



# VFW News

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Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

## 2nd annual "Remember Our Heroes" car show a fun success

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

The VFW was really hopping on Saturday, June 27 at the 2nd Annual VFW "Remember Our Heroes" car show. With the sun shining, it was a perfect day to show off the bright chrome of bumpers and engines, see the sparkle of custom paint, and the sheen of tires. Top that off with a low, powerful rumble of a rebuilt engine and in some cases the squeal of tires and you have yourself a car show.

From 11 am to late afternoon, many visitors stopped by to admire the cars, take in a few drinks at the beer tent, listen to some music provided by volunteer DJ Keith Tinerella. Prepared food was provided by Lisa "soon to be" Lange and her daughter Whitney from our VFW kitchen.

At the end of the day, awards were handed out in several categories. "Fan Favorite" was taken by Mark Freund, VFW 5040 Member. He is the owner of Dodge Daytona, a 1969 replica of the car driven by Buddy Baker. He's had the car for 15 years and has been racing it for the last seven. "Best in Show" was taken by Jim Klein, owner of 1955 Ford F100.

Putting on a show this size took several months of preparation and was no small feat to pull together.

"Jeanne and I put in between 400-500 hours. It adds up quickly when you factor in actually contacting contestants, media, vendors, sponsors, etc. - plus all of the word of mouth promotion." said Bill Kulinski. Bill and his wife Jeanne put on last years show as well.

This result of the car show raised over \$1,600 for VFW Post 5040. About 20 or so volunteers helped to make this years car show a great success. Everyone who helped out volunteered their time at the car show including the kitchen, DJ, beer tent, and even the Hooter Girls.

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## Ralph Ritter surprised with appreciation dinner

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

On the VFW calendar, you might have noticed that the Talisman played at the VFW on July 18, 2009. This was a nice night to hear Freddy and Lorrie Lambert singing and play, but this night was more than just about the show they put on. It was also an appreciation night for someone who has made many contributions to the Post in the last 10 years.

When he walked in the door to the VFW, Ralph Ritter tried to pay his cover fee for Saturday night to enjoy the Talisman band. He couldn't understand why Jeanne Kulinski (one of our VFW bartenders who was collecting cover charges at the door) wouldn't let him pay. He soon realized that all the people at the VFW that had gathered were there to give him an appreciation night.

"I had no idea they planned this. I was shocked," said Ralph with a grinning laugh.

Ralph was honored this night with a

plaque for "Outstanding Service Award - For Service to Post 5040 and His Community." Dan Regna, who emceed the ceremony, kicked off the ceremony with some background about Ralph.

In 1969, Ralph Ritter was drafted in the Army. Having worked for the phone company prior to the draft, he served in Vietnam in the Signal Corps as a lineman. For about half of his time in service, he lived with the Navy fixing up their communications systems. He was given the Bronze Star, and according to Ralph, "I truly believe it was for the work I did while in the Navy."

He retired from the phone company in 2000. He soon became quite active with the Post in the coming years. He took over the Quartermaster position in 2002. In the early part of this decade, Ralph recruited the help of his family to come into the VFW to help get it back on track. The Post was going through a tough time as the Post was being investigated by the Department of Illinois. With the help of his wife Pat, his son Brian, and daughter Danielle, they helped to get the books in order, accounting records straight, started tending

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### Lightning Strike!

Winners from July 17 Lightning Raffle. They won \$3,615. The winners were Dale Piske, Denny Piske, Andy Piske & Julie Cruz. Also in the picture is the wife of Dale Piske. There were 12 numbers remaining on the Jackpot board after their pick. The July 24 jackpot started at \$356. (Kelly Gorham Photo).



### New Bartender!

Welcome our new bartender, Maureen Eigenfeld. Maureen just graduated from Purdue University with a history and political science degree. She will be bartending every other Thursday night. Under the tutelage of Jeanne Kulinski (left), Maureen (right) helped work the bar on the VFW meeting night July 20. (Matt Klos Photo).

# Ladies Auxiliary Report

By Nyda Fogarty,  
President 2009-2010

Dues for your membership is now due as of July 1, 2009 for the 2009-2010 VFW calendar year. I want to correct a mistake in my column recently. Our District Junior Vice President, Jennifer Fluck, 48 years old, passed away with cancer. She was also 5th District President for 2002-2003. Mrs. Joyce Davis was a long time member but was never an officer in the Auxiliary or District.

We are off to a good start this year with a full slate of officers. We are happy to have two of our younger members step in and take an position.

The first district meeting of the new year will be August 23 at the VFW Post in Waukegan at 1550 E. Grand Avenue. It was a very nice officer installation ceremony on June 20 followed with a great dinner and beautiful cake afterwards.

**Put it on the calendar:  
Post Picnic, September 13  
at John Hansen's House**

**July 30, 2009**

**Welcome back from  
Afghanistan  
Delta Company  
1/178th Infantry, 33  
Brigade Combat  
Team!**

**We are extremely  
proud of you.**

**Woodstock VFW  
Post 5040**

# ✠ Chaplains report ✠

By Pete Lockinger

### Charter Draped for:

- Leonard Irlacher

### August meeting Charter will be draped for:

- Roger D. Behm
- Emil Meskan (return newsletter indicated "return to sender" deceased).

The Duty of the Chaplain shall be chairman of the visiting committee of the Post. With the assistance of others, visits sick and disabled members and makes a report to membership.

If you know of a Post member that is sick, disabled, etc. and you think the Post should know, you have to tell us. Phone numbers of the Chaplain as well as other officers are posted on the back of every newsletter.

If we don't know, we cannot give you an accurate report about our members in need.

## Anne in Afghanistan

VFW Post 5040 member Anne Brophy is currently serving in Afghanistan . In a recent letter, Anne writes, "Who would have thought that 10 years ago I would be writing you from my 2nd middle east deployment? How are you doing? I miss home. I have finished 118 days of my tour and only about 200 left. I was doing legal assistance for a bit and foreign claims where I was able to meet the Afghanis and hear why the Americans should pay them. Now, I am working with contracting to make sure our soldiers have enough supplies while at the Forward operating bases (FOBs). Very rewarding work especially as you see the young ones go out to these remote places."

In the picture to the right, Anne is being promoted from Captain to Major in a ceremony that took place on July 20, 2009. Congratulations Major Brophy!



## A visit to Cantigny

On June 6, 2009, Don and Anita Sword traveled with Bill and Eileen Lyford to the First Division Museum at Cantigny in Wheaton, IL. The museum was commemorating the 65 year anniversary of D-Day, allied invasion of Europe June 6, 1944.

Don indicated that there were 70-80 veterans at the Ceremony on June 6 at Cantigny that took part in the invasion and landed on the beaches of France. He also indicated it was a very nice ceremony. Veterans were provided lunch.

This picture is of Don and Anita standing in front of the newly restored Landing Craft Vehicle and Personnel (LCVP) that was on display at the museum. The LCVP were used in many amphibious landings and were used extensively to land on the beaches during the D-Day invasion.



## Two Post 5040 members take trip to see WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C.

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

How many of you, our member veterans, have had a chance to go to Washington, D.C. to see the WWII Memorial? How would you like a chance to go for free in a one day trip there and back to see some of the war memorials? Two of our VFW members recently had that chance to do this through Honor Flight Chicago.

Honor Flight Chicago was founded by four Chicago women who wanted to do something special to honor and thank our veterans. Their mission is to honor and thank veterans, especially now WWII veterans, by bringing them to Washington D.C., at no cost to the veteran, for a day of honor.

Completely a volunteer organization, Honor Flight Chicago has flown 625 veterans to Washington DC since February 2008. Veterans can fill out a form and be put on waiting list for one of the special flights that makes a trip from Midway Airport to Washington, D.C. to view the WWII Memorial and other memorials in a single day trip. Veterans are flown on a first-come, first-served basis. Within the waiting list, top priority is given to WWII Veterans and all other veterans with terminal illness. Their next priority is Korean War Veterans and then Vietnam Veterans.

Two of our VFW members, Harold Irwin and Floyd Miras had the opportunity to travel on Honor Flight on July 15, 2009.

Floyd Miras joined the Army Infantry (2nd Infantry Division out of Texas) in 1941. After spending two years in the Infantry, he took a test and was transferred into the Air Force and had the job of air crewman, flying combat missions in B-25's during WWII.

He spent most of his wartime service in the Philippines, involved in battle on the islands of Leyte, Luzon, and Mindoro. He served in the military for about 5 ½ years. Floyd signed up for Honor Flight in August 2008.

Harold Irwan served in WWII in the Army Air Corps. He was already in the service two years before war broke out. His job while in the service was that of Tech Supply. Harold spent his time in the war in near Australia, around New Guinea and the Coral Sea. He too spent about 5 ½ years in the service. Harold signed up for Honor Flight in September 2008.

Funny, neither man knew the other was going to be on the flight until they showed up at Midway airport. The day started early for both at about 2:00 am, time enough to get down to the airport by 4:00 a.m. and flight out at 6:50 am.

"While at the airport and having breakfast, we were entertained by three women in vintage WWII USO uniforms who sang songs from that period," said Floyd.

Guardians go with the flight (each guardian pays their own way to go). It worked out that Floyd's daughter, Elaine Mulligan, was his guardian for the day and Harold's daughter, Nancy Irwin, was his guardian for the day.

After a long day of seeing the memorials, the return trip gets them to Midway about 10:30 pm.

"When we taxied to the gate, there were fire trucks spraying water and airport police with lights on," said Harold. "Getting

off the plane, we were greeted by at least 100 soldiers, men and women, of different services saluting all the veterans. Beyond them, there were about 600 or so people in the airport clapping and waving flags."

Floyd mentioned, "When I came home from the war, I got off the plane and went home. No one greeted me. This was quite a reception we got, even a little emotional. It was a great feeling though."

Both men said they really enjoyed the whole day and said that everything, from the beginning of the day to the end, was so well put together.

It you would like more information on Honor Flight:

Write to:

2001 W. Churchill

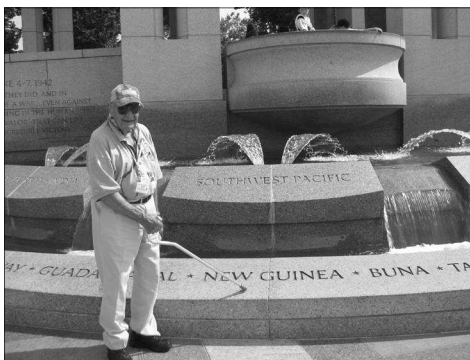
Chicago, Illinois 60647

Phone: 773.227.VETS (8387)

Email is: [info@HonorFlightChicago.org](mailto:info@HonorFlightChicago.org)

Website: [www.HonorFlightChicago.org](http://www.HonorFlightChicago.org)

VFW Post 5040 members Harold Irwin (left) and Floyd Miras (right) were passengers on Honor Flight Chicago that took them to Washington, D.C. for the day to see the WWII and other war memorials.



Harold Irwin points to the inscribed island name of New Guinea where he spent time during WWII.

Returning home to Midway Airport, the veterans were greeted by hundreds of people including active service members.



# 2nd annual "Remember Our Heroes" car show at VFW Post 5040, June 27 (Photos by Matt Klos and Paul Breuning)

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In case you might be wondering, there was also a raffle for a helicopter tour of downtown Chicago for two people. Past Commander Mike David won this raffle. Congratulations, Mike!

The pictures included in the these two pages give you a little sampling of what took place at the car show. If you would like to see about 50 or more color pictures of the show, visit our VFW 5040 home page at [www.vfw5040.org](http://www.vfw5040.org).

Finally, a very big **"THANK YOU"** to Bill and Jeanne Kulinski for your hard work that went into this show this year. Thank you also to the volunteers, participants and VFW members that helped make this a success.



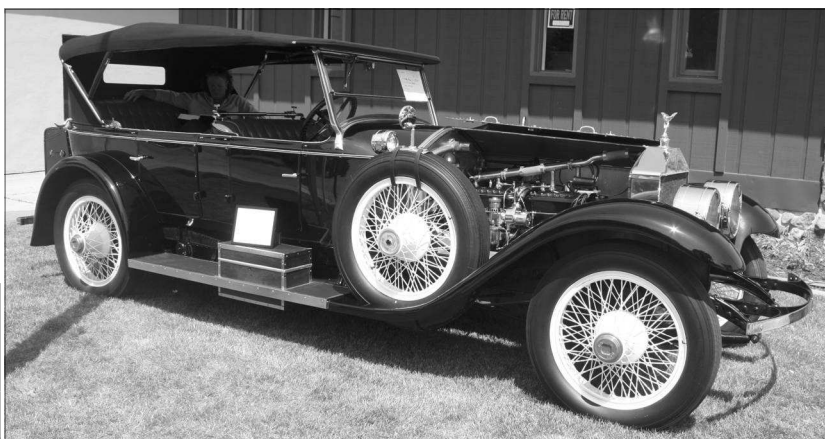
VFW member Don Sword with his car entry. (Matt Klos Photo).



"Fan Favorite" was taken by Mark Freund, VFW 5040 Member. He is the owner of Dodge Daytona, a 1969 replica of the car driven by Buddy Baker. (Matt Klos Photo).



Some of the volunteers that helped make this years car show a success: Hooter girls, Lindsey & Laura Spataforo, Mike David, Bill & Jeannie Kulinski, Jen Gorsk, Ron Hay, Ed Lump, Don Sword, Ed Chambers, Willie Beto, Russ & Donna Freeman, Sue Fleming, Lisa Wilson, Whitney Wilson, Scott Lange, and Tony Malysiak. (Matt Klos Photo).

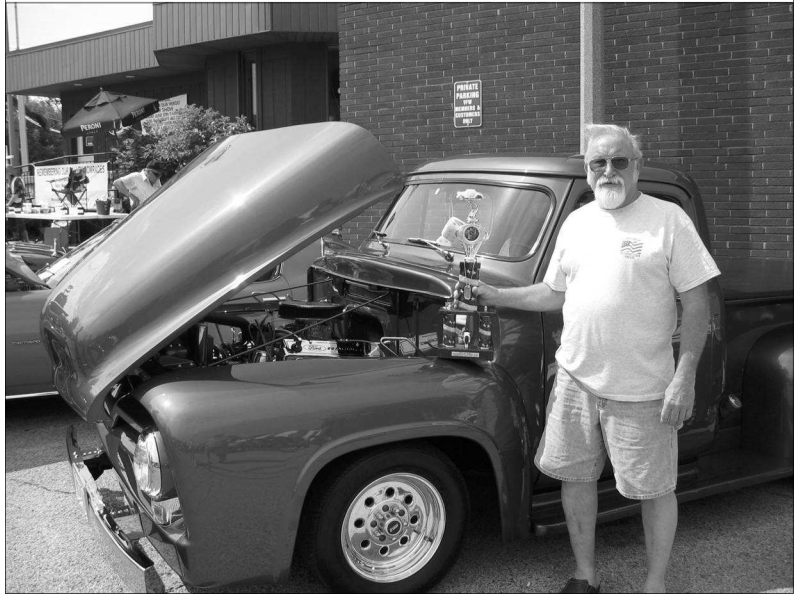
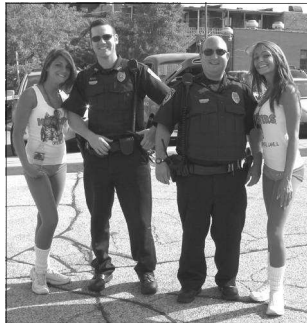




A partially restored 1965 Ford Falcon was being raffled off for the Coach Chuck Heart Fund, sponsored by the Woodstock Jaycees. Coach Chuck Vrasich, middle, received a new heart in December 2008. (Matt Klos Photo).



"Best in Show" was taken by Jim Klein, owner of 1955 Ford F100. (Matt Klos Photo).



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bar, and many other duties to help get the Post going again and back on track.

Other accomplishments through the years include help bring back and working the blood drives that have been held at the Post, gathering supplies to be sent to soldiers overseas, helping set up the traveling Vietnam wall along with computer access to names and providing security while it was on the Woodstock Square, and starting Lightning on Friday nights a in 2008.

As part of the ceremony, several people were asked to come up on the stage and share some comments or stories with those in attendance.

Charlie Mathey commented about Ralph. "He helped in the care and maintenance of the Post. He installed the dishwasher, boilers, routed the septic, etc. We're lucky to have him as a member...you [Ralph] are appreciated."

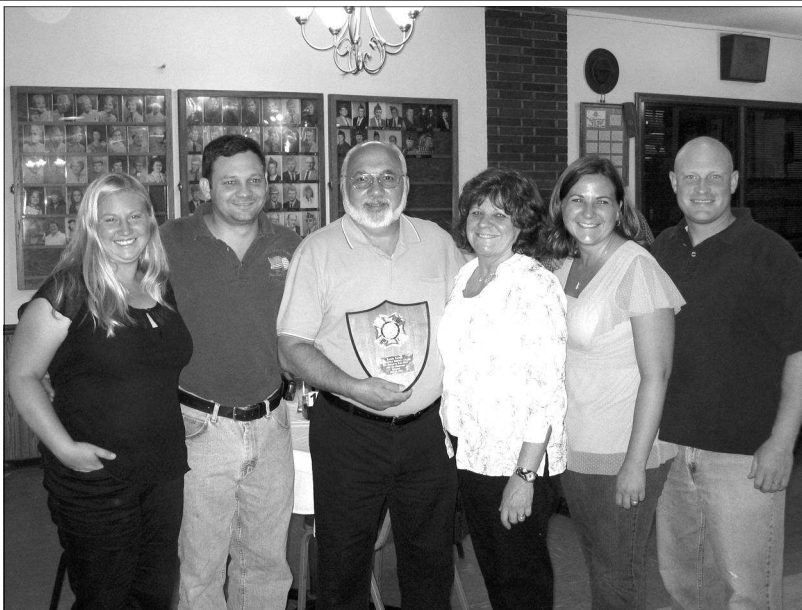
Bob Gibson knew Ralph for quite a long time. Ralph grew up with Bob's daughter so he remembers him as a young boy. "If Ralph hadn't been around, this Post couldn't pay for the repairs he has done." said Bob. "He knew the right people to call and get whatever it was fixed."

Ralph's son, Brian, had several humorous comments about how his dad adapts and makes things work. "My dad called me up, told me he got a good deal on a fridge for the VFW kitchen. 'It doesn't fit,' dad said, 'but we'll make it fit.' Not only did it not fit through the door into the kitchen, but in the space it was to go had to be cut away and modified to handle it."

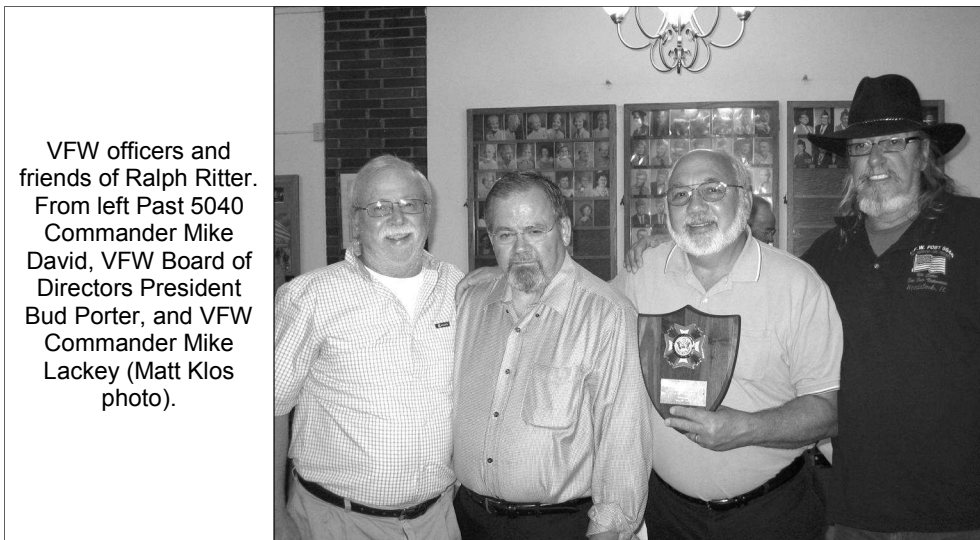
Bud Porter got a laugh with his comment that "Ralph had the people skills of Attila the Hun".

Before ending the ceremony, Ralph got a chance to go up on stage and thanked everyone for the appreciation night. "I truly believe in volunteering," Ralph commented. "It's not only me that was doing this volunteering over these several years, but also my wife. She has supported me in what I have done at the Post and also was a big part in doing actual volunteer work."

Ralph indicated that he would tone down his involvement with the physical upkeep going forward and said that "It's time for other people to step up. I'll provide the answers, but others will need to do the work."



Members of Ralph Ritter's family surround him on July 18 for an appreciation dinner held in his honor. Pictured from left is daughter-in-law Dawn, son Brian, Ralph, wife Pat, daughter Danielle Keane and son-in-law Mike Keane. (Matt Klos photo).



VFW officers and friends of Ralph Ritter. From left Past 5040 Commander Mike David, VFW Board of Directors President Bud Porter, and VFW Commander Mike Lackey (Matt Klos photo).

Ralph sings Van Morrison's "Brown Eyed Girl" with Talisman's Lorrie (left) and Freddy (right) Lamberti.



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# August 2009

☆☆☆☆☆☆ 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
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Memorial Day <b>Committee will resume meetings in October.</b> Little League 7 pm Girls Softball 7 pm VFW Board Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>4</b> Woodstock Jaycees Board Mtg. 7:30pm  U.S. Coast Guard Established (1790)	<b>5</b> Cub Scouts - 7 pm	<b>6</b> VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7pm	<b>7</b> <b>VFW Fish Fry</b> (call first) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm  Purple Heart Medal Established (1782)	<b>1</b> Air Force Day        <b>8</b>
<b>McHenry County Fair August 5 - 9 Sign up at Post to man booth.</b>						
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> VFW Officers Mtg. 7 pm  American Legion Post 412 7:30 pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>VFW Fish Fry</b> (call first) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm <i>Japan Surrendered Ending WWII (1945)</i> <i>National Navaho Code Talkers Day</i>	<b>15</b> Saturday Raffle 4 pm
<b>16</b> <i>National Airborne Day</i>	<b>17</b> VFW Meeting 6:30 pm - Dinner (VFW Members Only) 7:00 pm - Floor mtg.  Deadline for September 2009 VFW News items	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:00 pm <i>National Aviation Day</i>	<b>20</b> Marines 7:30 pm Marines Auxiliary 7:30 pm	<b>21</b> <b>VFW Fish Fry</b> (call first) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm	<b>22</b> Saturday Raffle 4 pm
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Woodstock Jaycees General Mtg. 7:30pm	<b>26</b> <i>Women's Equality Day</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>VFW Fish Fry</b> (call first) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm	<b>29</b> Saturday Raffle 4 pm
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <i>V-J Day: Japan Signed Formal Surrender (1945)</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>VFW Fish Fry</b> (call first) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm	<b>5</b> Saturday Raffle 4 pm



## From the Editor's Desk By Matt Klos VFW News Editor

Lots of photos this month. I wish color printing was cheaper because the car show pictures don't do the event justice. Coming in September 13 will be the annual Post Picnic at John Hansen's house. Last month I included a survey in the newsletter. I've only gotten about 16 responses back, so keep them coming. If you don't have the survey, download last months newsletter from the Post website and print out the survey. At the last meeting, the newsletter awards that were picked up at the Department Convention in June for First Place in State and First Place in Nation for our size Post were presented. Pictured is Commander Mike Lackey, Matt Klos, Editor, and Fred Noble, last years Commander.



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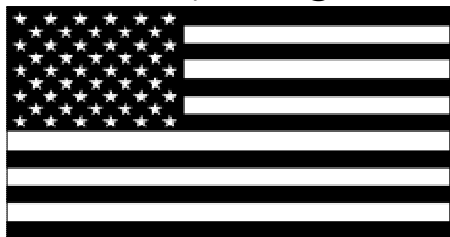
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**This month's issue:**

- June 27 Car Show pictures.
- A night with Talisman.
- Members take ride with Honor Flight.
- Lightning Raffle winners.
- And more inside...

**Upcoming Events:**

- Every Friday, Lightning Raffle and Fish Fry (pending). Please call first (815)-338-5040.
- July 30: D Co. 1/178 Infantry comes home to Woodstock.
- August 17: VFW Meeting.

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

**VFW Post 5040  
 Post Officers 2009 - 2010**

Commander	Mike Lackey	(815)-353-5287
Senior Vice Commander	Ed Lumpp	(630)-460-8812
Junior Vice Commander	Dan Regna	(815)-276-2379
Quartermaster	Fred Noble	(815)-338-5655
Chaplain	Pete Lockinger	(815)-338-6449
Service Officer	Mike Iwanicki	(815)-334-4229
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

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Vice President	LaVerne Emricson	- NA -
Treasurer	Fred Noble	(815)-338-5655
Secretary	Don Sword	(815)-338-0068
Director	Mike David	(815)-338-5341
Director	Russ Freeman	(815)-338-3414
Director	Mike David	(815)-338-5341
Director	Bob Gibson	(815)-338-4142
Director	Charley Mathey	(815)-338-5374
Director	Mike Lackey	(815)-353-5287
Club Manager	- NA -	- NA -

**Ladies Auxiliary to  
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 Post Officers 2009 - 2010**

President	Nyda Fogarty	(815)-338-1759
Senior Vice President	Lois Freund	(815)-338-5261
Junior Vice	Viola Brown	(815)-338-1446
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Patriotic Instructor	Lois Freund	(815)-338-5261
Guard	Rose Mary Hellstern	(815)-338-0653
Conductress	Christine Gehrke	(815)-338-3533
1 Year Trustee	Geraldine Salyers	(815)-206-3910
2 Year Trustee	Jessica Rathbone	- NA -
3 Year Trustee	Barbara Gehrke	(815)-338-1546

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