



VFW News

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Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

Veterans day 2005

By Don Peasley
VFW News Editor 1955-2002

A large turnout crowded around program participants as Woodstock honored veterans of all wars with its annual Veterans Day tribute Friday, November 11. That date - November 11 in 1918 - marked the end of World War I. Armistice Day was observed for years, always on that date marking the end of World War I, "the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month."

President Dwight Eisenhower changed the name to Veterans Day in 1954 to recognize men and women who served in the Korean War.

The tradition of honoring all veterans continues. VFW Chaplain Howard Engstrom included those who have served and are serving in Afghanistan and Iraq in his prayers to Almighty God. Engstrom, World War II veteran, expressed thankfulness that we live in a country where citizens are willing to "pay the ultimate sacrifice to grant us freedom, prosperity and blessing."

He expressed thanks to our Heavenly Father for veterans' willingness to preserve the United States as a peaceful nation. Added Engstrom, "We pray that you will keep the United States a shrine of peace and democracy. May we all cultivate a spirit of peace and unity. May we perpetuate this day to honor our veterans

See VETERANS DAY, page 3.

Turkey raffle 2005 a great success!

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

On November 19, the post conducted its annual turkey raffle at VFW Post 5040. This raffle has been an annual event for a long time. So long in fact that, according to Don Sword, "they were giving away live turkeys when it first began."

Times have changed and we now give out frozen turkeys. However, the benefits to the post remain the same. As the Post's primary fund raiser, we count on good success to help raise the much needed funds to sustain the post throughout the coming year.

Proceeds from this raffle go toward the raffle account which helps pay post expenses, repairs, salaries, and utilities. Some of the funds, when needed, can be shifted to other accounts such as the relief fund.

There were three grand monetary prizes given away this year. As in previous years, the familiar prizes of 40 turkeys

were also given away, plus an additional turkey as an attendance drawing. The following are the grand prize winners for this year:

1st Prize: \$150.00
Bob and Marilyn Beggs
Marengo

2nd Prize: \$100.00
Reichert Chevrolet
Crystal Lake

3rd Prize: \$50.00
Ken Belongia

Congratulations to the winners! Reichert Chevrolet, upon notification of winning, donated their winning prize back to the VFW Post.

Chairman for this event was Jim Clegg. As unofficial co-chairman, Don Sword lended a helping hand with this event to help ensure the preparations were taken care of.

There was a full house on raffle night, with the Jaycees holding a party on the

See TURKEY RAFFLE, page 6.



Thom Gillespie and his wife Becky (left) welcome Gideon Blustein, District Director for Congresswoman Melissa Bean, and Woodstock Mayor Brian Sager to Woodstock's Veterans Day program at the VFW. (Matt Klos Photo).

Bob Schroeder sounds the bugle for the Veterans Day ceremony (Matt Klos Photo).



Composed of six World War II and three Korean veterans, the Rifle Squad pauses following Veterans Day services. From left: Ron Nehls, Commander; Harold Irwin, Bruce Shisler, Henry Nulle, Bob Gibson, Chuck Mathey, Dick Glawe, Bill Lyford and Larry Dhom. Nehls, Mathey and Glawe are Korean War veterans. (Don Peasley Photo).



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 annual inspection by the 5th District President scheduled for the November 3 meeting had to be postponed until later date due to some officers unable to attend.

December 1 will be our annual Christmas party and dinner with a \$5.00 gift exchange. Please bring some white elephants that are wrapped for game prizes. Meat and coffee will be furnished and bring a dish to pass. Cocktails will be at 6 pm and dinner at 7 pm. For those who are in attendance with current dues paid up will be eligible for the 3 free dues drawing for the coming year.

The Past Presidents dinner will be held on Thursday, December 8. Meet at the Post and we will depart at 7:15 pm for the Heritage House for dinner. There will be a \$5.00 gift exchange.

We are sorry to report that our long time and faithful member Ruth Gehrke fell and had to have surgery. We hope she will have a quick recovery and be back with us very soon.

I want to thank everyone who brought pies to the Veteran's Day lunch on November 11. We had plenty and leftovers were used for the Fish fry that evening.

If you haven't paid you dues for this year, please do so before December 31.

I wish everyone a happy holiday season and good health for 2006.

Iraq and Afghanistan purple heart recipients: register for free trip

From the National VFW Website

If you received a Purple Heart while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, you could be one of 12 veterans to win VFW's trip to Orlando either May 26-29 or June 16-19, 2006. Airfare, luxurious hotel accommodations, a two-day pass to Disney World for you and a guest, and \$250 per person for expenses are included.

Only one entry per veteran will be accepted and must be received by March 15, 2006. Winners will be notified by mail or email. To fully qualify for the trip, winners must send a copy of their Purple Heart documentation to VFW Headquarters by April 15, 2006.

Travel arrangements and other costs for family members are at winner's expense.

For an entry form, please visit the following web site:

<http://www.vfw.org/resources/pdf/orlandotrip.pdf>

✠ Chaplains report ✠

By Howard Engstrom

Personal Visits:

- Salyer Family (Bob), home
- Glen Anderson, Hearthstone Manor (relative of Charlie Mathey)
- Roman Ziarski, Hearthstone Manor
- Russ Dycus, Memorial Hospital
- Ed Reid, WSK Residence (McHenry Post)

Wake / Funerals:

- Earl Holm
- Angela Miras (Floyd Miras' wife)
- Jim Farrell

Phone / Cards:

- Holm Family
- Miras Family
- Gaylord Stebbins Family (mother died)
- Russ Dycus
- Fred Wallis

Drape Charter:

- Earl Holm
- Henry Rasmussen
- John VanLanduyt
- Jim Farrell
- Harris Wesson

Another wonderful Holiday season is here. Let us be thankful and count our blessings: friends, families, our country, freedom, peace, good health and above all thanks to God for His mercy and goodness. May you all enjoy a pleasant holiday season. A merry Christmas to all and stay well.

Advertising sponsorship renewals

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

Attention all sponsors that have ads in the VFW News. Thank you for your support this year in keeping an ad in our VFW News letter.

A renewal letter will be sent out sometime in early December regarding your renewal of advertising space in the VFW News for the 2006 calendar year. Please be on the lookout for this. The cost for the ad space during the next year will remain at \$100.00 for the entire year.

As a courtesy, if you so desire, an ad link to your business will also be posted on the Woodstock VFW Post 5040 website at no additional charge. Current businesses that have asked to put a link on the website can be found at the following link:

http://www.vfw5040.org/Post_Newsletter.html

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

Veterans day

Continued from page 1.

in this community and to honor our veterans around the world who today are making the supreme sacrifice.”

Mayor Brian Sager joined in the ceremony conducted by Thom Gillespie, Post 5040 Commander. Sager expressed thanks to veterans for serving this nation and recalled that men and women have given and continue to give their time and life in a sacrifice to support the United States.

“They are in the hearts of all of us. They realize that rights and freedom do not come without sacrifice. We remember with pride and gratitude those in the Armed Forces today,” concluded Sager.

Congresswoman Melissa Bean sent her Veterans Day tribute through her District director, Gideon Blustein. Reading her message, Bean said, “As a daughter of a former Marine, I have a special appreciation for our veterans and their contributions to our great nation.

“Freedoms and prosperity we enjoy today are due in large part to the millions who have served or are currently serving in our Armed Forces.”



Thom Gillespie and his wife Becky (left) welcome Teresa Bartels, Republican candidate for Congress, and Woodstock Mayor Brian Sager to Woodstock's Veterans Day program at the VFW. (Don Peasley Photo)



Woodstock residents honored veterans with the annual Veterans Day ceremony at the VFW on Nov. 11. Chaplain Howard Engstrom expressed a special prayer for those that have paid “the ultimate sacrifice.” Thom Gillespie (left), VFW Commander, conducted the ceremony in the VFW parking lot. (Don Peasley Photo).

Bean said veterans have expressed concern to her about a breakdown in the quality and efficiency of medical care. She said the Department of Veterans Affairs has taken new, innovative steps to improve the quality of services provided veterans and has worked to increase efficiency.

Bean expressed this personal concern: “The duration of processing disability claims, coverage of services and improved accessibility to the VA continue to be issues of importance.”

Bean said she has signed on to support three pieces of legislation that take steps to address those issues and to treat current veterans and veterans returning from Iraq “with the respect they deserve.”

“Adopting those three measures will bring a level of equity to veterans’ benefits that is lacking now.”

Bean told the audience, which included a large number of veterans, that she will work hard to see that Congress makes it a priority to improve veterans’ services.

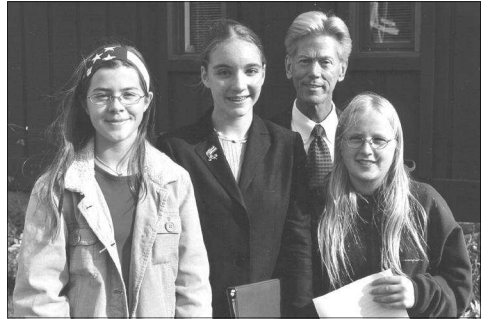
The three legislations Bean refers to are (1) H.R. 303 Retired Pay Restoration Act; (2) H.R. 968 updating the Survivor Benefit Plan; and (3) H.R. 4025 The Disabled Veterans Fairness Act.

Nyda Fogarty, president of the Woodstock VFW Auxiliary offered a tribute to veterans followed by Dwayne Raney, American Legion chaplain, giving the

closing prayer.

During the program three Northwood students read winning essays on the theme, “Honor Through Service.” Those students were Kelly Goerlitz, 6th grade, Lark Meiners, 7th grade, and Lauraleigh Heffner, 8th grade. Heffner also led the audience in singing the National Anthem and God Bless America.

A ham dinner was served to program participants and the public, prepared by VFW staff members and served by both Auxiliary and VFW members.



Northwood Middle School students who wrote winning essays meet with Woodstock Mayor Brian Sager after their presentations at the Veterans Day program. Essay theme was “Honor Through Service.” From left: Lark Meiners, 7th grade, Lauraleigh Heffner, 8th grade, and Kelly Goerlitz, 6th grade. Heffner also led the crowd in singing the National Anthem and God Bless America. (Don Peasley Photo).



Spectators listen to the Veterans Day ceremony in the VFW Parking lot. (Matt Klos Photo).



Four veterans meet following the annual Veterans Day program at the VFW on Friday, November 11. From left: Casimir Polizzi (seated), Gerald Donahue, Ed Hall and Bob Schroeder. Schroeder has been a bugler for Memorial Day, Veterans Day and thousands of funerals for more than 40 years. (Don Peasley Photo).



Dwayne Raney (right), American Legion Chaplain, gives the closing prayer to conclude Woodstock's Veterans Day observance November 11. (Matt Klos Photo).



After the Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11, guests were served a ham dinner. Members of the rifle squad (back to camera from the right) are Bob Gibson, Charlie Mathey, and Hank Engstrom. A total of 77 dinners were served. (Matt Klos Photo).



The front cover of the December 1955 VFW News issue. As quoted in this issue, "Christmas 1955! This beautifully-decorated tree at the Post was loaded down with gifts for children of members just before the annual party in mid-December. More than 400 children attended the event. The toys will bring fun to the children. This tree will be a friendly expression of Season's Greetings whenever you visit your VFW. (Photo by Don Peasley)."

VFW post 5040 commander's column

By Thom Gillespie, Commander

This VFW club is a vision of how we want things to be. We get caught up in the little details and lose sight of the big picture.

The vision I had of the VFW is not going to come to pass because of my own inability to get the general membership to see the big picture.

At the last floor meeting we had 24 for dinner and 29 at the meeting. It seems to me that everyone is just sitting around waiting for enough people to die to force us to close the post.

Harold Irwin did an excellent job of finding people in McHenry County that are eligible to join but no one follows up anymore.

I've asked the VFW News editor to include the last audit report (right) so you can see what is actually on the books. If you have any questions on this, come on down for to a monthly meeting and we can get them answered for you.

50 years ago this month

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

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 December 1955 issue of the VFW News:

- Leonie Kennedy (Auxiliary President) comments on the Auxiliary monthly visits to Downey Hospital and the parties put on for patients. The Esquires go with them to provide music.
- New Year's Eve party to start at 9:30 pm with dancing until 2:00 am. Auxiliary to serve ham and eggs from 12:30 am until very early in the AM.
- Members vote to buy a flagpole for St. Mary's school.
- \$600 was voted to be sent to the Denver hospital where Mrs. Gene Mishler is being treated for polio.
- Moose Lodge holds teen-age dance at

VFW hall for 200 teen-agers; Jack Freund of the Moose and his committee handle the event.

- Auxiliary and VFW members wrap 400+ Christmas gifts for children of VFW members.
- VFW bowling makes the newsletter. The post sponsors a full league of 10 teams at Edgetown Lanes and a team at Sherburne Lanes.
- 522 guests attended the Annual Christmas party!
- Roger Schultz is the winner in a Pheasant Contest. His entry was 25 7/8-inch (tail feather that long).
- VFW receive national attention for \$1,500 pledge to the Memorial Hospital for McHenry County fund drive.
- Commander Earl Holm presents the post's annual award for Most Valuable player to Terry Britz, St. Mary's quarterback who piloted the team to the conference co-championship.

Trustee's Report of Audit of				
The books & records of the Quartermaster & Adjutant of 5th Dist. POST 5040				
Department of ILLINOIS for the Quarter ending Dec 31,2005				
FISCAL Quarter >>>		Oct-05		
POST 5040				
	Start of Qtr	QTR In	QTR Out	End of Qtr
1. Nat & Dept Dues	1,222.00	192.50	525.00	889.50
2. Admin or App Fees	542.34		240.00	302.34
3. POST Gen Fund	12,113.63	200.00	815.81	11,497.82
4. POST Relief Fund	2,007.10		122.00	1,885.10
5. Post Dues Reserve Fund	2,447.26			2,447.26
6. Post HOME Fund	258.89	5,610.50	3,840.63	2,028.76
7. New Building Fund	12,785.49	240.00		13,025.49
8. Fly Flag Book Fund	2,041.46			2,041.46
9. Memorial Day Fund	2,256.25			2,256.25
10. Raffel Account	3,132.13	4,890.67	173.00	7,849.80
11. Other in Post Account	4,509.13	740.25	1,085.26	4,164.12
12. Rifle Squad	2,247.90	163.00	75.00	2,335.90
13. Post Bar / CAN-TEEN Acct.	3,560.38	6,693.93	7,269.27	2,985.04
14. Pull Tab Account ILL. LISC. P-0839	4,008.52	994.00	200.00	4,802.52
15. Savings Account Interest	241.56			241.56
Totals:	53,374.04			58,752.92
Post AND Savings Total	42,431.45	7,146.25	6,703.70	42,874.00
Operations		Reconciliation of Fund & Account Balances		
Have required payroll deductions been made?	Yes	Savings Acct		29,453.65
Tax Payments been made to ST. & Fed?	Yes	Canteen Bar		3,156.85
Sales Taxes collected & PAID?	Yes	Post Acct		13,490.10
Club employees bonded?	some	Pull Tab Acct		4,802.52
Amount of outstanding bills?	\$ -	Raffel Acct		7,849.80
Value of Real Estate?	\$ 540,000.00	Uncleared checks		
Amount of Liability Insurance?	\$ 2,000,000.00	Quicken Total		58,752.92
Owed on Mortgages & Loans?	\$ -			
Trustee's & Commander's Certificate of Audit				

Christmas tree sale

Submitted by Dwayne Raney

AMVETS

POST 269 M.A.C.V.

Christmas Trees

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
FAMILIES IN McHENRY COUNTY

Tree Range: 3' to 15'

Types: Balsam, Concolor, Douglas Firs
Frasier Firs, & Scotch Pines

Roping is available this year!
Handmade Wreaths

* Drop off your Toys For Tots here *
Toys must be new and please
do not gift wrap.

* Bring in Food for the Needy *
(\$3.00 off any tree if you bring in
4 non-perishable food items)

TREE SALES BEGIN FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 25

Monday – Thursday 4pm to 7pm
Friday 4pm to 8pm
Saturday & Sunday 10am to 7pm

Location: Woodstock, on Davis Rd behind
the old Farm & Fleet building at the south-
west corner of Route 14 & 47.

Snowbirds, your address changes are needed

If you are one of the many snowbirds
who fly south for the winter months, we
need to know your temporary address
change. If you don't let us know, you will
probably not receive this newsletter while
you are gone. Send address changes to:
Ralph Ritter, VFW Address Change, 412
Davis Court, Woodstock, IL, 60098-4006.

VFW new years eve party in planning

By Becky Gillespie

It was brought up through discussions at
the post that we should have a New Year's
Eve Party. We are still discussing this and
the details need to be worked out.

If we decided to do this, we would couple
this event with the Adult Child Rehab
Center.

Current details we have at this time are
that we would have a DJ to play music for
dancing, this would be a sign-up only
event and cost would be \$10.00 at the
door. The event would commence at 7:00
pm on New Year's Eve. There would not
be a formal dinner, however Hors'devours
would be served.

St. Mary's students honor veterans day

By Don Peasley, VFW News Editor 1955-2002

St. Mary's School students, faculty and parents participated in an assembly in the gymnasium to honor veterans with a program during the week the nation honors all veterans on a day devoted to the memory and recognition to those who have served (or are serving) in the military forces of this country. Students were encouraged to invite a family member or friend who had served in the armed forces of the United States.

Ed O'Brien, superintendent, reviewed the history of Veterans Day and said, "After many years of fighting, World War I ended with an armistice. Fighting on the western front in Europe ended on November 11, 1918, and until 1954 that date was honored as Armistice Day.

"President Dwight Eisenhower in 1954 designated November 11 as Veterans Day to honor all those who had served in the military service which by that time included men and women involved in the Korean War."

O'Brien said, "Since that time veterans have served in Vietnam, Desert Storm war and in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Recognizing veterans in the audience, O'Brien added, "Some of those with us today were directly involved in these military campaigns.

"We honor them and all who served our country to defend our safety, personal liberties and freedom. Always remember that those who wear our nation's uniforms serve with pride.

"Today we say 'Thank You' to veterans and tell all veterans we are proud to be Americans."



Students at St. Mary School, Woodstock, honored veterans with an all-school assembly prior to Veterans Day. Students were invited to bring a friend or relative to join them in the ceremony in the gymnasium on Tuesday, November 8. From left: Caitlin Clark (Dad is Jim Smith, absent); Julia Young (deceased grandfather John Kilty); Brendan Connell (grandfather James Connell, absent); Louis Pillizzi with granddaughter Olivia Morrissey; Emily Gries with grandfather Steve Karson; Nolan Downes with grandfather Glenn Peterson; and Roger King, Korean War veteran. (Don Peasley Photo).

If you don't have formal plans for New Year's Eve and are interested in such an event, please call the post and let us know that you would be interested so we can get an idea of what the response is from the membership. Call the post at (815)-338-5040.

*Have a Wonderful
and Happy New Year
VFW Post 5040!*

Christmas clearing house food collection

The Post has donated \$100.00 to the "Christmas Clearing House", Woodstock, IL. Christmas Clearing House was started in 1970 by Woodstock Girl Scout troops. Last year they served over 700 families!

We will be putting a collection barrel in bar area to collect non-perishable food and toys. Please donate if you come in for a visit to the bar to help a good cause.

Turkey raffle

Continued from page 1.

upper level and the turkey raffle held on the lower level. The bar was packed and kept the three to four bartenders constantly moving throughout the night.

Approximately 300 dinners were served this night. Dinner for the night was, of course, turkey. A lot of it at that. Prepared were six 25 lb. turkeys, three 12 lb. turkeys, one 18 lb. turkey, and 30 lbs. of turkey breast.

As dinner was served to patrons throughout the night by the volunteer help of the 18 Woodstock Little League members, the traditional paddle wheel was spun. Bob Gaylord announced the winning numbers of the prizes for each paddle wheel series which consisted of two turkeys and a meat package. A total of 15 series were run, each with 90 tickets at \$1.00 per ticket. This brought in \$1,350.00

Towards the end of the night, the grand prizes were awarded. Ray Benoy, VFW member and owner of Benoy Motors in Woodstock, drew out the \$150.00 grand prize. A big thank you goes out to Ray who sold approximately 7,200 tickets for this raffle. Ray has continuously helped the post each year by selling a large number of tickets.

Now for the breakdown in numbers. A total of 16,000 tickets were ordered this year. Sent out to each member on the mailing list as well as businesses were 625 books of 10 tickets each. Interestingly, only about 44% of the tickets sent out were returned with filled out stubs and money to go with them.

Only 49 dinners were sold the actual night of the raffle. The rest were free dinners for each book ten tickets sold. If you sold a book of ten, a free dinner ticket was given to the seller. Ticket sales amounted to \$12,500. We actually ran out of turkey raffle tickets the night of the raffle.

Taking out the expense of the 74 turkeys, 12 meat packages, kitchen (cook) help, the net profit for the night was \$11,376.00. This was a very successful night for the post.

This raffle wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for the many helping hands that donated the time to make this a success. Thank you to the many people that helped in the kitchen, many of them donating their time for free, the Woodstock Little League that bussed tables, served food and soft drinks (the Kunzie, Stroh, and Barger family and friends), the people that set up the tables and chairs, and especially the patrons who bought raffle and paddle wheel tickets, the post thanks you all. There are a lot of people (VFW members, bar staff, kitchen staff, family and friends of members of the VFW) whom I didn't mention, but you know who you are. Thank you so much for your time and effort. We couldn't have done without you. You helped to make this a very successful Turkey Raffle 2005!



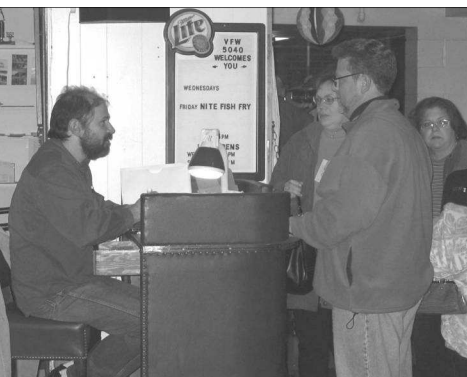
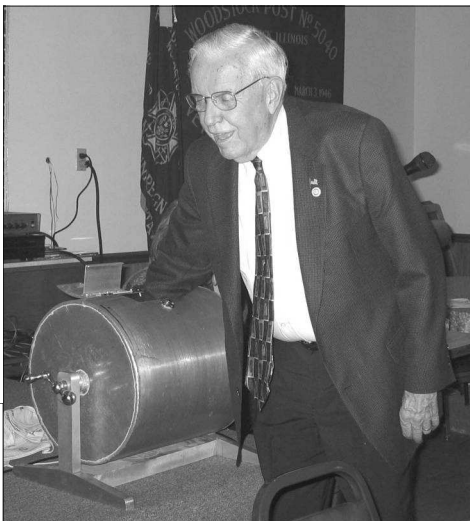
Thom and Becky Gillespie's daughter, Calena Magnuson, helps out in the kitchen preparing plates of turkey, mashed potatoes, and fixings. Woodstock Little League members bussed and served the plates of food. (Matt Klos Photo).



The Ladies Auxiliary was also raising money the night of the raffle for the Youth School Fund and Cancer Aid & Research Fund. Raffle tickets were sold by the volunteers of Chris Gerhke (left), Ladies Auxiliary Secretary, Amber Francis (holding wreath to be given away), and Ellie Stroh (holding a Mary Kay basket to be given away). Bob Gaylord (right) helps hold the microphone. (Matt Klos Photo).

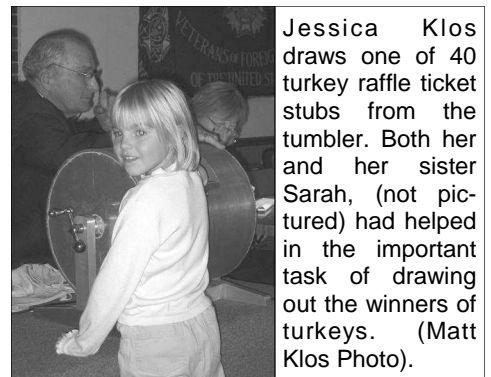


Turkey raffle patrons enjoy friendly conversation and a turkey dinner plate. About 300 turkey dinners were served at the Turkey Raffle dinner. (Matt Klos Photo).



VFW Commander Thom Gillespie (above, left) greets Turkey Raffle patrons at the door. A total of 49 dinner tickets were sold the night of the dinner with the rest of the dinner tickets earned by people selling a book of 10 tickets, thus receiving a free dinner. (Matt Klos Photo).

Ray Benoy (right), who sold 7,200 tickets, draws out the winning prize ticket stub for the \$150.00 grand prize drawing. Bob and Marilyn Beggs were the winner. (Matt Klos Photo).



Jessica Klos draws one of 40 turkey raffle ticket stubs from the tumbler. Both her and her sister Sarah, (not pictured) had helped in the important task of drawing out the winners of turkeys. (Matt Klos Photo).

**A big
"thank you"
to all that helped in
making the 2005
Turkey Raffle a great
success !!!**

December 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
27	28	29	30	1 VFW Ladies Auxiliary 7:00 pm	2 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	3
4	5 Memorial Day Committee 7 pm	6 Dirtt Group 7 pm	7	8	9 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	10
11	12 VFW Officers Mtg. 6:30 pm American Legion 7:30 pm	13 VFW Board Mtg. 6:30 pm Dirtt Group 7 pm	14 Cub Scouts - ?? Pm	15 Marines 7 pm Marines Auxiliary 7 pm	16 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	17
18	19 VFW Meeting 7:30 pm VFW Pre-Meeting Dinner (VFW Members Only) 6:30 pm Deadline for January 2006 VFW News items	20 Dirtt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	21 Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:30 pm	22	23 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	24
 25 Merry Christmas	26 Girls Softball ?? Pm	27 VFW Board Mtg. 6:30 pm Dirtt Group 7 pm	28	29	30 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	 31 New Year's Eve

From the editors desk By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor



Well, it's the last *VFW News* for 2005! I hope you enjoyed some of the pictures from Veterans Day and the Turkey Raffle. This year was the first year I attended the Turkey Raffle. In previous years I either just forgot about it or had something else going on. When I mentioned it to my wife on the day of the raffle, she thought we should check it out. I could then get some pictures too if we went. We had a fun time and the kids liked it too. My daughter, Jessica, even won a turkey in one of the paddle wheel series.

Well, this has been an interesting year at the post, hasn't it? We've had some turmoil down at the post (some of the columns in this newsletter have communicated this somewhat), we had the Sweetheart Raffle in February 2005, we changed printers for the *VFW News* in March 2005, the Vietnam Moving Wall came to Woodstock in May 2005 over Memorial Day, the *VFW News* celebrated 50 years in July 2005, we had a good turnout for Veterans Day and the Turkey Raffle in November 2005, and now here it is December 2005. So what's in store for 2006? Ah...good question. This is up to you. You make the post what it is today. If you want to make it better, get involved during 2006. Don't forget, March 4, 2006 marks the 60th anniversary of our Post. Is this next year your year to get involved? Give it a try.

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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):



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

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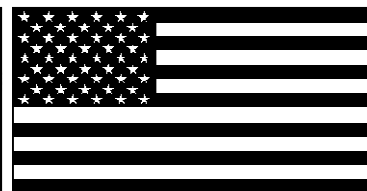
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