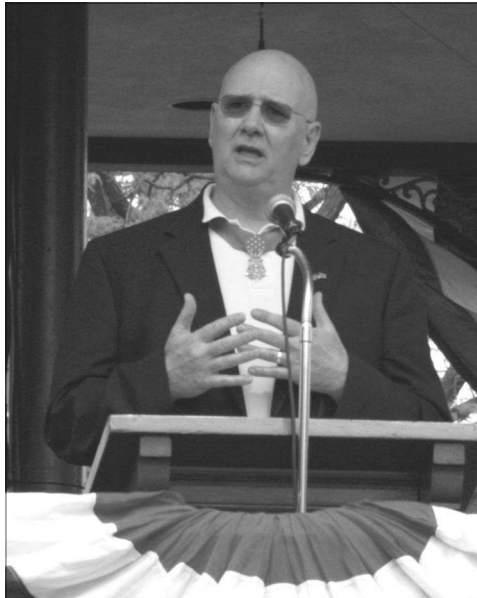




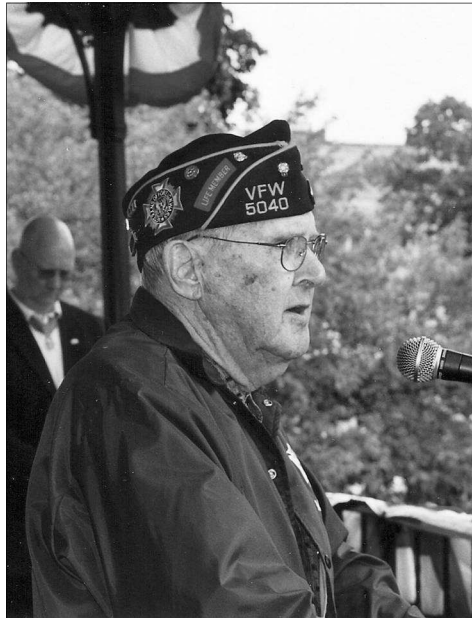
VFW News

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Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary



Sergeant Allen Lynch, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient during Vietnam, addresses the 2008 Memorial Day crowd on Woodstock Square. (Ryan Klos photo)



Howard Engstrom, who gave the closing prayer at Woodstock's Memorial Day service, performed his last public duty as the Post Chaplain. He served in that important office for four years. (Don Peasley photo)

Classic car show coming to VFW parking lot in July



VFW Post 5040 parking lot will be host to a classic car show on Saturday, July 12, 11am - 5pm. 1950's thru 1960's year cars will be featured. The entry fee will be \$10.00. You must sign up at the VFW to participate.

The purpose is to raise funds for the VFW and just have a little fun. A beer tent is planned for outside, food inside the VFW, and possibly music too.

For additional information or questions, please call Jeanne Kulinski at the VFW (815)-338-5040.

Poppy Day Results

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

Poppy Chairman, Jr. Vice Commander Mike Lackey, reported at the May Post meeting the results of this years Poppy drive on May 16 and 17.

Over \$5175.44 was raised in donations this year, beating last years donations by \$172.

Funds raised in the annual Poppy Donations by VFW Post 5040 specifically go veterans relief purposes as stated in the VFW National By-Laws (i.e. these funds cannot be used for Post upkeep, bills, etc.)

Memorial Day 2008

By Don Peasley
VFW News Editor 1955-2002

"Memorial Day is a good time to remember," declared Allen Lynch, headline speaker at Woodstock Memorial Day observance Monday, May 26, "but Memorial Day is more than remembering. It is also a time to refocus."

"It's a time to rededicate ourselves to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice."

"Memorial Day is a time for us to consider how we might best honor those who did so much for this nation."

During the Vietnam War on December 15, 1967 Sergeant Lynch distinguished himself on the battlefield and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Lynch asserted, "We honor those who died by continuing to ensure that this nation remains the Land of the Free. Every citizen has the right to be the best that they can be."

"We honor them by ensuring that each one of us who is able was up to the oath we took when we joined the military—to

support and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Concluded Lynch, "We honor them to ensure our freedoms remain intact, those freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights."

Alan Belcher, master of ceremonies, introduced two distinguished Woodstock veterans as parade marshals. Larry Dhom served in the Marines during World War II and was involved in battle action on a number of islands in the Pacific including the climactic invasion of Okinawa on April 1, 1945.

Charles Mathey, Korean War veteran, served in the Army in Korea in 1951 and was later shifted to duties in Japan as a vehicle mechanic, then as a member of an evacuation unit.

Members of this year's Memorial Day committee were Dick Schroeder, Gay and Alan Belcher, Nyda Fogarty, Dwayne Raney, Bill Urch, Dick Glawe and Marv Munson.

Lightning Update:

\$851 jackpot was won by Kelly G. on 5-23-08

Jackpot now up to **\$241**

Come out on Friday's and play!



Ladies Auxiliary from the President

By Nyda Fogarty, President 2007-2008

Our election of officers was held in May instead of April. The results are as follows:

VFW Post 5040 Ladies Auxiliary Officers for 2008-2009

- President: *Nyda Fogarty*
- Senior Vice President: *Bonnie Kagle*
- Junior Vice President: *Viola Brown*
- Treasurer: *Barbara Gehrke*
- Secretary: *Christine Gehrke*
- Chaplain: *Karen Wells*
- Patriotic Instructor: *Lois Freund*
- 1 year Trustee: *Lois Freund*
- 2 year Trustee: *Geraldine Salyers*
- 3 year Trustee: *Irene Brown*

The following members have not yet paid their dues for this year: Mary Carpenter, Marian Cone, Betty Huebsch, Margie Humphries, Margaret Johnson, Betty Magnuson, Mary Olcott, Suzie Slack, Sally Shoemaker, Delores Sporleder, Marie Wille, and Kathy Schmeiding.

If you want to be current and have your membership and coverage for cancer insurance these must be paid by July 1, 2008.

We are happy to have our officers for this coming year and thank each of you for helping out another year in your respective positions. It is getting increasingly difficult to get officers every year and we don't want to see our Auxiliary dissolved due to membership issues.

VFW News wins first place at the Department level

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

I have some good news to report to our membership. This newsletter that you are reading, the *Woodstock VFW News*, took first place again this year at the Department (State) level in the Medium Post Category Publications Contest. Subsequently it was entered at the National Level for competition.

Barbara Wilson, Editor of the *Illinois VFW News*, indicated that we didn't win Department by default either. An independent panel of judges selected our newsletter from a total of eight entries for the Medium Post category. Only two entries each were submitted for the Small and Large Post Categories.

"I appreciate all the work the posts and districts do in publishing the newsletters. I believe it's a great way to get word of all the post and district works out to those members who don't visit the post very often. Keep up the good work." replied Barbara in a email.

Unfortunately this year, we did not even place at the National Level (last year we came in First Place).

According to Janie Blankenship, Associate Editor *VFW Magazine*, who reviewed the scores at the National Level, said that we scored very high in content. A total of 60 Post Publications were entered this year at the National Level.

Thank you to everyone for your input, your comments, and encouragement to make this a winning newsletter.



Soup to Nuts Results 2008



By Russ and Donna Freeman

We had another good sale this year. We brought in \$1,436.85 this past weekend on May 9 and 10. What we didn't sell, Purple Heart is picking up as a donation to that organization.

We had some real good help again this year. They include: Viola Brown, Mike David, Larry and Shirley Dhom, Bob and Pat Gaylord, Don Hodory and son Jacob, Betty Huebsch, Harold Irwin, Scott Lange, Ed Lump, Charlie Mathey, Arline McNett, Joan Mansfield, Harriet Pope, Ralph and Pat Ritter, Gary Sherwin, Sid Sherwin, Jim and Sally Shoemaker, Art and Shirley Stolzke, Don and Anita sword, Mary Stompanato, Wally and Dorothy Thompson.

Without them we wouldn't have had a sale. They helped with setting up before this event and packing up after it was all finished.

We are planning on putting the money raised from this event towards fixing up the grill and fryers in the kitchen. Keep saving all your treasures for next year. The dates will be May 8 and 9, 2009.

Thanks again to everyone that helped make this successful and to all those that found and purchased a treasure from this event.

Congratulations
to Thom Gillespie on being elected as the Junior Vice Commander at the District 5 Level for 2008-2009!



16mm film transferred to DVD available for purchase

By Don Sword and Matt Klos

Late last year, a film canister was found at the VFW containing a 1,700 ft roll of 16mm film. It was transferred to DVD is now available for purchase. The date of the film is 1955-1956.

Scenes of parades, parties, bowling, Christmas, etc. was captured by the person or persons filming. Several people who watched the film commented that they knew people in the movie. Some patrons even thought they saw themselves in the video when it was viewed at the Sweetheart Fun Night in February.

The transferred film is available currently only on DVD format for \$8.00. To purchase your copy, you can purchase directly from the VFW bar or contact Don Sword at (815)-338-0068.



Post picnic next month - July 13

The VFW Post 5040 annual picnic will take place on July 13, 2008 from noon until ?? pm. This will be at VFW member John Hanson's house, 2718 Deepcut Rd, Woodstock IL 60098.

VFW members, employees, and family members are welcome to attend the picnic. Games to include swimming in John's in-ground pool (water slide too!), horseshoes, participation in the Longest/Straightest Drive Contest, softball (bring bat and ball), volleyball (bring ball to play with) or other yard games (if you have them, bring the equipment - bocce ball, jarts, etc).

Bring a dish to pass, blanket or folding chairs to sit on, and some nice weather for the day.

Any questions, please call John at 815-338-7890.



Sr. Vice and Jr. Vice Commanders move up to Commander and Sr. Vice, leading Post 5040 beginning in July

By Don Peasley
VFW News Editor 1955-2002

A World War II veteran (Fred Noble) and a Vietnam veteran (Mike Lackey) will lead the VFW for 2008-2009. Installation of officers will take place June 15 at 1:30 p.m. This will be preceded by a pig roast at 11:30 a.m. and all members and guests are welcome to participate in this special VFW activity.

Fred Noble, 82, new Post 5040 Commander, entered military service November 1943 and was stationed in Texas, California, Alabama and Mississippi. He served in Army Ordinance and shipped out in September 1944. He went ashore at Normandy and drove a truck from Avon to Paris (38 miles) transporting food, medical supplies, gas and ammunition.

In late June 1945 he was transferred to the 95th Infantry Division. He returned to

the United States in September 1945 and was discharged the following December. His ribbons include European Theater, Good Conduct, American Theater and the Victory Medal.

Fred was born in Richmond, and said he met his wife, the former Ray Carlson, while roller skating. They were married in 1949. Fred and Ray have three children: Delores, Rhode Island; Mark, Belvidere; and Erin, Harvard. They have four grandchildren.

Fred worked at Arnold Engineering in Marengo where he retired in 1993. Before he became active in the VFW, Fred held various positions with the machinist union including vice president.

Fred joined the VFW in 1955 and remembers bowling in the VFW-sponsored league. He became active in our Post four years ago and has served in several responsible positions. He has been elected Junior Vice Commander and Senior Vice Commander and is most appreciated for the help with Monday morning chores and other duties in the kitchen at the VFW. He is a member of the Rifle Squad.

Mike Lackey, 59, new Senior Vice Commander, served as Junior Vice Com-

mander the past year. Mike served from 1968 to 1971 with the 44th Medical Division of the 43rd Medical Brigade. He was stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in 1970 and 1971, working in a surgical hospital. He was born in Chicago. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh.

He returned to college in 1971 and graduated in paramedical class in 1972. He received his master's degree from Northern Illinois University in 1975. He started working at Harper College in 1974.

Mike retired from Harper College at the end of May—just a few days ago. He was an English Professor. Mike's wife Susan is assistant administrator in District 47. They have five children: Eric, Elkhorn, Wisconsin; Craig, Hanover Park; Colin, Woodstock; Colleen, Malmo, Sweden; and Stephen, Johnsburg.

Mike said Sid Sherwin is the member who helped him become active in the VFW. He has helped with the annual Soup to Nuts, Poppy Days, Patriot Pen program and Voice of Democracy.

Among his community service activities was to serve as a Boy Scout leader for seven years.

Purple Heart memorial dedicated on Square

By Don Peasley

An unusually large crowd attended the Memorial Day observance in the Woodstock City Square May 26 and were present for the dedication of the Purple Heart monument honoring all those who were wounded or killed in any of this nation's wars.

Gerald Havens, disabled retired Marine wounded during the Vietnam War, conducted the ceremony and dedication by the Purple Heart unit of the McHenry County Marine Corps League.

Havens asserted, "The Purple Heart Memorial monument is dedicated to all armed forces, wounded or killed serving their country." He said there were 1,535,000 recipients of the Purple Heart medal and about 555,000 are still living. He revealed Woodstock is the second city in Illinois to erect a Purple Heart memorial.

Havens started thinking about erecting this memorial a year ago and expressed appreciation to the many who supported his suggestion with prompt action. He included Mayor Brian Sager, Woodstock City Council members; the city's Parks and Recreation Board, John Scharres and Mark Greenleaf of the Opera House staff

and those who contributed to finance this project.

He specifically acknowledged the financial support soliciting funds by John Kuharich and Ray Benoy. Havens said Chuck Ruth's Alliance Contractors placed the monument in the Square near the Springhouse, a monument provided by Zoia Monument Company.

Members of the Marine Corps League provided an honor guard for the dedication. Havens said the Purple Heart was instituted by General George Washington in 1782 and was awarded for bravery and action. The original award was cloth and was sewn onto a coat. It was heart-shaped.

After the American Revolutionary War the award was forgotten but was revived on the 200th anniversary of Washington's birth—February 22, 1932.

As part of the dedication ceremonies the Marine Corps League placed a red heart-shaped wreath by the monument

Inscription on the monument has a gold heart-shaped logo of General Washington with the words, "Combat and Wounded Veterans."

In a dedicatory message these words are carved: "My stone is red for the blood they shed. The medal I bear is my country's way to show they care. If I could be seen by all mankind maybe peace will come in my lifetime."



come in my lifetime."

Woodstock City Square features this Purple Heart Memorial, dedicated as part of Woodstock's Memorial Day observance Monday, May 26, 2008. Participants in the ceremony include, from left: John Kuharich, Gerald Havens, Ensign Jon Grell and Ray Benoy. (Don Peasley photo)

Remembering VFW member Gerald Donahue, WWII veteran

By Don Peasley

Reflecting on a half-century of friendship with Gerald Donahue, Jim Keefe says he's so thankful he was able to obtain the four Bronze Stars from the Veterans Administration and present them to Donahue last November. This thoughtful action became all the more special to Keefe as Donahue's health gradually faded and he died April 30 from cancer.

Donahue earned the recognition for notable service as a tail gunner during action in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Aboard a B-25 Mitchell, he participated in 54 missions as allied troops gradually moved from deep in the Pacific Theater towards the Philippines, Okinawa and Japan.

Before Gerald and his wife Geraldine came to Woodstock in 1950, he had worked as a traveling furniture salesman but once told me that his experience being on the road so much helped him resolve to establish his own business and settle at one location. He parlayed his experience of growing up on a farm to develop a strong work ethic and to become an independent businessman.

He grew on this farm in Minnesota. After three years of military service, in 1945 he resumed his selling position for a short time. When he established Donahue Furniture September 1, 1950 at 119 E. Calhoun Street in Woodstock, Geraldine was an important part of that business operation. As their seven children grew up

they worked at the store and developed a keen sense of responsibility.

As a result of that experience, three of the children are active in the business and manage one of northern Illinois' most successful furniture establishments.

Gerald Donahue moved to a 30,000-square-foot building on Route 47 south of Lake Street in 1967. This was considered a bold move at the time because in 1967 Woodstock's business community was centered on and immediately around the Square. The move illustrated Donahue's vision of Woodstock's growth and future popularity of businesses on the fringes of the city.

Children operating the business today are Sally Donahue Schaefer, Dave Donahue and Lynn Donahue Stewart. Since Gerald's health began declining a few years ago, Sally and Dave were increas-

ingly involved in management.

Keefe's gesture in requesting the Bronze Stars and placing them in a framed display with ribbons and campaign metals made an emotional impression on Donahue. He was completely surprised by the display of mementos of an incredibly large number of missions in the Pacific War Theater.

During his acceptance of the framed display, he recalled several members of the six-man crew that staffed the B-25 bomber.

Donahue made time to become involved in Woodstock community affairs in addition to his serving as First National Bank president. I recall he was the third president of Easter Seal Therapy Center in McHenry County, assuming that responsibility 1952-1954.



Gerald Donahue (standing left) was one of four veterans at Veterans Day service November 11, 2005. This special photo helps honor four men who had been active in our Woodstock community as well as in veterans affairs. Seated is Casimir Polizzi. Standing: Gerald Donahue, Ed Hall and Bob Schroeder. (Don Peasley photo)

Memorial Day, May 26, 2008 - just a few pictures to capture the day

It was very well done Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade that followed. A big "thank you" goes out to the organizers, participants, and people behind the scenes. A special thanks to the co-chairpersons: Gay Belcher, Nyda Fogarty, Dwayne Raney, Brad Limbaugh, Marvin Monson and Dick Schroeder. Thanks too to VFW Adjutant Alan Belcher for emceeding the ceremony. You all did a wonderful job!



Two members of the National Guard stand by this display erected on the Square to show respect for National Guard members who have died. After posing for the photo, the men revealed the Woodstock-based National Guard is being called to active duty in August. From left, front: E6 William Hornbeck and E4 Andrew Bittenbender. (Don Peasley photo)



Dignitaries at Woodstock's 2008 Memorial Day service pause on the bandstand after the observance in the Square. Chuck Mathey and Larry Dhom were honored as parade marshals. From left: Chuck Mathey, Larry Dhom, Allen Lynch, Medal of Honor recipient who was the featured speaker; and Alan Belcher, Memorial Day chairman and master of ceremonies. (Don Peasley photo)



Olson School fifth grader, Andrea Ordonez, recites the Gettysburg Address. (Ryan Klos photo)



"Blades of Grass and Pure White Stones" sung by St. Ann's Choir. (Ryan Klos photo)



Olson School fifth grader, Sydney Mingus, recites The American's Creed. (Ryan Klos photo)



Gold Star parents in attendance were recognized by Alan Belcher. Betty Westphal, Alan and Barbara Nurnberg, and Sandy Barcus shown standing. (Ryan Klos photo)



Dwayne Raney (left) and Jim Gehrke escort VFW Ladies Auxiliary President Nyda Fogarty to the Civil War Memorial as she lays the wreath at the base of the memorial. (Matt Klos photo)



Parade Color Guard Hank Enstrom, Brian Ritter, Matt Klos, and Alan Belcher march in step. (Ryan Klos photo)

VFW Post 5040 Rifle Squad salutes the Dead with a volley of shots at the end of the Memorial Day ceremony. (Matt Klos photo)



Bud Porter drives his tractor in the parade, towing a trailer with VFW Post 5040 members aboard. (Ryan Klos photo)



From the Editor's Desk

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

As you might have seen on page two, there was a column about this newsletter getting a first place award for the Department Publications Contest.

At the National Level we did not place. The results of the contest were released on May 7, 2008 on the National VFW website. The winners were:

- 1st Warrior Shimbun** (Post 9612, Pacific) Joseph Mortimer, Editor;
- 2nd Santa Fe Express** (Post 846, Kansas) Ray Calore, Editor;
- 3rd Dokken's Doings** (Post 2118, South Dakota) Kris Struwe, Editor

Congratulations to each of these Posts.

Each year that we enter this contest, I often wonder what improvements I can make to the newsletter to take it to the next level. I'd like to see what the other Post newsletters are like and what they feature.

I tried to do some research on the winning Posts to see if they had a newsletter "online" that I could view. Unfortunately, these Posts didn't put their newsletter online (that I could find). If I want to see what they look like, I guess I will have to write to the Posts for a copy.

This got me thinking though. How many other Posts are in the same situation, only having a paper copy available to Post members?

If a returning soldier from Iraq or Afghanistan wants to find out about a local VFW to see what they do, they might turn to the internet to do a little research. They might find a local Post website. Is the information current? A Post newsletter usually will detail current monthly events. But if a newcomer to the Post cannot find current information, will they still be interested to visit the VFW?

I think it's important to have our newsletter available for not only our membership, but potential members as well. Our VFW Post 5040 website allows anyone to view current and past newsletters to find out what is going on.

A potential member viewing our newsletter online gets a snapshot of what our VFW Post is doing, what's going on, events taking place, etc. A soldier from half a world away can read our newsletter to find out what the VFW in Woodstock Illinois is doing these days.

Will a returning soldier or older veteran reading our newsletter want to become a member just because of our newsletter? Probably not. But it may get them thinking that maybe they should check out the VFW and see what it has to offer.

By our Post having members involved with different activities, volunteers chairing events, and making the VFW a great local organization, hopefully through our newsletter we can capture some of this spirit that might make a potential new member say, "I think I might have to look into that VFW thing. They do some neat stuff for the community."

Marilyn Benoy joins her husband Ray Benoy as patrons celebrated a surprise birthday party for Ray Benoy at the VFW. Ray Benoy, the owner of Benoy Motor Sales at the corner of Rt. 14 and 47 in Woodstock, is a Life Member of the VFW.

Ray is one of the leading sales volunteers when it comes to selling tickets. Ray has helped to sell thousands of tickets to the annual Turkey Raffle, Sweetheart Raffle, and many other events that the VFW has put on.

From all of us at Post 5040, Happy Birthday, Ray!



Here they come, Jim! In response to the letter published in the VFW News last month from one of our own members who is in Iraq, Jim Reece, some of our members took action.

Packing goody boxes for Iraq are Mike Lackey, Sue Fleming, Ralph and Pat Ritter.

Boxes were filled with personal hygiene items, snacks, phone cards and DVD's.

Thanks to all those that donated items, cash to purchase items, and those that helped to ready the boxes for shipping.

You'll have to let us know when you start getting these, Jim. We'd love to hear from you back at home.

We thank you for what you and your guys are doing over there. Keep safe buddy.

Marine Corps League
 McHenry County Detachment 1009
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June 2008

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Closed	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Memorial Day Committee 7 pm Little League 7 pm Girls Softball 7 pm VFW Board Mtg. 6:30 pm	3	4 Cub Scouts - 7 pm	5 VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm	6 Friday Dinner Special: Salmon Loaf (\$8) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm <i>D-Day: Allied Invasion of Europe (1944)</i>	7 Saturday Raffle 4 pm
8	9 VFW Officers Mtg. 7 pm American Legion Post 412 7:30 pm	10	11 "Celebrity Bar Tender" Night, 7-9 pm	12	13 Friday Dinner Special: Prime Rib (\$12) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm	14 Saturday Raffle 4 pm <i>U.S. Army Founded (1775)</i> <i>Flag Day</i>
Father's Day Pig Roast All-You-Can-Eat for \$8 11 am - 2 pm Installation of Post Officers at 1:30 pm	16 VFW Meeting 6:30 pm - Dinner (VFW Members Only) 7:00 pm - Floor mtg. Deadline for July 2008 VFW News items	17	18 Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:00 pm	19 Marines 7:30 pm Marines Auxiliary 7:30 pm	20 Friday Dinner Special: BBQ Ribs (\$10) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm <i>Summer Begins</i>	21 Saturday Raffle 4 pm
22 <i>Pledge of Allegiance Recognized by Congress (1942)</i> <i>GI Bill Signed Into Law (1944)</i>	23	24 Jaycees 7:30 pm	25 <i>Korean War Begins</i>	26 Blue Star Banner Group Meeting 7 pm	27 Friday Dinner Special: Meat Loaf (\$8) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm	28 Saturday Raffle 4 pm
29 Center, Springfield, IL	30	1	2 <i>U.S. Army Air Corps Established (1926)</i>	3	4  Independence Day VFW Post 5040 is closed TODAY	5 Saturday Raffle 4 pm

87th Annual Department Convention, Prairie Capital Convention

109th VFW National Convention Orange County Convention Center, August 16-21, 2008

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Honor the dead by helping the living.



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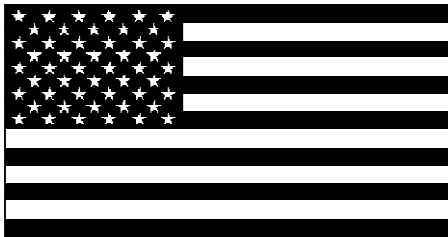
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This month's issue:

- **Memorial Day Pictures**
- **About Our New Officers**
- **Purple Heart Memorial Dedicated on the Square**
- **Gerald Donahue Remembered**
- **More columns inside...**

Upcoming Events:

- **June 15: Father's Day Pig Roast and Officer Installation**
- **June 26-29: District Convention in Springfield**
- **July 4: Independence Day**
- **July 13: Post Picnic**

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 We are open to the public!

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Junior Vice Commander	Mike Lackey	(815)-353-5287
Quartermaster	Ralph Ritter	(815)-338-5018
Chaplain	Howard Engstrom	(815)-338-4453
Chaplain Asst.	Pete Lockinger	(815)-338-6449
Service Officer	Ted Biever	(815)-338-9292
Judge Advocate	Dick Glawe	(815)-385-3156
Post Surgeon	Harold Irwin	(815)-338-1264
Officer-of-the-Day	Denny Burrs	(815)-338-7014
Adjutant	Alan Belcher	(815)-338-7689
1 Year Trustee	Arnie Doerfert	(815)-385-2923
2 Year Trustee	Larry Dhom	(815)-338-4134
3 Year Trustee	Brian Ritter	(815)-276-4802

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Director	Don Sullivan	(815)-653-3298
Director	Don Sword	(815)-338-0068
Director	Mike David	(815)-338-5341
Club Manager	Becky Gillespie	(815)-338-6826

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