calm. Assure the person that help is available and treatment works. There is no perfect script for talking to someone about suicide. It is most important to show the person you care by being a good listener and offering to support or accompany them in finding help. **SHOW YOU CARE!**

When emotional issues reach a crisis point, Veterans and/or their loved ones should contact the VETERANS CRISIS LINE 1-800-273-8255. No matter what you are experiencing, there are resources and support systems to help.

With help, pain can be eased, crises can be resolved, hope can be restored and life can feel meaningful again. When you feel disconnected, reaching out to others is critically important. Talk to a friend or your healthcare or mental health provider. If you're not sure who to contact or need immediate help, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255) or 911. It's okay to allow yourself to get help. Help is always available.

SERVICE OFFICER

This is to let all of you know that I have resigned as Service Officer, Surgeon, and Storekeeper for the Post. It is not because of any differences or conflict. It is because of personal health and family issues. I have been and continue to be extremely proud to be a member of such an exceptional VFW Post. This Post has accomplished wonderful things in the past and continues to do wonderful things for the future. I hope to continue in some aspects with activities within the Post and hoped I have been to some service to you as members and our community.

Service is an interesting concept and term. As defined in the dictionary **SERVICE** as a noun is:

"an act of help or assistance, an organized system of labor and material, aids used to supply the needs of the public, the supply, installation, or maintenance of goods carried out by a dealer, the state of availability for use by the public."

Our Mission as members in this Post and the VFW: "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." We have developed numerous programs and services that work to support veterans, service members, and their families, as well as our community.

As I had said I hope I have been a help or assistance to many of you as you have been to me. We all need to look for the many opportunities that surround us to be of assistance or to help. We have all served and that has brought us to this point - the camaraderie we all shared through the multiple definitions of service. We all learned and knew how to "cover someones back" or "got your six"! We lived by those codes - and still do.

All of us can do a little bit to help out the multiple activities going on. I know we are all busy but if each of us put in a few hours, then all is accomplished. Our brotherhood and sisterhood is unique. We all are different and have different experiences and past, but have all experienced the teamwork & camaraderie that only we can attest to and many of us have our lives to show for it.

VFW AUXILIARY ★ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September is here. The weather is getting cooler, the leaves changing from their summer green to shine in beautiful reds and golds. I'm looking at projects to get done that the busy summer months have made me neglect, and I wonder what else I may have neglected because I was simply too busy to give it proper thought.

We have friends who have deployed. Did they get everything done before they left? Do their kids have everything they need for school? Did they remember to set up snow removal for their families while they are away? Do they have parents who are trying to figure out what they're going to do without their son/daughter who usually helps them get the crops in from the fields?

I know that there are needs in families that, in the busyness of deployment, were overlooked. "We will handle it." is what we tell our soldiers because we don't want them to worry. And now, as summer calms down, if you find yourselves with a little extra time, I urge you all to find those families. I urge you to help them "handle it." We may not be able to do everything, but everyone can do something.



**PRESIDENT
JEN DONAGHUE**



**UNWAVERING SUPPORT 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

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 7th - 11am - 3pm Harley Feed

Saturday 7th - Star Prairie Sports Bar, Ride for Heroes. Please drop off salads by noon.

Tuesday 10th - 6:30pm Agenda Prep Meeting

Thursday 12th - 2pm Budget/Standing Rules Meeting

Tuesday 17th - 6:30pm Monthly Meeting

Saturday 28th - 9am District Meeting at VFW Post 10406, Cochrane WI

Senior Vice President Rhonda Rimarcik and Auxiliary Chaplain Wanda Viellieux handing out flags and R.A.P. Cards at the Ox Cart Days Parade



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)

Easier Student Loan Forgiveness for Disabled Veterans:

The president directed the Department of Education to find easier ways to wipe out the federal student loan debt of 100 percent permanently & totally disabled veterans. “The debt of these disabled veterans will be entirely erased. It will be gone. They will sleep well tonight,” said President Trump. Veterans who are 100 percent permanently & totally disabled are already eligible to have their federal student loan debt completely erased, but government officials have struggled to get all eligible veterans to take advantage of the program. Earlier this year, Rep. Connor Lamb (D-Pa.) and Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.), each sponsored legislation to make loan forgiveness automatic, putting the impetus of clearing the debt on federal agencies instead of veterans. The president’s announcement this week is aiming to fix the same issue. The VFW has called for automatic forgiveness of the student loan debt for these disabled veterans for years, and applauds the president and our members of Congress for making this a priority.

2020 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship Application is Open:

The 2020 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship is now accepting applications! The program, which is in its sixth year, is for VFW members who attend an accredited institute of higher learning. Ten student veterans will be selected for the semester-long program that focuses on real policy issues faced by veterans, service members, and their families. The highlight of the program is participation in the VFW Legislative Conference, which in the past has included meetings at the White House and with senior officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs and Congress. Those selected also spend time with their VFW Department members on Capitol Hill pushing the VFW’s legislative priorities. Alumni of the program have become more active in all levels of the VFW and have changed laws to improve care and benefits for veterans.



VA’s Smoke-Free Policy Will Include Employees:

In June, VA officially publicized a new smoke-free policy for veterans, visitors, volunteers, contractors, and vendors at all VA health care facilities beginning on Oct. 1, 2019. This Wednesday, VA announced that they were able to work with union officials and will be extending the smoking ban to staff as well, however, not until January 2020. The smoke-free ban includes cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and e-cigarettes. The Veterans Health Administration has a number of programs to help veterans quit smoking.

VA Rolls Out GI Bill STEM Scholarship Application:

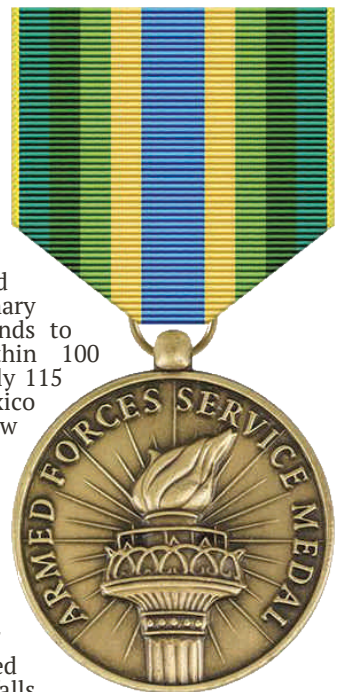


If you are a student veteran studying certain courses in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) related fields, you could be eligible for additional months of Post 9/11 GI Bill eligibility. The Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship is designed to assist student veterans with obtaining highly competitive and sought-after degrees in STEM fields by providing up to an additional nine months of

Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to qualifying student veterans. The VFW-championed STEM scholarship provision was included in the historic Forever GI Bill package passed in 2017, and it is finally available for student veterans to utilize.

AFSM Authorized for Southern Border Troops:

Thousands of U.S. service members assisting U.S. Customs and Border Protection along our southern border have now been authorized to receive the Armed Forces Service Medal, which was created in 1996 as a non-combat equivalent to the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Eligibility extends to troops operating within 100 nautical miles – roughly 115 miles – from the Mexico border in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California, as well as those operating in San Antonio, where the mission headquarters is located, and those at sea within 24 nautical miles of the coast. In the order of precedence, the Armed Forces Service Medal falls below the Korea Defense Service Medal and above the Humanitarian Service Medal.



Legislation Introduced for Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits:



VFW-supported H.R. 4137, Jennifer Kepner HOPE Act, has been introduced. This important legislation would make individuals eligible for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care provided the individual served as a member of the Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation and was based or stationed at a location where an open

air burn pit was in use after Jan. 1, 1990. The eligibility for care would be open even for those who have insufficient medical evidence to conclude that a disease or disability is associated with burn pit exposure.

VFW Life Member Now Secretary of Defense:

The Senate last week confirmed former Secretary of the Army Dr. Mark Esper as the new Secretary of Defense. Esper is a retired Army lieutenant colonel and Life member of the VFW Department of Pennsylvania. He is a 1986 West Point graduate who served as an infantry officer with the 101st Airborne Division during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Senate Confirms Gilday as New CNO:

The Senate voted last month to promote Vice Adm. Mike Gilday to the rank of admiral and confirm his presidential nomination to be the next chief of naval operations. Gilday, the current director of the Joint Staff, is a native of Lowell, Mass., the son of a career sailor, and a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. According to his Navy bio, Gilday is a surface warfare officer by trade, having deployed aboard the USS Chandler, USS Princeton and USS Gettysburg, commanded the destroyers USS Higgins, USS Benfold and Destroyer Squadron 7, and was the sea combat commander for the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group. As a flag officer, he served as commander of Carrier Strike Group 8, embarked aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, and as commander, U.S. Fleet Cyber Command and U.S. 10th Fleet, among many others. Gilday is expected to be sworn in once the current CNO, Adm. John Richardson, retires next month after serving out his four-year tour.



VA Updates the Schedule for Rating Disabilities:

VA has updated three portions of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities: infectious diseases, immune disorders, and nutritional deficiencies. VA started to rewrite all of the fifteen regulations in 2017 in order to reflect modern medicine as the regulations have not been updated since the original code was written in 1945. Any claims in these three areas pending on Aug. 11, 2019, will be considered under both the new and old rating schedule with the more favorable rating result going to the veteran. All claims filed on or after Aug. 11, 2019 will be rated on the new standards.

Afghanistan Peace Talks:

U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad, announced that the most recent round of negotiations between the U.S. and the Taliban had been unsuccessful. The overall deal includes provisions that would guarantee the withdrawal of approximately 20,000 U.S. and NATO troops, as well a proposal that would ensure that follow-on negotiations would take place between Taliban and Afghan leaders over a future power-sharing agreement and a permanent cease fire. Despite this deal being favorable to the Taliban, they have indicated that they will only negotiate with the Afghan government after the withdrawal of all foreign troops.



Join the Campaign to #AxeWidowsTax:

The House version of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (NDAA) would eliminate the Widow's Tax, which is a dollar-for-dollar offset of earned benefits for the surviving spouses of about 65,000 service members and veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Unfortunately, the Senate version of the NDAA does not. In the coming weeks, members of Congress will meet to resolve the differences between the Senate and House versions of the NDAA and determine if provisions to end the Widow's Tax will make it into the final version. Since the provision to end the Widow's Tax is not in the Senate version of the NDAA, it is in jeopardy of being left out of the final conference agreement.



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.

652nd Engineer Company In Action!

Our adopted unit, the 652nd Engineer Company, started work last month on finishing the Freedom Park Walking Trail. About 16 troops from the 652nd showed up on their drill weekend and started to move dirt and started working on the first sections. Past Quartermaster Ken House and Trustee Gene Arnst went out and grilled some burgers and brats for the troops. This is a great start to finish a project for the City of New Richmond and its citizens. The 652nd will continue to work on the trail on its monthly drill weekend and their two-weeks in the summer.



First National Community Bank Celebrates 100 Years!

August 1st was a day of celebration for First National Community Bank in New Richmond, WI. The community was invited to the banks parking lot to help celebrate their 100 year anniversary. Lots of food was served, plenty of games were played, and great music was heard throughout the town. Our Post was invited to assist in the celebration by selling beer to our community members and it was a great turnout. For a few hours of fun, First National Community Bank donated all profits from the beer sales we did to our Building Fund. That donation brought in over \$1,800 and was a great community service opportunity we were fortunate to be a part of. Thank you to all who came out and thank you to First National Community Bank for the donation!





VFW King Day a Success!

What a day! Beautiful weather made way for an AMAZING time at the 63rd Annual Scheibe-Munro VFW/VFWA King Day on Saturday, August 17th!

The residents of Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, staff and the community enjoyed a cookout, live music, games and much more!

Commander Ron Ramos and Adjutant Mike Ragsdale joined State Commander Don Lynch and the rest of the 2019-2020 team in celebrating our veterans and making donations to the Veterans Home. Commander Ramos made a donation of \$225 on behalf of our Post and Auxiliary.

Through the past year, the VFW and the Auxiliary have given over 58 in-kind donations. VFW Posts in Wisconsin have donated more than \$26,000 to King, and have sponsored so many awesome events. The 14 registered volunteers at King from the VFW, Cooties and Auxiliaries have donated more than 2,000 hours this past year!

If you ever get a chance to visit the Veterans Home at King, please head up there. It's an awesome experience being able to speak to the residents and hear their stories.





Posts representatives line up to present their donations to the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King during the Parade of Checks



From left to right: Post 10818 Commander Ron Ramos, State Commander Don Lynch, and Post 10818 Adjutant Mike Ragsdale







Post 10818 Inducts an Honorary Member at August Membership Meeting

At our August Member Meeting, Commander Ron Ramos along with the approval of the membership, inducted Klaas Snater as an Honorary Member of VFW Post 10818. Klaas Snater served as a Corporal in the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps (RNLMC) for 8 years from 1966 - 1975 with duties ranging from amphibious & helicopter combat training, parachutist certification, to Instructor at Marine Recruit Training Rotterdam. Klaas served overseas as a Naval Artillery Gunner while onboard Hms. Overijssel Patrol ship in the Dutch Caribbean Islands as well as in Aruba while assigned to the Marine Rapid Reaction Force. Klaas' impeccable military service has allowed him to share in the same camaraderie as our own veterans of foreign wars. Because of his military service, Klaas is recognized as an honorary member of VFW Post 10818, allowing him to share in continued camaraderie and partake in VFW functions with fellow veterans. Mr. Snater is proud to call himself an American since achieving citizenship. Mr. Snater, thank you for your service and we're glad to have you volunteering to better our community and assist our veterans!

Earn Your Pride!

When I opened up the cover page of the Veteran's Voice I was overcome with a sense of pride at the accomplishments of this post. I am proud of the men and women of this post and the Auxiliary who work tirelessly to contribute to veterans, active duty and reserve military, their families and their community. All members should share in that deep sense of pride. With that sense of pride also comes a sense of ownership. **ALL** members should also participate in the work that is required to sustain their post.

We all have very busy lives, but what I am seeing in the officers of this post and in those who take positions of responsibility is a group that do not have busy lives, ... they have very little personal lives if any at all. They work to support their family, take care of their children, and move the mission of the post forward. At the end of the day there is little or no time left for them to take care of themselves. Our Commander recently spent some time in the hospital when his body finally gave up and would not allow him to stretch himself to meet all responsibilities. Isn't it time for all members to step up and earn their membership?

The good news is that there is still time for all members to step up and put in a little time to support the post and the officers that are committed to our mission. You can have a significant impact on the post and still have a life of your own. The support that we need is not that tough.

Here are some suggestions on how you can help:

- Empty a waste basket at the post.
- Make a pot of coffee on a Monday or Friday and open the post one day per month.
- Sell one raffle ticket.
- Help out at one meat raffle.

- Chair an event (you'll always have help from the previous chairs)
- Come to a monthly meeting and see what is going on.
- Volunteer some time.
- Write one thank you note to a donor that has contributed to the post and our mission.
- Move the donated wheel chair from the lobby of the post to the storage pod that we use for medical supplies. It has sat there for weeks now.
- Manage the post store, or partner up with several other members to manage the store.
- March in one parade over the summer.
- Provide military honors for a veteran

Two of our new members, Troy Hill and Mike Ragsdale helped at the celebration for the First National Community Bank's 100th Anniversary. This is the first time in a long time I have seen new members at a fund raiser. We made over \$1800 for the building fund. A small donation of time with a big impact on our Post and the community.

Please consider offering a little time from your personal life so that those who serve so professionally can have some personal time for their families and themselves as well.

-ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER KEN HOUSE



2019 BUS TRIP TO THE NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

FALL FESTIVAL PARTY

Each person must complete a registration form for accountability

DATE: October 25, 26, 27, 2019

COST: \$195 for Double Occupancy or \$245 for Single Occupancy

Cost includes: Bus Transportation and Hotel Stay in Eaton Rapids, Michigan (Food on your own)

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: September 25, 2019

Pickup and drop off location: Pick-up starting at 6:00 AM at Cedar Creek Mall Parking Lot, Schofield, WI, traveling down the Hwy 51 / 39 route. Other locations will be determined based on the amount of applications from the different areas of the State of Wisconsin.

Name: _____ VFW Post #: _____ District #: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Cell # if pick-up time changes: _____ Email: _____

Roommate Chose: _____ (If you choose to room alone your rate will increase to full amount of the cost for the hotel room)

Please send this form along with your check or credit card information (Payable to State of Wisconsin VFW) to: WI.VFW HEADQUARTERS P.O. Box 6128, Monona, WI 53716-6128.

Credit Card: MC; VISA; DISC; AMEX #: _____ 3-DIGIT CODE: _____

EXP DATE (MO/YYYY): _____ CC Mailing Address: _____

Zip Code: _____ Signature for Credit Card: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Check Number (if applicable:) _____ **NO CASH!**

Allergies/Special Accommodations/Requests: _____

Emergency Contact Information: Full Name and phone number: _____

POINT OF-CONTACT: Michele Rathke 715-218-0440 {CELL}

EMAIL: cos@vfwwi.org

#BeThere

for Veterans and Service members.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Confidential crisis chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net

Year-round, and particularly during Suicide Prevention Month in September, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) empowers communities to take action to support our Nation's Veterans. Each community across the country plays a role in supporting Veterans, but as an individual you may not know what to do or where to start.

You don't need to have special training to support the Veterans in your life, and we can all do something to help a Veteran who is going through a difficult time. Even seemingly small actions can have a huge impact: Preventing suicide begins with just the willingness to **Be There**.

Showing your support can be as simple as sending a Veteran a text message — inviting someone over to catch up or sharing a positive thought are both great ways to communicate that you care. Your words could be exactly what a Veteran in crisis needs to hear, and could be a reminder of the many people out there who are willing to listen.

Here are some sample text messages:

- “Hey Tom, haven’t seen you around in a while! We should grab coffee this week. How about tomorrow?”
- “Just letting you know I’m here for you if you need anything. Call me anytime!”
- “Hey Amy, hope all is well with you! Been thinking about you today. I miss you!”

When you sense that a Veteran is not doing well, your words can help. You can make a difference by just starting a conversation. Although it can seem challenging, it is important to talk about difficult feelings and experiences. Keep in mind: Asking questions about thoughts of suicide **does not** increase a person's suicide risk. Instead, an open conversation can help someone feel less alone and let others into the Veteran's experience — and feeling connected is shown to reduce suicide risk.

Keep these best practices in mind when preparing for a conversation:

- **Show that you are really listening.** Remember to maintain Veteran while they are speaking.
- **Validate the Veteran's experience.** Even if you can't relate can tell them you understand that they went through something feelings about it.

- **Let them decide how much information to share.**

Supportive and encouraging comments, rather than invasive personal questions, will create a space for open communication and avoid putting a Veteran on the defensive.

- **Don't be afraid to ask the question.** When you are concerned about suicide risk, it's OK to ask people if they have ever thought about hurting themselves or taken action to prepare for suicide. The answers can help you consider next steps to take.

Simply reaching out to a Veteran in need and opening the door for a discussion could make all the difference. Learn more ways to show your support and **Be There** by visiting VeteransCrisisLine.net/BeThere to find more resources and information.

If you believe a Veteran in your life may be contemplating suicide, call the Veterans Crisis Line at **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, send a text message to **838255**, or chat online. Qualified and compassionate VA responders are on call 24/7/365 to provide guidance on how to connect Veterans with support and help keep them from harm.

September is **Suicide Prevention Month**

#BeThere



for Veterans and
Service members.



VeteransCrisisLine.net/BeThere



**Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Confidentialcrisischat at VeteransCrisisLine.net

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- ✪ **September 4 - 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 from 11AM - 3PM at St. Croix Harley Davidson. Point of Contact: Ron Ramos or Mitch Cline
- ✪ **September 10 - Gun Raffle:** The 6-Gun Raffle winners will be drawn at Russell's Sport & Bike at 11AM.
- ✪ **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 located at 100 Michaels St., Cochrane, WI 54622 starting at 9AM. Registration is \$12, please see Quartermaster Mitch Cline for more information.
- ✪ **September 29 - National VFW Birthday - 120 yrs old**
- ✪ **October 2 - 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**
- ✪ **October 31 - Youth Scholarships Entry Forms Due:** All submissions for Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year are due to the Post no later than today.
- ✪ **November 6 - 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
- ✪ **November 10 - 244th Marine Corps Birthday**
- ✪ **November 11 - Veterans Day**
- ✪ **November 14 - 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.
- ✪ **November 19 - 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).*
- ✪ **November 28 - Thanksgiving Day**
- ✪ **December 4 - Drill Team:** 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30PM. This will be for those in the Color Guard and Honor Guard.
- ✪ **December 7 - Pearl Harbor Day**
- ✪ **December 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.
- ✪ **December 13 - VFW Meat Raffle:** Meat Raffle held at Cedar Creek Inn. Starts at 6:30PM. Chairperson: Mitch Cline 651-492-9634
- ✪ **December 14 - VFW & Auxiliary Christmas Party:** Party will be held at Gibby's Lanes in New Richmond from 11AM - 12:30PM for the members of the VFW and Auxiliary and their families. Toys will be available for the kids and Santa will be present for pictures. More information to follow.
- ✪ **December 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).*
- ✪ **December 25 - Christmas Day**
- ✪ **January 8 - Drill Team:** Drill Practice at 6:30PM. This will be for those in the Color Guard and Honor Guard.
- ✪ **January 9 - 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.
- ✪ **January 10 - 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
HANDGUN AND RIFLE



Browning A-Bolt III 30-06 - \$749 Value



Ruger American Go Wild 6.5
Creemore - \$629 Value



Winchester XPR 7mm Mag - \$599 Value

**ONLY 1,000 TICKETS
WILL BE SOLD!**

\$20 per Ticket



Smith & Wesson M+P
Shield w/Laser 9mm
\$499 Value



Ruger Super
Redhawk 44 Mag
\$1,159 Value



Sig Stand 380
\$738 Value

**Drawing to be held on Sept. 10, 2019
at 11am at Russell's Sport & Bike
703 Jewell St.
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

TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

CAVE INN -
ROBERTS, WI

STAR PRAIRIE SPORTS BAR -
STAR PRAIRIE, WI

SIDETRACK SALOON -
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 -
HUNTINGTON, WI

DECOSSEE -
DEER PARK, WI

STRIKERS -
BALDWIN, WI

NOT JUSTA CAFE & BAR -
SOMERSET, WI



VFW POST 10818

P.O. Box 233
New Richmond, WI 54017



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.