



# VFW News

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Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

## Woodstock Observes Veterans Day

By Don Peasley

Woodstock's Veterans Day observance on November 11 was conducted at several locations: an elementary and a middle school, Hearthstone Village and at the Woodstock VFW. At the Woodstock VFW Post 5040, emotional talks were given by VFW Commander Brian Ritter and Derik Morefield, deputy city manager. The crowd included veterans dating to action during World War II.

Ritter chose to have the ceremony at the VFW but said he hopes to move this important observance to the Woodstock Square in 2011 for greater public awareness and participation. Ritter read a haunting recollection of the Battle of Iwo Jima written by the son of one of the men who participated in the memorable photo showing six men posting the flag on that island.

Ritter quoted from a book by James Bradley, son of John Bradley, a medic in the Marines during this climactic battle of World War II. James Bradley's remarks read by Ritter gave graphic information about each of the men raising the flag and the heroic efforts of these men.

James Bradley's book, "Flags of our Father," is the story of the six men in that flag-raising photo. After describing the six boys (as he called them) he said, "Let us never forget from the Revolutionary War to the current War on Terrorism and all the wars in between that sacrifice was made for our freedom."

"Every day you can wake up free it's going to be a great day," remembered Bradley.

When Ira Hayes, a Pima Indian from Arizona (one of those who walked off Iwo Jima) went to the White House to meet President Truman he answered Truman's comment about being a hero by saying, "How can I feel like a hero when 250 of my buddies arrived at the island with me and only 27 of us walked off alive?"

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Here is an informal look at Rifle Squad members and bugler Bob Schroeder and flag bearer John Sorensen. From left, front: Fred Noble, 85, Army; Arnie Doerfert, 68, Air Force; Bill Lyford, 86, Army Infantry; Bob Gibson, 90, Navy; Ron Nehls, 77, Army; Chuck Mathey, 81, Army; Dick Glawe, 79, Army; Jerry Riley, 84, Army; Mark Freund, 56, Army; Bob Schroeder, 84, Navy; and John Sorensen, 63, Army. (Don Peasley Photo)



Courtney Dalton, Woodstock High School sophomore, reads a speech by Gary Sinese at the National Press Club in January 2007. From left is SGM Tom Morrissey, Purple Heart recipient, and Derik Morefield, deputy city manager, representing Mayor Brian Sager. (Don Peasley Photo)



This is the view of the crowd in the VFW parking lot during the 2010 Veterans Day observance at the VFW. (Don Peasley Photo)

## ✠ Chaplains Report ✠

By Pete Lockinger, Chaplain

### Sympathy Cards:

- Charlie Mathey (wife Norine passed away on October 18, 2010).

### Charter Draped (December Meeting):

- Donald Mistic (September 7, 2010)
- Francis Grasser (October 10, 2010)

## Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy winners announced

By Matt Klos

Christine Gehrke, Auxiliary President, and Robert James, VFW Sr. Vice Commander, have announced the winners of this year's Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy essay contests.

The Patriot's Pen contest ended November 1, 2010. This year's theme, "Does Patriotism Matter?", was what students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade were to focus on.

Gehrke reported that 140 students had entered the contest. She said it took a long time to read through each of the 300-400 word essays. In the end, the following student's entries will advance:

### 1st Place

**Austin Murrer, Harvard IL**

### 2nd Place

**Dana May Emery  
Wonder Lake, IL  
Northwood Middle School**

### 3rd Place

**Ian Andersen, Woodstock  
Northwood Middle School**

The Voice of Democracy contest, which also ended on November 1, 2010, only had two entries this year. High school students were required to record an audio essay on the following topic, "Does My Generation Have a Role in America's Future?".

This year's winner who will advance to the next level of the contest:

### 1st Place

**Erik Murrer, Harvard IL**

Congratulations to each of the winners of the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy contests. In a future issue, we will publish the essays for our membership to read.



## Soup to Nuts



### sales results

By Russ and Donna Freeman

Well, another sale is in the books for our annual Post Soup to Nuts Sale. We would like to thank all the good help we had in preparation for the sale and post-sale cleanup.

Thanks to everyone who brought in the many nice items that were sold at the sale. We made over \$1,600.00 and put it in the General Post Fund to help pay the bills and upkeep of the building. If there is something special that the Post plans to use the funds for, we will let you know.

The items brought in this year were

very clean and in good shape; that makes for a great sale.

A special thanks to the following for the help and time they gave:

- Viola Brown
- Mark Freund
- John Hanson
- Betty Huebsch
- Bill Lyford
- Pat Ritter
- Arlene McNett
- Gary Sherwin
- Sally and Jim Shoemaker
- Anita and Don Sword
- Cindy Shafer
- Dorothy and Wally Thomas
- Chuck Mathey

Thanks again and we'll see you at next year's sale!



VFW volunteers working at the annual Soup to Nuts sale pause for a photo. From left, front: Viola Brown, Anita Sword, Donna Freeman, co-chairman; Pat Ritter, and Sally and Jim Shoemaker. Back: Chuck Mathey, Don Sword, Wally and Dorothy Thomas, Russ Freeman, co-chairman; Bill Lyford, Cindy Shulfer and Betty Huebsch. The two-day sale raised over \$1,600. Donna Freeman said the VFW appreciates the many nice, clean items donated. (Don Peasley Photo)

## 5<sup>th</sup> District Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen awards banquet

The 5th District's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 8, 2011 at Lake Villa Memorial VFW Post #4308.

Address is 130 E. Grand Avenue, Lake Villa, IL 60046. Phone number is 847.356.9848. The menu is salad, chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, roll and desert. Seating is limited to 190 people.

Cocktail hour is 5:00 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$22.00 per person. Ticket requests must be received by December 20, 2010. For additional information, please call Dennis Kehrer (5th District VOD Chairman) at 847.833.049

## Veterans Day

Continued from Page 1

Morefield said it was fitting to recognize those who have served in the Armed Forces, placing the needs of a country before their own safety and welfare in order to ensure the rest of us may enjoy the many freedoms that are part of our everyday lives. He recalled an article he found from a 1918 Woodstock newspaper, *The Woodstock American*.

The article quoted a statesman's comments saying, "This is a mother's war" and referred specifically to Mrs. Selma Brahy of 421 Center Street, Woodstock whose five sons served in the military.

Another notable highlight of the program was given by Courtney Dalton, Woodstock High School sophomore. She chose a speech given by Gary Sinese at

the National Press Club in 2007. Sinese is remembered by many as Lieutenant Dan in the film *Forest Gump* with Tom Hanks.

In his speech Sinese said one of the lessons learned from our country's involvement in Vietnam is how not to treat our service members.

"They should be shown respect and appreciation always," he asserted. "Their sacrifices are many. They need our support."

Veterans talked to students at Northwood Middle School (NWMS) November 10 and Olson Elementary School November 11. At NWMS Gerry Havens, Purple Heart recipient, shared his perspective on why patriotism matters. At Olson Gail Perkins, principal, said the student assembly was an opportunity to express gratitude to the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces.

In another Veterans Day activity Hearthstone Communities honored veterans who reside at Hearthstone and resident veterans who have died. Residents joined the three children of Carl and Evelyn Boe to dedicate a Veterans Day Memorial located at Hearthstone Village on N. Seminary Avenue. The three children are Cindy Hegerman, Cathy Boe and Charles Boe.

Carl Boe served in the U.S. Navy in World War II. After the war Carl and Evelyn lived in Somonauk, Illinois where Carl served as a volunteer firefighter, member of local government boards and local Lions Club. He helped raise funds and build a veterans memorial in that community.

Carl and Evelyn relocated in Woodstock in 2005 at Hearthstone Village. The Veterans Memorial at Hearthstone Village is a fitting tribute to the family's patriotic spirit.

## Silent duty

By Jim Shoemaker

VFW Post 5040 Life Member Harold Irwin placed his last gold star on the Life Membership Board on Monday, October 18, 2010 after carefully servicing it for over 20 years. Since 1990, Harold made certain that a gold star was mounted next to the name of every deceased member of Post 5040 on the board. Additionally, he served on the honor guard for each memorial service.

He did this not for recognition but because he was a loyal and proud member of

the Post who has for many years volunteered whenever asked. Many of the members of the Post most likely did not even know he was the one responsible for this work and that was just the way he wanted it to be. He volunteered hundreds of hours of work because he wished to help the Post and every veteran in it. It was also something he liked to do.

At the age of 92, Harold is still able to complete all of his volunteer work but as he would say, "Not quite as fast as I used to."

Jim Shoemaker will now maintain the Life Membership Board.

## A note to our Post

By Harold Irwin, Post Surgeon

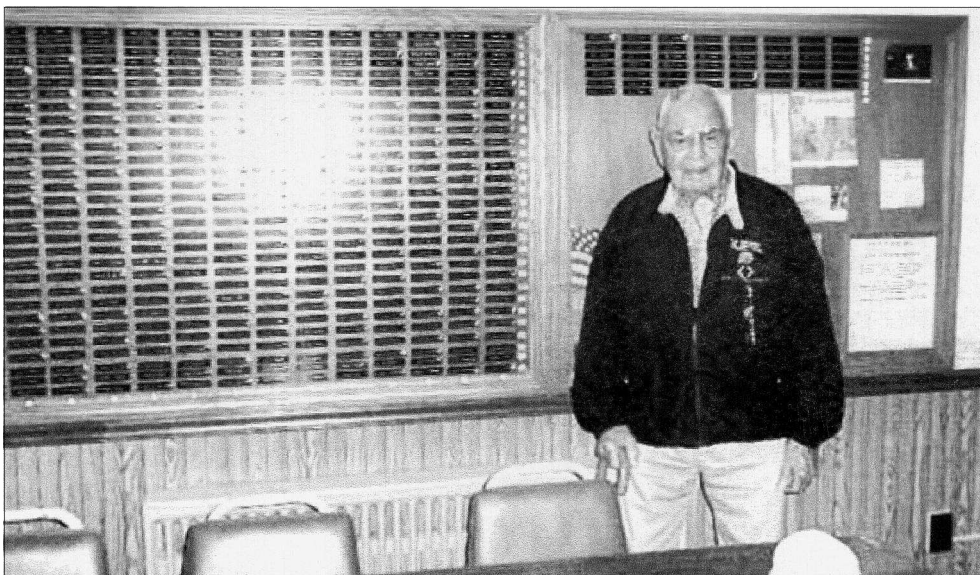
On November 1, 2010 our son Richard died of a massive heart attack a little after midnight Hawaii time. Richard was a member of VFW Post 5040 for a short while and a member (Quartermaster) of Post 3855 in Kauai, HI.

A 20 year Veteran of the Naval Air Service, he served as an in-flight electronic technician several years on Orion P-3's. He retired this past summer.

After retirement, he and his wife Joye went on a cruise to Alaska. At the end of the cruise, Richard had become ill. Wanting to continue their planned agenda, they flew to Plano, TX to visit their daughter Lisa and husband Ken. They flew home on September 21. The night of October 4, Joye checked Richard into Wilcox hospital on Kauai. It was around October 28 that Richard had the heart attack and was med-evacuated to Straub hospital in Honolulu, Joye flying with him.

The heart doctor told Richard that the damage to his heart was so extensive that it could not be repaired and that he was dying. Richard refused life support and was soon gone. Richard was 65 years old.

We're so thankful that he had great faith in God and His promises and that his soul now is in Heaven.



Harold Irwin stands next to the Life Membership board which he had maintained for the past 20 years. Jim Shoemaker will now be taking over the duty of maintaining the board. (Jim Shoemaker Photo)

Looking for (mostly) up to date information about Post 5040?  
[www.VFW5040.org](http://www.VFW5040.org)

## Memorial Day Committee members needed

By Matt Klos

At the October VFW meeting, it was announced that Alan and Gay Belcher were retiring from their positions on the Memorial Day committee. Alan has been a chair of this committee for over 20 years. Gay has put together a CD of all the information needed for the committee (letters, contact information, etc.).

Several other people have also dropped from the committee this year as well. Dick Glawe reported that for the first meeting in October, he was the only person pre-

sent.

You might think that because of VFW Post 5040's involvement that the event is strictly sponsored by our Post. It isn't. Our Post is involved, but it is the committee of different organizations that make this Memorial Day event a success.

The Memorial Day ceremony on the Woodstock Square is an event that many people look forward to each year. Local high schools, middle schools, car clubs, non-profit organizations, etc. participate in the parade that follows. The Square is usually packed with people who take time out of this long weekend holiday to remember our service members that gave their lives in military service.

To continue this event, the Memorial

Day Committee is looking for some people to help organize and keep this tradition going. You don't have to be a veteran or even a member of a veteran's organization to help with this.

If you are a member of the many organizations within Woodstock that have an interest in our community, please let your members know that the Memorial Day Committee are looking for volunteers to help continue this event.

For more information, please contact Dick Glawe (815)-385-3156. The Memorial Day Committee meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm at Woodstock VFW.

## Dwayne Raney celebrates 80 years young

By Don Peasley

Family and friends helped Dwayne Raney celebrate his 80th birthday with a gathering at Deeter's Restaurant on November 20. A great many people joined in the celebration, and it's not surprising because Raney has been a community activist in a number of organizations since his discharge from the Army in January 1954.

Dwayne served overseas from June 1951 to September 1952. He was in Korea from July 1952 to August 1952 with the National Guard unit. His military decorations include the National Defense Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Rifle Marksman Medal and the Sigmun Rhree South Korean President Unit Citation.

I met Raney in 1954 when Jim Moricoli and Tony Roskie called a few people together to discuss organizing the Woodstock Little League. Raney is one of the founders of Woodstock Little League.

Raney became manager of the Yankees, one of four teams that first season. He managed the Yankees until 1960. Raney's interest and ability led him to become League president in 1960, 1962, 1963 and 1964.

He began umpiring in 1964, serving in that capacity as a volunteer until a few years ago. He teamed with Casimer Polizzi for a great many seasons. As umpire-in-chief for many years he helped organize teams of umpires working together.

Raney married Geraldine Labenski May 2, 1953 in Chicago. Geri died May 31,

1992. Raney has a daughter Cathy, Woodstock, and a daughter, Karen who teaches physical education and coaches varsity volleyball at Seneca Township high school in Marcellus, Illinois. Raney also has a son, Steve. He has two grandchildren, Karen Elizabeth, Cathy's daughter; and Amber, Steve's daughter.

Raney's community service extends far beyond baseball. He served as Commander of the Woodstock VFW on three different occasions and held other offices, including Post Adjutant. He was a frequent officer in the American Legion and continues as one of the primary leaders of American Legion Post 412 today. He was also a volunteer for Woodstock Girls Softball.

Talking about his Little League in-

volvement, Raney said that was one of his abiding interests, and he realizes Little Leaguers have special needs and capabilities.

"Always they must be made to feel this is just a game. Too many people forget they are youngsters between the ages of 8 through 15, and what they do on the ball fields is not a matter of life or death. Little League is a learning opportunity. It should be fun at all times," said Raney during an interview for Play Ball!

Raney enjoyed the time when his son Steve played in Little League from 1968 to 1970.

Raney continues to be a pillar of the Woodstock American Legion, and this year helped obtain sponsors to fund high school students attending Boys State.



Following the September VFW meeting, VFW members and spouses prepare Turkey Raffle envelopes for mailing. Pictured from left and clockwise is Don Sword (standing), Anita Sword, Erik Neider, Mary Widmayer, Patrick De George, Russ Freeman, and Donna Freeman. (Matt Klos Photo)

## Woodstock soldier welcomed home

By Don Peasley

The Warriors' Watch Riders welcomed former Woodstock resident Lt. Col. Edward Wood to Woodstock Saturday, July 24. Wood served a year each in Korea and Iraq. He grew up in Woodstock, attending Greenwood Elementary, Northwood Middle School and Woodstock High School (WHS).

Woodstock Mayor Brian Sager read Wood's distinguished 20-year military service and thanked all soldiers for their service to our country. Wood's gratitude was evident in his words.

"I'd like to thank the Warriors' Watch Riders. If any of you are Vietnam veterans and have never heard it, 'Welcome Home,'" said Wood. Wood encouraged the crowd when meeting veterans to welcome them.

"It never gets old," said Wood. "Thank God every day we live in this country. We are very blessed to live here. You realize it when you see how others live," he said. He disputed being called a hero as his voice broke he said, "There were four caskets on the plane when I came home. They are the heroes."

A graduate of WHS in 1989, Wood was in the top ten of his class. He was in Madrigal choir, marching band, theater and math team. Mary Ellen Howard, Wood's kindergarten teacher, attended the welcome home for her former student.

"Ed was a model student as a child, and I have a high regard for people in the military. Because of people like Ed, America will never be lacking for heroes," said Howard.

Wood's military service began in 1989 when he enlisted as a Private First Class in the Illinois National Guard. Soon after, he became a Cadet with the University of Illinois even though he already had a full academic scholarship. He earned the University Gold Award for the highest ranking Army cadet.

In 1993 Wood was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant, Infantry. He was sent to Fort Benning, Georgia where he completed several schools, including Ranger school. After graduating from college he went into active duty with the U.S. Army serving a year in Korea as a platoon leader and earned an Army Accommodation Medal for his service.

Over the next 15 years, he served as a battle captain, deployment training leader and university teacher of military science.

While serving as a Platoon Leader at Fort Lewis, Wood did cross training exercises in England and earned British Jump Wings.

Wood met his wife Amanda in 1996 while serving as the Air Operations Officer for the 5/20 and soon after he resigned his active commission to pursue a family life. In November 1997 he joined the Washington State National Guard and served as the Assistant Operations Officers for the 248th RAOC.

In July 2000 he joined the Army Reserve and served as an Assistant Professor of Military Science at PLU with the 7/104. He graduated from Pacific Lutheran University with an MBA in Technology and Information Management. From January 2002 to September 2003 Wood served as the Company Commander for the Headquarters Company for the 385th and earned the Meritorious Service Medal.

He was promoted in 2003 to Major and returned to serving as a Professor of Military Science. In January 2006 he began a new position of Personnel Officer of the 21/22nd but was soon called up for active

service, with another unit heading to Iraq.

During his deployment he served as Data Manager, a Project Officer and director of Camp Dublin. He trained Iraqis to become members of an elite police force working with the Navy SEALs in joint operations. He earned the Bronze star for his service in Iraq.

Since returning home in June 2007 Wood has served as a Liaison Officer, Training Team Chief and currently Battalion Commander for the 3/354th. He was pinned Lieutenant Captain in July 2010.

Wood's sister, Kirsten Hill, Woodstock, called upon the Warriors' Watch Riders who helped organize the escort from Huntley to Woodstock, parading through Emricson Park along with firefighters and police officers. A reception was held at Stuessy Pavilion where family and friends greeted Wood, Amanda, and their two children, Alexander, 6, and Aria, 5.

Wood lives in Washington state and works for the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management as a homeland security coordinator.



Woodstock Mayor Brian Sager (left) joins Lt. Col. Edward Wood (on motorcycle) and his family at a "Welcome Home" reception at Emricson Park. The Warriors' Watch Riders escorted Wood from Huntley to Woodstock on July 24. Wood served a year each in Korea and Afghanistan. He had earned the Bronze Star for his service in Iraq. (Don Peasley Photo)



**The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5040 and Ladies Auxiliary wish each of our members a happy and joyful holiday season and best wishes in the coming new year. See you in 2011!**

## Veterans Day at Hearthstone Communities, November 11, 2010

Veterans who reside at Hearthstone Communities gather Thursday, November 11 during dedication ceremonies of a Veterans Memorial. From left: Ross Heard, 91, Army; Roy Erikson, 87, Air Force; Dick Johnson, 95, Army; Elinor Mason, 90, Army Nurse Corps; Norma Tokars, 86, Army; Hazel Powell, 93, Navy; Clarence Magerl, 89, Army; and Jim Handke, 84, Army. (Don Peasley Photo)



Hearthstone Communities (HC) honored veterans, including those who currently reside at HC and those residents who have died, with a dedication of a Veterans Memorial Thursday, November 11. The memorial was made possible with a donation from the children of Carl and Evelyn Boe (Cathy, Cindy and Charles). The memorial features an oval-shaped garden, flagpole and bronze plaque on a large boulder at the entrance to Hearthstone Village building on Park Street. From left: Cathy Boe, Cindy Boe Hegerman, Angie Boe, Jackie Boe Lawler and Charles Boe. (Jackie Boe Lawler is the daughter of Charles and Angie Boe.) (Don Peasley Photo)



### Ladies Auxiliary report

By Christine Gehrke,  
President 2010-2011

Happy holiday's Auxiliary Members! Just a couple of reminders for you and I'll let you get back to your holiday planning, decorating, or visiting.

Please keep our other Auxiliary members in your prayers, especially this time of year. Nyda Fogarty, our Auxiliary president who suffered a severe stroke in July of this year, is doing better but has a long road to recovery ahead.

We will not have our De-

cember meeting on December 2. Instead, this is rescheduled for December 9. We will have our annual Auxiliary Christmas party potluck starting at 6:00 pm. If attending, please plan on bringing a dish to pass and a \$5.00 grab bag gift. Games will also be played.

There will be no meeting in January 2011. This is usually a bad time for weather (as we've experienced in the past), so the next meeting will be February 3.

Are you one of our Auxiliary members that has not paid their annual dues? We only need 10 more people to pay dues to be 100% this year in membership. If you don't know your status, contact me and I can let you know (815)-338-3533.

Happy holidays to everyone and have a wonderful new year in 2011!

# Annual Turkey Raffle 2010

Photos and Article by Matt Klos

Although the final numbers aren't in yet as of this issue, I think that most would agree that this was a pretty good year for the VFW Turkey Raffle. We had a lot of volunteers on hand to help with serving and paddle wheel ticket sales. Volunteers this year came from the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District and the Woodstock Little League. The food was good and served as quickly as it was dished up by the volunteers to patrons at the tables.

For most of the night, Thiede Hall (the lower hall of the VFW) was filled with people. There were a couple of empty spots scattered throughout the tables, but that is not unusual for this event. The bar booths were filled with people eating and drinking and kept all the bartenders on the move.

Commander Brian Ritter kept the paddle wheel spinning all night long which landed on the winning numbers for turkeys, meat, or spirits. Earlier that day, Brian had even made sure that the paddle wheel was perfectly balanced to ensure that everyone was given a fair chance at winning that night.

Thanks to everyone that supported the VFW in buying tickets, coming down for dinner, buying paddle wheel tickets, etc. This is one of the major yearly events that Post 5040 depends on for monetary support. The funds generated at this event help keep the Post operating and support the activities that Post 5040 gets involved with in the community.

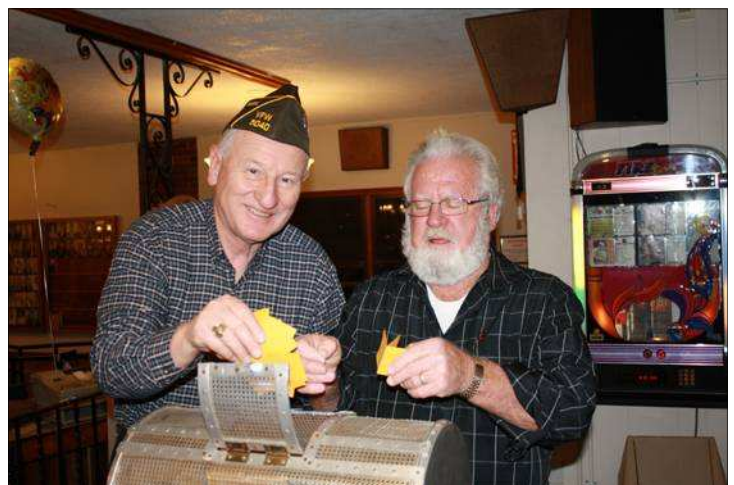
Thank you especially to the volunteers at this years event, the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District and the Woodstock Little League. The sheer number of volunteers helps so much in tackling an event this size.

Finally, thank you to all the "behind the scenes" people that made this possible (bar tenders, money collectors, clean up / prep crew, kitchen cooks and help, and many more). This wouldn't be successful without you.

If you were not able to come down, here is a glimpse of what you missed. Everyone had a lot fun and it was a perfect way to usher in the holiday season.



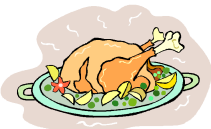
Members of the Woodstock Little League build turkey dinner plates to serve at the 2010 VFW Turkey Raffle.



John Widmayer and Charles Chapman separate raffle tickets from stubs before the grand prize drawing.



Keeping track of paddle wheel ticket series, money and names were Pat Ritter and Sue Fleming.



The 2010 Turkey Raffle Dinner drew a good crowd and were happily served throughout the night as they arrived. Food was quickly served and it was a chance for many to catch up with old friends and those they had not seen in some time.



Jr. Vice Commander Robert James mixes a drink at the bar for a customer. James was one of several bartenders this night helping to serve the Turkey Raffle Dinner crowd.



. . . and more pictures from the 2010 Turkey Raffle and Dinner...



Nothing like having someone taking a picture of you while you're trying to enjoy a turkey dinner.



Later into the evening, it was more social time and buying tickets for the paddle wheel drawings for turkey, meat and spirits.



Commander Brian Ritter announces the next winning number on a paddle wheel series. Spin Brian, spin.



Volunteers from the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District are (left to right) front row Ann Bush and Sean Ryan, middle row Lt. Karen Bush (Station 1 on Judd St.), FF/PM Pat Ryan (Station 3 on Raffel Rd.), Stacy Lohmeier, back row Don Bush, FF/PM Ryan Mains, and FF/PM Scott Wessel (Station 2 on Dean St.). All the firefighters / paramedics (FF/PM) are full time members from Woodstock Career Firefighters Local 4813.

In a return note from Scott Wessel after thanking him and the team for helping out, he wrote back, "It was an honor for us to help last night. The commitment that those men and women have given to their country is the most honorable sacrifice one can make."



Past Commander Mike David provides Dolores Glawe with a prize winning turkey from the back of his van. Patrons that won a turkey or meat prize could claim their winnings with a ticket turned into Mike.



. . . and finally the winners of the raffle and a few last pics.



Long time supporter of Woodstock Little League and author of the Play Ball! yearbook produced each year is Don Peasley, left, with Darrin Chonos, Woodstock Little League President.

### The 2010 Turkey Raffle Winners:

- 1st Place \$150.00: Robert Knoll
- 2nd Place \$100.00: Dale Widmayer
- 3rd Place \$50.00: Mary Freund

**Congratulations to each of you!!!!**



Woodstock Little League volunteers (left to right): front row Ryan Baier, Jenny Baier, Blake Shallenbarger, Ben Chonos, Troy Barger; middle row Trey Shallenbarger, Tammy Baier, Matthew Chonos; back row Brett Shallenbarger, Darrin Chonos, Sarah Baier, Scott Baier, Anita Barger, John Barger.



Commander Ritter gets a little help drawing the 40 turkey raffle prizes from Aidan and Jessica Klos.

Collecting dinner money and raffle tickets at the door are Eva Chpaman (left) and Mary Widmayer.



A view from the stage shows an empty table after many of the dinners had been served. Many patrons remained to socialize and buy paddle wheel series tickets while waiting for the main prize drawing.

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



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

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I cannot believe that the year is almost over. It's been a productive year at the Post and I think we've kept it running pretty good. With a handful of dedicated people, a committed team made up of Post Officers and Board of Directors, and a terrific staff of people, the Post remains open and operating.

We've seen some new faces come through our doors and have said goodbye to many old friends this year. Each year, some of our older members evaluate how things are looking and are making the decision to "slow it down" a little with involvement which is quite alright. On the flipside, new members are coming into the VFW and helping to give a fresh perspective on things and give new ventures a try.

New raffles have been created, alternative events been held, and new patrons have been introduced to our VFW. It's an ever changing world and our Post is trying to adapt to it. It will take time, but we push onward into the new year with the ending of each successive year.

Thanks to everyone at the Post that have helped in one way or another. Be it a few minutes of time or many hours per week, your help is very much appreciated in making it a success. Thanks too for those that have helped our little newsletter survive by contributing story leads, pictures, etc.

For the coming year, I intend to keep the format as a bimonthly publication. This cuts down on postage and printing costs. The only downside to this is getting the word out on quickly planned upcoming events. This is when the website will play a key role in keeping abreast on current events at the Post.

So, what are your plans for 2011? Looking to do something different, take a trip, take up a new hobby? I had to throw that in because that is what I did this year. I made my first tandem skydive in July 2010 and am now progressing through student training to get my skydiving license sometime in 2011. As of this writing, I've made seven skydives and have 18 more to go before I get my license. I'm hoping for some calm days in December and January.

One thing I learned from this experience, if you've had the desire to do something and kept putting it off, when is the right time to pursue the dream? Tomorrow turns into days and days turn into years. I thought about skydiving when I was in the military 20 years ago. Now at 40, I could kick myself for not doing this sooner.


Maybe try something new for 2011. Get involved with an organization that interests you. Take a class through the Park District. Take a trip, even locally, to somewhere that you have never been. Maybe do something you've always wanted to do. Maybe this is your year to pursue your dream.

*Good luck in 2011 and Blue Skies,  
 VFW News Editor, Matt Klos*


**VFW**  
**Christmas**  
**8-Ball Tournament**  
 Saturday December 11, 2010 1PM - ?  
 8 Ball - Double Elimination  
 \$10 Entry Fee  
 No \$\$ till day of play  
 Raffles, Beer, Food, Fun  
 Sign up now at the bar: only 16 slots available  
 (men or women)  
 For more information please contact  
 Ed Chambers or ask at the bar  
 815-703-9000  
 Sponsored by ec2 inc.  
 Prior Champions  
 Come defend your reputation.



## December 2010

Open as Indicated	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	4:00 pm - 11:00 pm	4:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2: First Day of Hanukkah December 7: National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day December 8: War Declared on Japan (1941) December 11: Germany and Italy Declared War on US (1941) December 15: Bill of Rights Day December 21: Winter Begins December 26: Kwanzaa December 31: Official End of WWII (1946)	<b>First Friday of each Month</b> Prime rib dinner. Includes salad bar and potato - \$14.00		<b>1</b> Cub Scouts - 7:00 pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	<b>4</b> <b>Breakfast With Santa</b> <b>9-12 am</b> \$4.00 per person Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
<b>5</b> Post Open During Football Season	<b>6</b> Memorial Day Committee 7:00 pm Little League 7:00 pm Girls Softball 7:00 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> VFW Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Party and Meeting Pot Luck Dinner 6:00 pm	<b>10</b> <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	<b>11</b> <b>8-Ball Pool Tournament</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
<b>12</b> Post Open During Football Season	<b>13</b> VFW Officers Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>14</b> Woodstock Jaycees Board Meeting 7:30pm	<b>15</b> Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:00 pm	<b>16</b> Marines 7:30 pm Marines Auxiliary 7:30 pm	<b>17</b> <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	<b>18</b> Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
<b>19</b> Post Open During Football Season	<b>20</b> VFW Meeting 6:30 pm - Dinner (VFW Members Only) 7:00 pm - Floor mtg.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> VFW Board Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>24</b> Hours: 12-4 pm No dinner. No lightning	 <b>25</b> <b>Christmas</b> Post Closed
<b>26</b> Post Open During Football Season	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Woodstock Jaycees General Mtg. 7:30pm	<b>29</b> Deadline for "Next Issue" 2011 VFW News items	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Open Normal Hours No dinner. No lightning	 <b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b>

## January 2011

Open as Indicated	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	4:00 pm - 11:00 pm	4:00 pm - 11:00 pm	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<b>2</b> Post Open During Football Season	<b>3</b> Memorial Day Committee 7:00 pm Little League 7:00 pm Girls Softball 7:00 pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Cub Scouts - 7:00 pm	<b>6</b> VFW Ladies Auxiliary <u>No January Meeting</u>	<b>7</b> <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	<b>8</b> Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm	
<b>9</b> Post Open During Football Season	<b>10</b> VFW Officers Meeting 7:00 pm American Legion Post 412 7:30 pm	<b>11</b> Woodstock Jaycees Board Meeting 7:30pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	<b>15</b> Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm	
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<b>23</b> Post Open During Football Season	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Woodstock Jaycees General Mtg. 7:30pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> VFW Board Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>28</b> <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	<b>29</b> Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm	
<b>30</b> Post Open During Football Season	<b>31</b>	January 6: Epiphany January 17: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day January 17: Persian Gulf War Began (1991) January 27: Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord (1973)					



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

**Newsletter Editor Contact:**

**Matt Klos**  
 VFW 5040 News Editor  
 269 Forest Drive  
 Crystal Lake, IL 60014

phone: (815)-382-4593

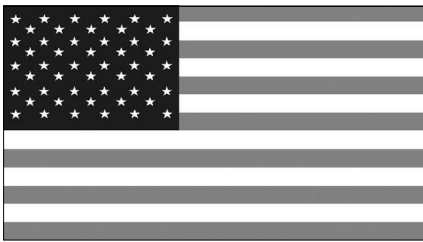
email: [matt.klos@vfw5040.org](mailto:matt.klos@vfw5040.org)

fax: 707-667-2621

**Post Website and Email:**

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

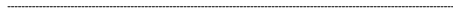
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**VFW Post 5040**  
**Post Officers 2010 - 2011**

Commander	Brian Ritter	(815)-276-4802
Senior Vice Commander	Robert James	(224)-623-2423
Junior Vice Commander	Charles Chapman	(815)-338-1197
Quartermaster	Mark Freund	(815)-530-1025
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	Ron Hay	(815)-337-1407
Adjutant	Matt Klos	(815)-382-4593
1 Year Trustee	Allan Belcher	(815)-338-7689
2 Year Trustee	Arnie Doerfert	(815)-385-2923
3 Year Trustee	John Hanson	(815)-338-7890

**Board of Directors**  
**2010 - 2011**

President	John Widmayer	(815)-338-2035
Vice President	Ed Chambers	(815)-703-9000
Treasurer	Mark Freund	(815)-530-1025
Secretary	Mike Lackey	(815)-353-5287
Director	John Hanson	(815)-338-7890
Director	Charles Mathey	(815)-338-5374
Director	Brian Ritter	(815)-276-4802
Director	Russ Freeman	(815)-338-3414
Director	Bob Gibson	(815)-338-4142
Building Engineer	Ralph Ritter	(815)-338-5018
Club Manager	Jeanne Kulinski	(815)-338-5040

**Ladies Auxiliary to**  
**VFW Post 5040**  
**Post Officers 2010 - 2011**

President	Christine Gehrke	(815)-338-3533
Senior Vice President	Viola Brown	(815)-338-1446
Junior Vice	Bonnie Kagel	(815)-648-4958
Secretary	Jessica Rathbone	(815)-338-1546
Treasurer	Michelle Patnaude	(815)-560-2135
Chaplain	Karen Wells	(815)-338-4821
Patriotic Instructor	Barbara Gehrke	(815)-338-1546
Guard	Geraldine Salyers	(815)-206-3910
Conductress	Marie Salyers	(815)-388-4130
1 Year Trustee	Barbara Gehrke	(815)-338-1546
2 Year Trustee	Geraldine Salyers	(815)-206-3910
3 Year Trustee	Marie Salyers	(815)-388-4130

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

**This months issue:**

- **Veterans Day - VFW**
- **Veterans Day - Hearthstone Communities**
- **Turkey Raffle Dinner Pics**
- **Soup to Nuts Results**
- **And a couple of more things of interest inside...**

**Post 5040 Chartered March 4, 1946**

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**Upcoming Events:**

- **Every Friday, Lightning Raffle and Fish Fry.**
- **December 11: Pool Tourney**
- **December 25: Christmas**
- **January 1, 2011: Happy New Year Post 5040!**
- **See calendars inside for more!**