

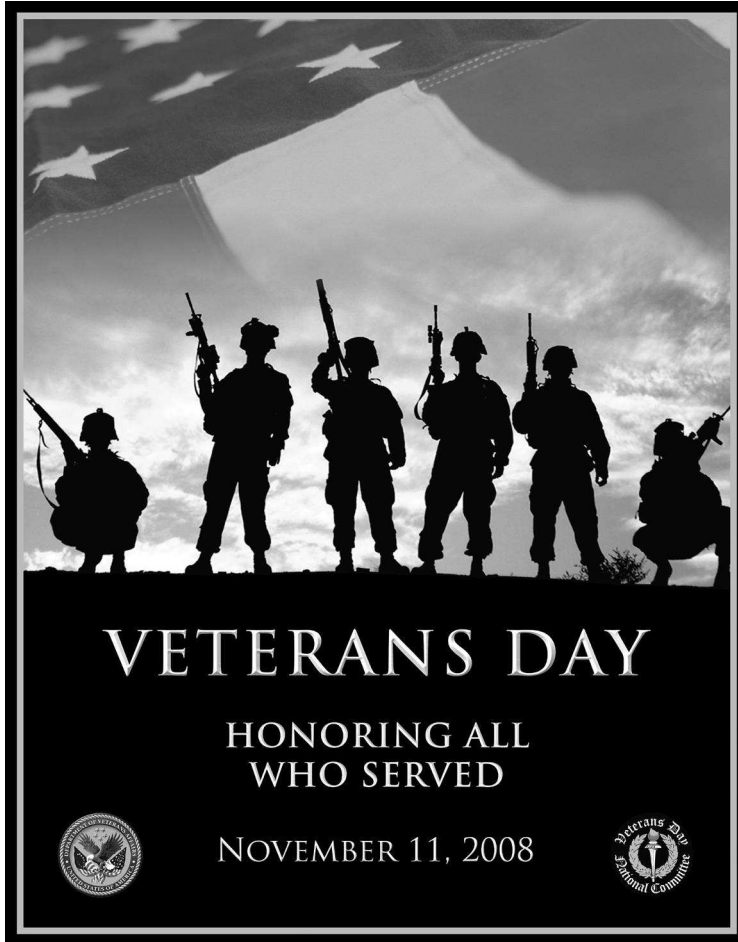


# VFW News

Visit us online at [www.vfw5040.org](http://www.vfw5040.org)

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

Below poster at: <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/gallery.asp>



## Annual turkey dinner and raffle Saturday, 22 November 2008

Prizes for this raffle are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: \$200.00**
- 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 22, 2008*  
*Cost is \$8.00*



*Raffle Tickets: \$2.00 Each*

## Return your Turkey Raffle ticket stubs with a check before you forget

By Matt Klos, *VFW News* Editor

This is the last notice about the Post 5040 Turkey Raffle that will take place on November 22, 2008. Most of you reading this should have received your packet of tickets in the mail, along with a letter from Sr. Vice Commander Mike Lackey. As Mike stated in his letter, prices did increase this year for the tickets. It was mentioned at the last Post meeting that several members were having a hard time selling books of tickets and instead were selling more single tickets instead. I can sympathize with you all. Going from \$10 to \$20 a book is a bit steep, but when you look at how many years this Turkey Raffle has been run at the Post, it's been a bargain over the last few years.

In a perfect world, the VFW would operate with an all volunteer staff and we would have the luxury of many volunteers to help out with functions and jobs at the VFW. Reality is that we just don't have the man power like some of you remember it as. We have to pay out a lot more expenses to cover payroll, rising costs of utilities, maintenance of an older building that is showing its age, etc.

This is one of the largest fund raisers we do all year at the VFW and it provides operating funds that we try to stretch all year long. Many people, members and non-members, come out for the turkey dinner and the camaraderie. For some of you, it's a time to catch up with folks that you haven't seen in over a year. To pull an event like this off, it takes planning, dedicated paid staff, and some willing volunteers which are very hard to come by these days. We ask and ask and ask for help, but we are lucky if we get only a handful. That's just the way it is these days.

If it makes you feel any better, do a little math and it won't feel so bad to pony up the \$20.00. If the Turkey Raffle is the only monetary donation to the Woodstock VFW you make all year and you only buy one book of 10 tickets, think of it as you donated \$0.055 (that's 5.5¢ people) each day of the year. See, that wasn't so bad now was it? Hope to see you all at the turkey raffle!

## Veterans Day Ceremony VFW Post 5040 parking lot

Tuesday, 11 November 2008, 11:00 am

Tuesday, November 11 marks a day in our nation that we thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military, in war-time or peacetime.

On this day, we will honor nearly 25 million living veterans. We will also remember our fallen veterans, those that have given their lives in the line of duty to protect our country.

VFW Post 5040 will be holding its Veterans Day Ceremony in the VFW parking lot as has been done in previous years. Special guests and speakers have been invited to participate in this event.

Following the ceremony, the public is welcome to have lunch in the VFW hall. The price for lunch will be \$8 for adults, \$7 for veterans, and \$6 for children (age 12 and under). On the menu will be: ham, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, rolls and butter.

Please join us for this ceremony if you are able.

## Ladies Auxiliary from the President

By Nyda Fogarty, President 2008-2009

Our membership this past year has gone down due to several deaths in our membership. The Treasurer reported that only about 25% of the members have paid their dues to date.

The Auxiliary took me out to dinner on Thursday, September 25, to Crandall's which was very nice. They also presented me with a nice gift. I thank the one's who contributed to that and the ones who came to the dinner. Chris Gehrke was in charge of this and I appreciate her setting this up.

November 11, 2008 will be our observance of Veterans Day. Please donate pies for our annual lunch after the ceremony outside.

Plans will be made at the November 6 meeting for an Auxiliary Christmas party. Please attend the meeting if you can.



**The front office that is adjacent to the VFW is once again available for rent. If you know of any business that would like to rent this, please contact the post at 815-338-5040.**



## 16mm film transferred to DVD available for purchase

By Don Sword and Matt Klos

Looking for a Christmas gift for that "hard to buy person" who's a member of the VFW? How about this CD?

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 this past year.

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.

## From the Editor's Desk

By Matt Klos,  
VFW News Editor



We are all experiencing difficult times right now and I know that many of you are wondering where this is all leading. My 401(k) at work has amassed significant losses. I'm afraid to log onto my account each day, fearing the psychological damage I see as the percentage loss hovers just under 50%. Oh well, ride it out I say. Luckily, I don't have to think of retirement for another 30 years or so. Hopefully the markets will bounce back by then.

But what about some of you? My dad is nearing retirement age and I hope that his investments were a lot more conservative to retain somewhat of a nest egg. Interest rates are low, borrowing is stifled, and people are generally worried. Couple that with an election year and it makes your head spin.

It's unfortunate right now though, espe-

## † Chaplains report †

By Pete Lockinger

### Current Members on the Sick List

- LaVerne Emricson
- Glenn Fringer
- Bob Gaylord
- Dean Mishler
- Jack Meyers
- Ashley Wilson

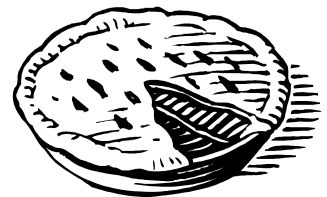
Please keep these members in your thoughts and prayers as we come into the holiday season. They can use some cheering up and words of encouragement as they recover from their illnesses.

cially coming into this time of year at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thanksgiving we are to be thankful for what we have, and this year its a lot less than in years past. But the economy is what it is. Makes Santa's job a little tougher this year. He probably had to lay off some elves because of the worldwide market losses.

One thing that this economy has hit hard is all the non-profits (such as the VFW), churches, and other institutions that rely on steady donations to operate. When people start saving more because of uncertain times like these, the donations are smaller and the help comes in smaller quantities. At my church business meeting, you can tell that times are tough because the Sunday offering receipts were reported lower and our budget is in the red. People buckle down. It's tough to give in these times.

As we go come into this Holiday season, maybe you can find it in your heart to try to open up your pocket book just a little wider. Maybe that one family member can forego this year without a store-bought present and instead something home made. Maybe that trip out to visit the kids might be put off for a little while longer. Maybe the money saved can go to that homeless shelter, the Salvation Army kettle, or the church offering plate.

It's hard, I know. Thank God for what you have this Thanksgiving and think about others that may be in more dire straits than you. I can't forecast it will get any better, but pray and hope it will. Count your blessings and have Happy Thanksgiving everyone.



## Pies Needed For Veterans Day Lunch

For those of you that will be attending the Veterans Day ceremony and lunch, we are asking our members to donate a pie for desert. We appreciate your help in advance.

**VFW Auxiliary President  
Nyda Fogarty**

## Lightning Raffle looking for volunteers to help on Friday nights

By Russ Freeman and Ralph Ritter

Lightning Raffle continues to bring in people on Friday night, not only to play the game but to eat dinner and socialize a bit. On October 17, Jeannie Theide won a jackpot of \$1,187! People actually do win this game.

We are looking for volunteers to help out with the Raffle on Friday nights to help keep this event going. If we can get several volunteers, this will lighten up the load on those that volunteer already on Friday nights to help with this game. We need help with number callers, selling tickets, etc. Usually the time commitment is about 1½ hours. Can you help?

Contact the Post if you are available.

## Tom and Jerry's on Thanksgiving Day at the VFW

Bernie O'Leary will be making them again as he did last year with the same recipe.

We had a good turn out and figure on getting a larger turn out this year.

The cost will remain the same at \$2.00 each.

November 27, 2008

9 am to noon (12 pm)

Old Home Towne recipe.



## Attention McHenry County Sheriff's Office Employees

MCSO Volunteers formed *The Family Outreach Program* to provide support and assistance to MCSO employees and their families. Our goal is to reach out to those in crisis and to aid those in need.

### THE MCHENRY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (MCSO) CORDIALLY INVITES ALL EMPLOYEES TO ATTEND AN **APPRECIATION DINNER** **TO HONOR**

**DEPLOYED EMPLOYEES OF MCSO AND THEIR FAMILIES  
AND TO HONOR OUR MCSO VETERANS**

**DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2008**  
**PLACE: VFW POST 5040**  
**240 Throop Street, Woodstock, Illinois**  
**TIME: DOORS OPEN AT 5:45 PM**  
**DINNER SERVED AT 6:00 PM**  
**Spaghetti ~ Garlic Bread ~ Salad ~ Dessert**

ADVANCE TICKETS	RESERVATIONS & TICKETS CONTACT:
\$6.00 ADULTS	334.4739 Cathy Hardt
\$3.00 CHILDREN AGE 10 to 4	334.4735 Dep. Aimee Knop
FREE CHILDREN AGE 3 and UNDER	334.4793 Kathy Seith
AFTER NOVEMBER 12 <sup>TH</sup>	334. 4750 Cindee Bockman
\$7.00 ADULTS	334.4769 Corrections Central Control
\$4.00 FOR CHILDREN 4—10 years	Patti Garcia, Jessica Fruehe, Christina Jones, Kim Racine, & Kathy Shaffer

## MCSO to honor veterans in their ranks

The McHenry County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) with the assistance of the VFW Post 5040 will be hosting an appreciation dinner on **Tuesday, November 18, 2008** at the Woodstock VFW Post 5040. The guests of honor for this appreciation dinner will be the families of the MCSO employees that are currently deployed and serving our country. Also honored that evening will be the 86 veterans from the Sheriff's Office, veterans from VFW Post 5040, and community members that are veterans.

The McHenry County Sheriff's Office has two Deputies and two Corrections Officers that are currently serving in the combat zones of Iraq and Afghanistan. As you

know, this time spent on active duty overseas can be a strain on those left behind. Their goal is to build a sense of togetherness and support for the families who have loved ones serving and all of our veterans as we honor their dedication and service to our country.

The appreciation dinner will begin with doors opening at 5:45 pm and dinner being served at 6:00 pm. The evening's festivities will include a small presentation followed by entertainment. The Sheriff's Office has received generous support and sponsorship of this event from the Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and McHenry County PB & PA #192.

Tickets will be available at the Sheriff's Office before November 12<sup>th</sup> and also at the door the day of the event (see flyer above for contact phone numbers).



## A war, a flag, a name, a mystery

By Matt Klos, *VFW News* Editor

When you opened up this page, you were probably shocked to see a Nazi swastika symbol staring back at you. Got your attention, didn't it?

Kind of like the email that I received that started this whole thing. On October 23, I received an email with the subject line as "German Flag Info". I never know what might be in these emails addressed to me because some are people looking for answers, some are junk mail - - but this one made me read that subject line again. "German Flag Info". What the heck might this be?

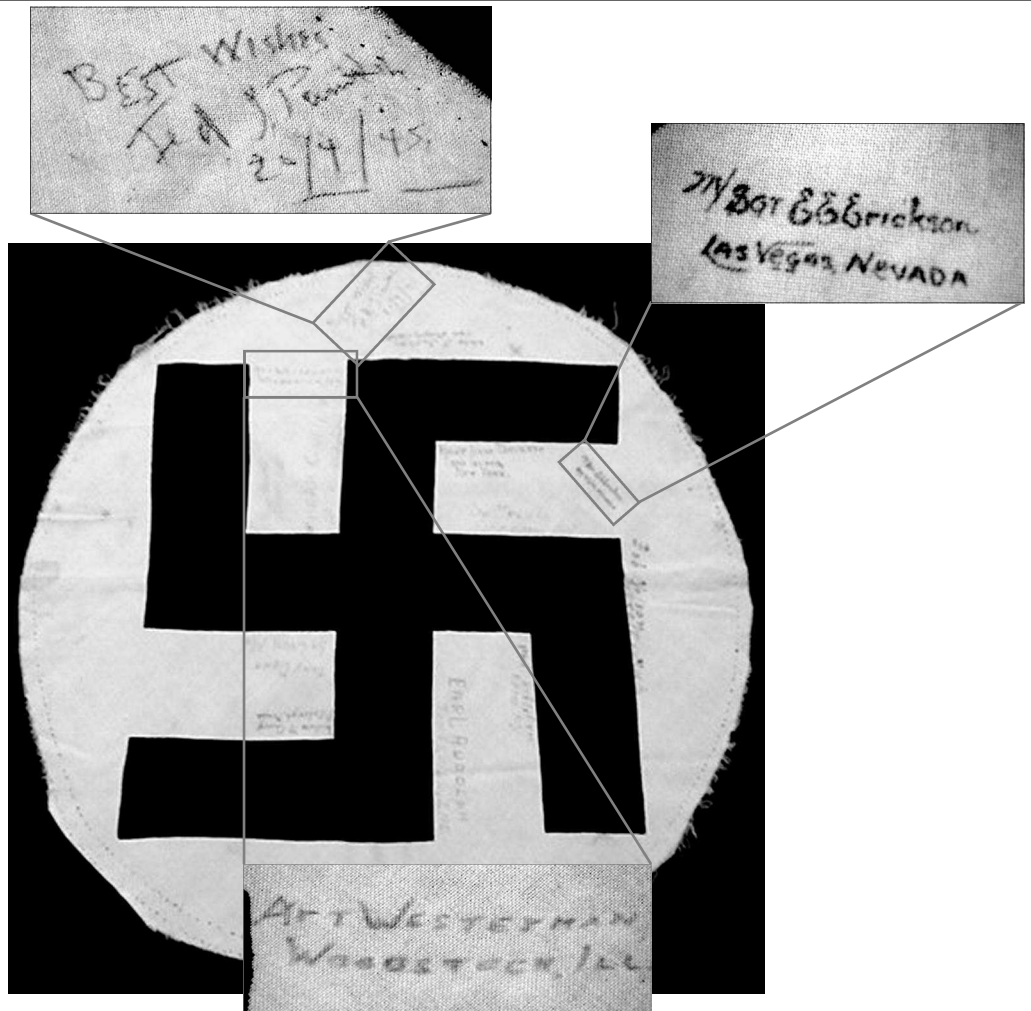
Opening up the mail, I found it was from a New Jersey fireman who is a World War II history buff. His name is Mark Forstenhausler.

Mark indicated that he had "just came across a WWII German flag that was signed by Art Westerman from Woodstock, Illinois. I was told that the flag was signed by members of the 69th Infantry Division at the Leipzig-Thekla concentration camp in Germany. The camp was liberated on April 19, 1945. The flag is dated 20/4/45. Is Mr. Westerman still active in your Post? Was he in the 69th Division at Leipzig-Thekla? Any information that you can provide would be greatly appreciated."

Ok, so what was I to do with this? Who was Art? How did this guy Mark come across his name? Was Art even in our Post? A quick query of the newsletter database showed no Art Westerman. I didn't have him in the deceased list I keep from the newsletter addresses either. The local phone book didn't list any Westerman's.

I wrote back to Mark indicating what I had found. I got another letter back saying, "I emailed you because I found on your website a Charter Member named Arthur E. Westerman. [ah, I forgot to look there! I forgot that I have all the Charter Members listed on the 5040 website!] The flag has the name 'Art Westerman, Woodstock, ILL' [sic] and it is dated 20/4/45. Since your Post was started on March 4, 1946 in Woodstock, Illinois with Mr. Westerman as a Charter Member, I would think that he is the same man who wrote on the flag."

"This flag was supposed to have flown over the concentration camp at Leipzig-Thekla, (a sub camp of Buchenwald) and I found out that the camp was liberated by the 69th Infantry Division on 19/4/45. I would like to confirm that Mr. Westerman



was in the 69th Infantry Division, and find out anything else that I can."

I sadly informed Mark that Art was a deceased member of our Post. I'm not even sure when he passed away. I told Mark I would help out if I could and asked him to send some pictures of what he had.

I received in a follow up email the above photo and photos of a few signatures of the men that signed the flag.

Mark mentioned that "the circle is a very soft cloth that measures about 26 1/2" by 27 1/2". The edges were folded under and sewn on a very large red flag. The swastika was printed onto the white cloth. From what I have read and heard, it was popular with our GI's to write their names and home towns on captured flags as souvenirs. Folded up, the flags were easy to carry, and then they had something to remember the guys that they served with. Also it gave them the option to look up their friends after they came home from the war."

If the picture above comes out well in the printing process, you might be able to see some of the names on the flag. Mark was kind enough to also send me a list of the signatures and comments he could visually identify on the flag. The list includes the following, verbatim:

- Art Westerman, Woodstock, ILL.
- Bob Nelson, Detroit, Mich.
- Phil Goldstein, Bronx, NY
- John B. Sullivan, San Diego, Calif.
- Best Wishes, Ted J. Pautiz, 20/4/45
- Earl Rudolph, Jonesville, Ind.
- Tony Dohr, St. Louis, Mo.
- Herb Kaufman, Santa Cruz, Calif.
- Sgt. E.E. Erickson, Las Vegas, Nevada
- Right Hand Travesso, Long Island, New York
- William M. Coury, Pittsburgh, Penn.
- Lou Melilla, Newark, NJ

So, the question goes out to our VFW Post 5040 membership. Did anyone know Art Westerman from our Post? Does anyone have any information about him, where he served, what he did in the war, etc. to confirm if this is the same Art Westerman on the above flag? Anyone know if he has family in the area or how I might contact them to confirm some of the questions Mark is asking?

If you do, please write, send or call Matt Klos, *VFW News* Editor. My contact information is on the page eight.

Mark appreciates any help or information and I hope we can provide him with something if possible. Thanks!



# Care packages for D Co 1/178 INF begin assembly by FRG

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

In September, I wrote about the deploying soldiers of Delta Company 1/178 Infantry. The soldiers went to Ft. Bragg, NC for training and will soon be on their way to Afghanistan. The Family Readiness Group (FRG) leader, Jill Winling, is gathering items for care packages that will be shipped once the soldiers are on the ground there.

Here is a note from Jill about the care packages. **If you feel compelled to help out, I would recommend reaching out to Jill first and see what items that they may need.**

“Attached, please find a suggested list of care package items for the soldiers of D Co. 1/178 INF as they deploy to Afghani-

stan. Please note that this list may change slightly as our soldiers arrive in country and we are able to determine the types of amenities that are available to them. The Family Readiness Group has scheduled the first 'packing' event take place at the November meeting - the second Sunday in November. Please note that we will be packing boxes for ALL of our soldiers, meaning that we'll pack approximately 55 packages. If you are interested in collecting items to contribute to the drive, I would suggest focusing on a single item, like chap stick, and work toward obtaining 55 of them. Items can be dropped off at the Woodstock Armory any weekday during business hours. Feel free to share this list with your family and friends!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions!”

Jill Winling, FRG Leader  
D Co. 1/178 INF  
(847)-804-6120  
sgtwinling@aol.com


## HAPPY VETERANS DAY TO ALL VETERANS ON NOVEMBER 11!

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and the Ladies Auxiliary send a heartfelt “Thank You” to all our veterans on Veterans Day!



**Marine Corps League**  
McHenry County Detachment 1009  
Meets every 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:30 PM  
Woodstock VFW Post 5040  
240 N. Throop St.  
P.O. Box 311  
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- Gold Bond Powder
- Deodorant
- Bar Soap
- Chap Stick / Carmex
- Eye Drops (for dry eyes)
- Razors
- Hard Candy
- Snack Foods (Nuts, Travel Packs of Salty Snacks)
- Prepackaged Cookies
- Granola Bars
- Energy Bars
- Beef Jerky
- Slim Jims
- Powdered Soft Drinks (Gatorade or Crystal Light)
- Chewing Gum
- Pain Reliever
- Tums
- Socks (Black or Green)
- Hand Warmers (for the winter months)
- DVDs
- Blank CD's
- Disposable Cameras
- Magazines (Hunting, Fishing, Auto magazines, etc.)
- Crossword puzzles / Sudoku books
- Books – (Louis Lamour, Tom Clancy, etc.)
- Cards - All Occasion
- Pens/Pencils/Sharpie Markers
- Phone cards (In Units ~ AAFES sells them on-line)
- Hand Held Games
- Gun Oil Wipes (REM Oil Wipes)
- Lens Cleaning Wipes

**Items needed to prepare the care packages for shipping:**


- Packaging Tape
- Ziploc Freezer Bags (to separate food items from hygiene items)
- Note Cards
- Pens
- Funds for Postage

**WOODSTOCK AMERICAN LEGION**  
Meets Second Monday of Each Month  
(Except December) at the VFW at 7:30 P.M.



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FAX. 815-338-9339

# November 2008


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

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
26	27 <i>Navy Day</i>	28	29	30	31 <b>Happy Halloween</b>  Friday Dinner Special: Chef's Special (\$8) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm	<b>Coach 1 Chuck Fund Raiser</b> Spaghetti Dinner and Auction \$10.00 per plate 6:00 pm cocktails 6:30-8:30 pm dinner buffet style
 2 <i>Daylight Saving Time Ends (Set Clock Back One Hour)</i>	3 Memorial Day Committee 7 pm Little League 7 pm Girls Softball 7 pm VFW Board Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>Election Day 4</b>  <b>I WANT YOU To Vote</b>	5	6 VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm	7 Friday Dinner Special: Salmon Loaf (\$8) and Stuffed Pork Chops (\$8) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm	8 Saturday Raffle 4 pm
9	10 VFW Officers Mtg. 7 pm American Legion Post 412 7:30 pm <i>U.S Marine Corps Established (1775)</i>	11  <b>Veterans Day</b> Ceremony at Post 11 am, Lunch at 12 pm <i>Signing of WW I Armistice (1918)</i>	12 Cub Scouts - 7 pm Celebrity Bar Tender Night, 7-9 pm	13	14 Friday Dinner Special: Prime Rib (\$12) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm	15 Saturday Raffle 4 pm
16	17 VFW Meeting 6:30 pm - Dinner (VFW Members Only) 7:00 pm - Floor mtg. <b>Deadline for December 2008 VFW News items</b>	<b>MCSO 18 Appreciation Dinner</b> Dinner for MCSO Veterans, Deployed MCSO Employees and Family members Dinner: 6 pm	19 Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:00 pm	20 Marines 7:30 pm Marines Auxiliary 7:30 pm	21 Friday Dinner Special: BBQ Ribs (\$10) 5 - 7:30 pm	<b>Turkey 22 Raffle and Dinner</b>  Cocktail Hour: 5:00 pm Dinner: 6 - 8 pm \$8.00 for Dinner Public Welcome!
23 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> 30	24	25	26	27 <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b> <b>Tom and Jerry's</b> served at the VFW \$2.00 each 9:00 am - 12 pm 	28 Dinner Will Not Be Served This Night Lightning Raffle 7 pm	29

**MELISSA J. COONEY**  
Attorney at Law  
Zukowski, Rogers, Flood & McArdle  
50 Virginia Street  
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014  
Ph: (815)-459-2050 / Fax: (815)-459-9057  
[mcooney@zrfmlaw.com](mailto:mcooney@zrfmlaw.com)



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[zoiamonumentco@prodigy.net](mailto:zoiamonumentco@prodigy.net)



Honor the dead by helping the living.



### Newsletter Editor Information:

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VFW 5040 News Editor  
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fax: 707-667-2621

### Post Website and Email:

website: [www.vfw5040.org](http://www.vfw5040.org)

email: [vfwpost5040@att.net](mailto:vfwpost5040@att.net)

## WOODSTOCK VFW NEWS

240 Throop Street  
Woodstock, IL 60098

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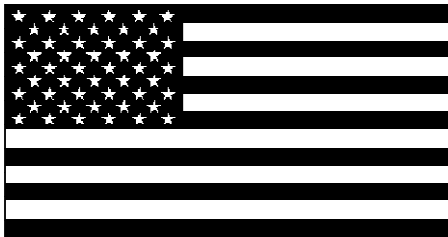
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### This month's issue:

- Turkey Raffle request and info
- Anyone know anything about Art Westerman?
- Lightning Raffle help needed
- More inside...

### Upcoming Events:

- **November 4: Election Day**
- **November 11: Veterans Day Ceremony & Lunch**
- **November 18: MCSO Appreciation Dinner**
- **November 22: Turkey Raffle and Dinner**
- **November 27: Thanksgiving and Tom & Jerry's**

VFW POST 5040, WOODSTOCK  
We are open to the public!

### VFW Post 5040 Post Officers 2008 - 2009

Commander	Fred Noble	(815)-338-5655
Senior Vice Commander	Mike Lackey	(815)-353-5287
Junior Vice Commander	Ed Lump	(815)-338-0199
Quartermaster	Thom Gillespie	(815)-338-6826
Chaplain	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	Larry Dhom	(815)-338-4134
2 Year Trustee	Brian Ritter	(815)-276-4802
3 Year Trustee	Arnie Doerfert	(815)-385-2923

### Board of Directors 2008 - 2009

President	Bud Porter	(815)-338-4781
Vice President	Hank Enstrom	(815)-337-5856
Treasurer	Thom Gillespie	(815)-338-6826
Director	Charley Mathey	(815)-338-5374
Director	Bob Gibson	(815)-338-4142
Director	Russ Freeman	(815)-338-3414
Director	Mike David	(815)-338-5341
Director	Don Sword	(815)-338-0068
Director	Fred Noble	(815)-338-5655
Club Manager	Becky Gillespie	(815)-338-6826

### Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 5040 Post Officers 2008 - 2009

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
Patriotic Instructor	Lois Freund	(815)-338-5261
Guard	Rose Mary Hellstern	(815)-338-0653
Conductress	Christine Gehrke	(815)-338-3533
1 Year Trustee	Lois Freund	(815)-338-5261
2 Year Trustee	Geraldine Salyers	(815)-206-3910
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