



# VFW News

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Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

## Veterans day ceremony at VFW 5040 November 11, 11:00 a.m.

November 11, 2005 is Veterans Day. A time to honor all military veterans who served.

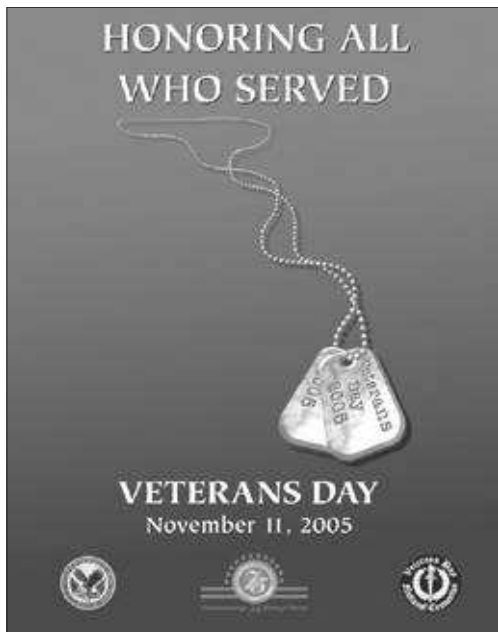
It is our duty, as a VFW post, to recognize our Nation's military veterans and to educate the next generations on the contributions they have made. It is our duty to teach them about the flag our military defends, what it means to be a "veteran", and the responsibility we pass on to them in protecting our great nation.

As we honor America's 25 million living veterans on Friday, November 11, remember to thank a fellow vet on this day. They served their country just as the many men and women today are doing around the globe.

VFW Post 5040 will be holding a ceremony in the VFW parking lot. A ham lunch with fixings is planned after the ceremony. The lunch will be open to the public.

The below poster is the Department of Veterans Affairs annual poster for 2005. This poster can be found at the follow internet site:

[www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/gallery.htm](http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/gallery.htm)



## Changing of the guard

Two soldiers marched in a freedom Parade,  
One with eyes grown with age,  
A little bent and hair turned gray.  
The other whose eyes were bright and clear,  
Stood tall and straight,  
And wore his uniform with pride.

They marched together, stride for stride,  
Each carrying our flag held high.  
With their heads held high they marched on,  
Passed the crowds that had gathered to see  
This grand march for liberty.

At the end of their march on this grand day,  
The old soldier turned and with a smart salute,  
Placed his flag in the hand of this new recruit.  
Guard her well he was heard to say,  
For many brave men have died to keep her free.

Now I place her in your care,  
This symbol of free men everywhere.  
She has been torn in battle,  
Spat on, and burned,  
but her colors never fade,  
In the eyes of those who seek to live free.

- Ernest E. Coffman, Pittsburg  
World War II Veteran



## Annual turkey raffle and dinner November 19, 2005

Last note about the Annual Turkey Raffle. If you have not returned your ticket stubs yet, please do so for a chance to win some great prizes and possibly a turkey. You should have been sent a book of 10 tickets. Each ticket for the annual turkey raffle is \$1.00 each. Prizes for the raffle:

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize: \$150.00**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$100.00**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: \$50.00**

**40 turkeys next 40 Prizes!**

*Turkey dinner served 6pm-8pm*

*Saturday, November 19, 2005*

*Cost is \$6.00*

Ticket sales have been down somewhat. Don Sword reminds us, "Being a member in good standing and supporting our fund raisers is the only way that we can survive. Being a member in good standing is more than just carrying a membership card. Our national charter mandates that we help our comrades in need as well as support civic obligations. Our survival depends on the fund raisers to do this."

If you need more tickets, see the bartender at the VFW Post for more ticket books. Let's make this a success for VFW Post 5040!

## Replacement's fill positions

At the last post meeting on October 17, Jim Smith, Commander 2002-2003 was nominated as Post 5040 Quartermaster, filling the vacant position. Anne Brophy and Alan Belcher will be assisting Jim in his duties.

The post also has a new cook. Please welcome Sherry Zaehler as she begins to help the post with kitchen opportunities.

## VFW Post 5040 - Post Officers 2005 - 2006

|                         |                        |                |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Commander               | Thom Gillespie         | (815)-338-6826 |
| Senior Vice Commander   | Mike David             | (815)-338-5341 |
| Junior Vice Commander   | Jim Clegg              | (815)-334-0210 |
| Quartermaster           | Jim Smith              | (815)-653-9238 |
| Assistant Quartermaster | Anne Brophy            | Unavailable    |
| Chaplain                | Howard Engstrom        | (815)-338-4453 |
| Assistant Chaplain      | Charles (Chuck) Mathey | (815)-338-5374 |
| Service Officer         | Ron Nehls              | (815)-568-0708 |
| Judge Advocate          | Dick Glawe             | (815)-385-3156 |
| Post Surgeon            | Harold Irwin           | (815)-338-1264 |
| Officer-of-the-Day      | Bruce Shisler          | (815)-338-4735 |
| Adjutant                | Matthew Klos           | (815)-479-8842 |
| 1 Year Trustee          | Larry Dhom             | (815)-338-4134 |
| 2 Year Trustee          | Allen Belcher          | (815)-338-7689 |
| 3 Year Trustee          | Arnie Doerfert         | (815)-385-2923 |

## Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 5040 Post Officers 2005 - 2006

|                       |                   |                |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| President             | Nyda Fogarty      | (815)-338-1759 |
| Senior Vice President | Bonnie Kagel      | (815)-648-4958 |
| Junior Vice           | Viola Brown       | (815)-338-1446 |
| Secretary             | Christine Gehrke  | (815)-338-3533 |
| Treasurer             | Barbara Gehrke    | (815)-338-1546 |
| Chaplain              | Karen Wells       | (815)-338-4821 |
| Guard                 | Margie Humphrey   | Unavailable    |
| Conductress           | Irene Brown       | (815)-459-3483 |
| 1 Year Trustee        | Geraldine Salyers | Unavailable    |
| 2 Year Trustee        | Lois Freund       | (815)-338-5261 |
| 3 Year Trustee        | Margaret Webb     | (815)-338-4213 |

## Ladies Auxiliary, from the president

By Nyda Fogarty  
Auxiliary President 2005-2006

Our meeting on November 3 will be our annual inspection by our Fifth District President, Carolyn Gratz.

For Veterans Day on November 11, we are asking members and wives of the Post members to **donate two pies for the annual lunch**. Any kind you make will be greatly appreciated.

The Auxiliary Annual Christmas Party and dinner will be on December 1. The plans will be discussed at the November meeting. A date for the Past President's dinner will be determined also.

The second Fifth District meeting will be held on November 6 at the Carpentersville Post. A lunch will be served at 12 p.m. prior to the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

The District Ladies fund raiser will be an all day Raffle Extravaganza at the Sequoit Post in Antioch on November 12 which will cost \$25.00. Many types of bingo games will be played.

We are happy to see Rose Mary Hellstern back at our meetings after a long recovery from her fall in June.

## VFW Post 5040 commanders column

By Thom Gillespie  
VFW Commander 2005-2006

The VFW is for the most part, volunteer based. So everyone, even the paid employees, start from a position of complete trust. When that trust is broken it damages both the VFW and the individual regardless of whose fault it is.

I try not to express my opinion because as the commander others may think my opinion carries more weight than theirs would. I want this post to be run by a group effort not a bunch of people who agree with everything I say or do.

At the floor meeting on October 19, Jim Reece was removed as Quartermaster and Jim Smith voted in. I have done three months as manager and QM in addition to being Commander. I welcome everyone's input, but I will no longer be acting as canteen manager.

Sherry Zaehler will be replacing Candy in the kitchen. The Friday fish fry will be changing a little. The kitchen staff is new and inexperienced, so there will be some bumps to smooth over. We will get through this. Somehow, we always make it through. Just as another page closes the chapter in our Post history, another one begins.

## ✠ Chaplains report ✠

By Howard Engstrom

Personal Visits:

- Otis Setser - Valley Hi
- Herb Hensel - Valley Hi

Draped Charter:

- The draping of the charter for Earl Holm will take place at the November meeting.

Comrades, if you know of a fellow veteran who would benefit from a visit, phone call, or sending of a card, please let me know. We don't always know what is going on with who, so if you keep me informed, I would appreciate it. God Bless.



## From the editors desk

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

Can you believe it's almost Thanksgiving already? Where did the year go? By now, reading to this point, you should all be aware that we have a new in cook at the VFW canteen. Yes, we will still have the Turkey Raffle dinner and yes, we are still trying to keep the Friday Night Fish Fry on.

I won't dwell on the details of all the actions that transpired from when the last *VFW News* came out last month. Since I was not present, I can't tell you much. But I can tell you that the Post marches on.

We are still getting things done at the post: Russ Freeman re-painted the VFW parking lot stripes. Thank Russ! A 60th Anniversary Committee of four founded; Mike David, Don O'Rourke, Bud Pflug and Sid Sherwin. Thanks guys! We are getting the ovens in the kitchen fixed, a handicap ramp was installed for the front office, we are donating money (\$200 to the Lakeside Legacy Arts Park for veterans art presentation, \$25 ad/donation for the Marine Corp birthday, \$150 for gifts/cards for distribution by Howard Engstrom during the Christmas season when visiting our veterans in need), and we are still operating.

Ray Bachewicz, 5th District Deputy Inspector and State POW Chair, 5th District Assistant QM, commented at the October meeting, "Post 5040 does work."

We have some rough seas ahead, and we aren't out of the woods yet. We still have some issues and we still need volunteers to help turn this Post around. It won't be easy, but we need each member to support the VFW in whatever it does. Support our fundraisers to support your VFW!

Woodstock VFW News is published monthly by Woodstock VFW Post 5040, 240 N. Throop Street, Woodstock, IL 60098. (815)-338-5040

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Woodstock VFW Post 5040, c/o VFW News Editor, 240 N. Throop Street, Woodstock, IL 60098.



Earl Holm as Commander in 1955 (Don Peasley Photo).

## Remembering commander Earl Holm

By Don Peasley  
VFW News Editor 1955-2002

Earl Holm, Commander of Woodstock Post 5040 in 1955, was a key player in the establishment of the Woodstock *VFW News*. Earl, 84, died October 15, at Memorial Medical Center.

After I had seen a small publication about 5 x 8 inches in size in Chicago, I thought it a good idea to have a publication to keep our members informed of VFW activities. I went to Earl because he was Commander and he enthusiastically endorsed the idea. He persuaded the membership to fund the publication.

In that first *VFW News* dated July 1955, Earl wrote, "Our VFW membership has a record perhaps unmatched in civic activity. We're young at heart, young in spirit, excited by the accomplishments possible for the betterment of Woodstock and for the welfare of veterans."

In that first issue we discussed a Fourth of July festival sponsored and conducted by the VFW and we explained, "Why this Publication." Through this magazine, this first issue stated, we hope to learn about:

1. Events coming up.
2. Events that have taken place.
3. The VFW and acquire an appreciation of its goals.
4. State and national activity of VFW, including its legislative policies.
5. News of members who have interesting stories or interesting careers or professions.
6. Areas where VFW works closely

with other groups on community-wide projects.

It was while Earl was Commander that Woodstock VFW announced plans to conduct the V-J Day Parade and Pageant of Drums. That first V-J Day occurred September 11, 1955 and continued annually through 1974 under VFW sponsorship. Holm was a vital leader of this event in the early years.

Earl also held a vitally important position in the VFW for many years. He was service officer, the person VFW and Auxiliary members contacted when they needed urgent help from the Post, the community or the state VFW.

Earl and his wife Lorraine were long-time active members of the VFW but for the past few years Earl's life was focused on caring for Lorraine whose health steadily declined.

Lorraine died July 27, 2005, ending a 59-year marriage for this devoted couple. I remember when the Woodstock Die Cast demolished the smoke stack. Earl and I visited the site and collected a few souvenir bricks from the base of that smoke stack. Earl worked at die casting for 44 years, retiring in 1983.

His World War II activity was with the U.S. Infantry, 95th Division. After arriving on Omaha Beach in Normandy his unit fought its way into Germany and were caught up in the all-out German counter attack called the Battle of the Bulge.

Woodstock VFW members participated in the funeral and burial with an Honor Guard and Rifle Squad on October 18.



Earl Holm in about 2000 while working as a volunteer at the Soup to Nuts Sale (Don Peasley Photo).

## Lakeside Legacy Arts Park to hold Vietnam era art exhibit

By Alan Belcher  
Lakeside Legacy Art Park Committee  
Member and VFW Post 5040 Member

We would be honored if you would attend our event "Memories of an Era, Reflections of our Time" an inspiring and compelling body of art on Saturday, November 5, 2005 at the Lakeside Legacy Arts Park, 401 Country Club Road, Crystal Lake.

In brief, it is an art exhibit, honoring those who serve in our armed forces and their families and the sacrifices they make to serve our country. When Jeanine Hill-Soldner, the artist, came to us with her show, I knew it was something out of the ordinary. Simply discussing the show with others and what it represents brings a response of caring, respect and honor. Ms. Soldner has exhibited a few of the paintings individually, and they have evoked positive and uplifting responses each time – tears come with memories, love, grief, and healing.

The proposed schedule is as follows:

12 noon – Opening Ceremony (may include U.S. Navy Band and U.S Marine Corps Color Guard)

12 noon- 5pm – Viewing of Exhibit by public

7 pm – Special Artist's Reception by invitation only.

We have invited others, too, political dignitaries, the entire 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, USMC, all veterans far and wide, and our Legacy members. We are expecting a crowd.

Please consider this a courtesy call to inform you of what is coming up. Please feel free to pass this invitation on to the other veterans, their families and friends. Also, please help us get the word out to all the local veteran posts.

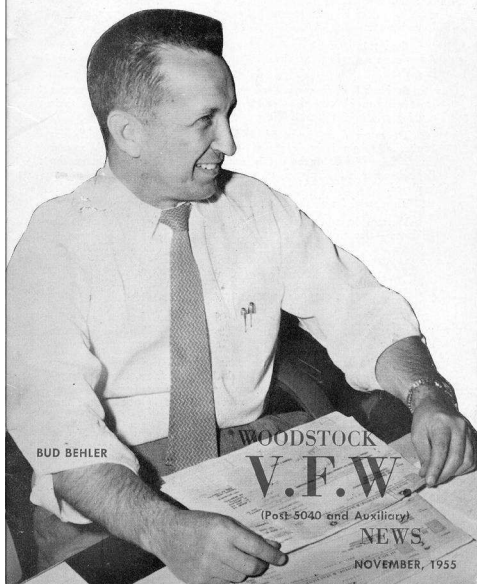
### About the Artist

"Memories of an Era, Reflections of our Time" is a labor of love. I have made a commitment in my art that it should move beyond the marketplace, and reach deeper into complexities of human experiences.

I have also made a commitment to delve deeper into the stories we tell, and the memories we cherish or fear. We are who we are because of our memories. Each one of us shares a collective memory that is developed in context with the society we share with others. But it is our

See ARTIST, page 4.

OUR MEMBERS: First In A Series



The front cover of the November 1955 VFW News issue. As quoted in this issue, "Bud Behler, shown at his desk at Electric Auto-Lite, is one of the mainstays of Post 5040. He's featured in the first story of a series on members of the post. (Photo by Don Peasley)."

## 50 years ago this month

By Matt Klos

With the 50th Anniversary of the *VFW News* honored in the July 2005 issue, each month until July 2006, a column will be featured looking back 50 years to the current month. In the November 1955 issue of the *VFW News*:

- Earl Holm is commander. He begins his column by supporting "Know Your American Week" which is "...intended to call everyone's attention to the need to become informed about our government, its activities, an the heritage which frankly too many take for granted. To want to defeat Communism and preserve human freedom, we have to know what we're defending."
- Auxiliary President Leonie Kennedy reports that \$500 was collected during the cerebral palsy drive.
- The VFW plans its second annual Christmas party for children of members and Auxiliary members on December 18. There will be gifts for every child age 1 through 12 who are signed up. There will be grab bags for

the adults (\$1.00 is asked of every adult to cover cost). Attendance is expected to attract about 500.

- Dean Mishler and Leroy Corey are appointed assistant inspectors for the fifth district.
- Ray Gaylord dominated the Fishing contest of which Lou Gehrke was chairman. Prizes were two spinning rods and various cash prizes, ranging from \$3.00 to \$6.00 per category.
- Bud (Marx) Behler featured the *VFW News*. He is number 46 on the charter list and at the time of the story was 37 years old, working 18 years at Electric Auto-Lite. He is a Navy vet, serving from 1942 to 1945.
- Feather Party to be held on November 18.
- Notice goes out to get your dues in. Make sure you pay that cost of \$3.00 to be paid up for 1956!
- On months that there is 5 Mondays in a month, it is mentioned that the VFW and Auxiliary hold a joint meeting.
- Bowling league results published, along with some high scores in a series.

## New Illinois universal veterans license plates issued

By Matt Klos, *VFW News* Editor

Have you seen the new look of the Illinois Universal Veterans license plates yet? If you haven't, they look a bit different with an added graphic of the state of Illinois on the right side of the plate and thick, bold blue lines on the top and bottom with the word "Illinois" in red and bold, centered on the top blue line.

Some of you may have these Universal Veterans plates on your vehicle now. You should be receiving the newer, updated version from the state very soon if you have not gotten them already.

These will replace the older version of the plate and you will also be sent a new registration sticker for the new plate (same expiration date as what you currently have now).

With the Universal Veteran license plate, you have the option of applying a Theater of Action sticker and Branch of Service sticker to the left side of the plate, covering the red, white and blue state of Illinois picture which is surrounded by the words "Illinois Veteran". These stickers

are not supplied with the plate replacement. You will need to order them separately. These take about two weeks to get.

If you wish to order the stickers, you can go online to get a copy of the order form at: [illegion.org/plates.html#](http://illegion.org/plates.html#)

These are ordered through the American Legion. If you don't have access to a computer, you can write to the following address for a application form:

**American Legion  
Department Adjutant  
2720 E. Lincoln Street  
Bloomington, IL 61704-6010**

Stickers are \$2.00 and \$3.50 for the Theater of Action and Branch of Service, respectively. Total cost for a set of plates will cost you \$11.00 total.



## Artist

Continued from page 3.

personal memories that make us who we are. I believe we dream through our individual memories and in many ways live out our lives in accordance with our previous experiences.

The paintings in this exhibit were developed from family snapshots and photos that were taken during my Dad's first tour of duty during the Vietnam War. I began this work in early 2000 because I wanted to establish a narrative. I felt I had something to say and a story that needed telling. The orange skies represent Agent Orange, a dioxin-based herbicide that was liberally sprayed in Vietnam from 1961-1970.

The men in the paintings and photos are members of Bravo Company 3rd Recon Battalion, United States Marine Corps. These were the first ground troops to enter Vietnam in 1965. My Dad returned to Vietnam in 1968-1969. This exhibit is for my Dad, all of those who have gone to war, those who have not returned, and their families.

Jeanine Hill-Soldner  
Algonquin, Illinois

# November 2005

☆☆☆☆☆☆ Post Normal Operating Hours (unless noted otherwise - closing times vary depending on patronage) ☆☆☆☆☆☆

| Closed   | 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm  | 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm   | 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm  | 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm   | 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm  | 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm   |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday  |
| 30   | 31   | 1   | 2   | 3<br>VFW Ladies Auxiliary<br>7:00 pm  | 4<br>Fish Fry / Salad Bar<br>5 - 8 pm   | 5   |
| 6  | 7<br>Memorial Day<br>Committee 7 pm  | 8<br>Dirtt Group 7 pm<br>VFW Board Mtg.<br>6:30 pm                  | 9<br>Cub Scouts - ?? Pm   | 10  | 11<br><br><b>Veterans Day</b><br>Ceremony at Post<br>11 am, Lunch at 12 pm<br>Fish Fry / Salad Bar<br>5 - 8 pm | 12  |
| 13<br>VFW Officers Mtg.<br>6:30 pm<br>American Legion<br>7:30 pm | 14   | 15<br>Dirtt Group 7 pm  | 16<br>Veterans Assistance<br>Commission of<br>McHenry County<br>7:30 pm | 17<br>Marines 7 pm<br>Marines Auxiliary 7 pm  | 18<br>Fish Fry / Salad Bar<br>5 - 8 pm  | 19<br><b>Turkey Raffle<br/>and Dinner</b><br>6 - 8 pm<br> |
| 20   | 21<br>VFW Meeting 7:30 pm<br>VFW Pre-Meeting<br>Dinner (VFW Members<br>Only) 6:30 pm<br>Deadline for December<br>2005 VFW News items | 22<br>Dirtt Group 7 pm<br>VFW Board Mtg.<br>6:30 pm<br>Jaycees 7 pm | 23  | 24<br><b>Happy<br/>Thanksgiving</b><br> | 25<br>Fish Fry / Salad Bar<br>5 - 8 pm  | 26  |
| 27<br>Girls Softball ?? Pm                                       | 28   | 29<br>Dirtt Group 7 pm  | 30  | 1   | 2<br>Fish Fry / Salad Bar<br>5 - 8 pm   | 3   |

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**Letters to the Editor....**

If you would like to send a letter to the editor, please send it to the following address (do not send it to the post address):



**Matt Klos**  
**VFW 5040 News Editor**  
**269 Forest Drive**  
**Crystal Lake, IL 60014**  
**(815)-479-8842**

And for those of you with access to the internet, you can e-mail me at:

**matt.klos@vfw5040.org**

Visit our Post Website:  
**www.vfw5040.org**

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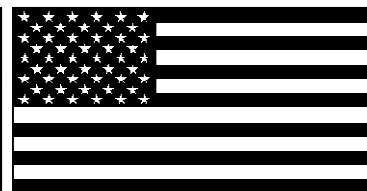
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