



Rifle squad members at the Veterans Day service fired three volleys to salute veterans of all wars. From left: Ron Nehls, firing squad commander; Harold Irwin, Bruce Shisler, Art Schuld, Art Slack, Dick Glawe, Chuck Mathey and Bud Pflug. (Don Peasley Photo).

Veterans Day – November 11th at Post 5040
 By DON PEASLEY

A slight breeze blew the American flag gently as 200 citizens gathered outside the Woodstock VFW for Woodstock's annual Veterans Day program on Monday, November 11. Veterans—almost all of them veterans of World War II—provided the color guard and rifle squad for this traditional ceremony.

Grace Moline, curator at the McHenry County Historical Society discussed the McHenry County Historical Society's current exhibit, "Marching Off—Left Behind: The WWII Experience." Moline, featured speaker at the program, thanked the veterans for their help in compiling interviews, artifacts and photos for the award-winning exhibit, and announced she is planning her new exhibit around World War I and Korean War veterans.

"With over 1,100 World War II veterans dying each day, we don't know how much time we will have to show our gratitude to those who made sacrifices for our country.

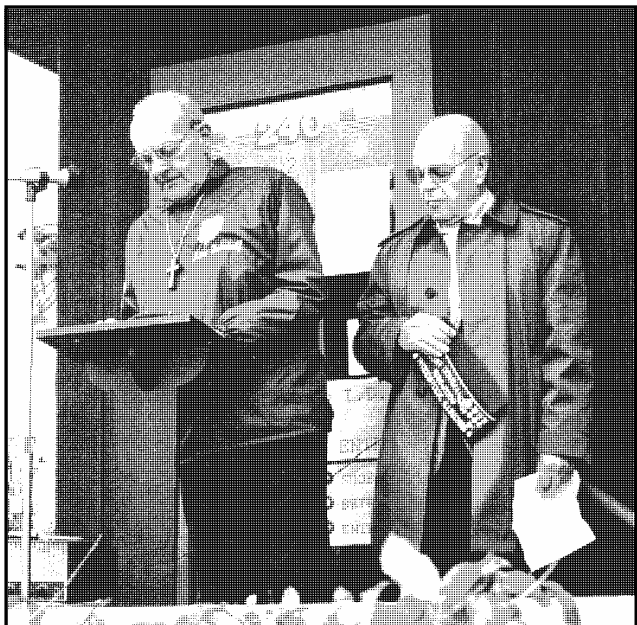
"Take time now and every day to thank those veterans, and all the men and women who lived through those times, as they were all pulling together so we might enjoy the freedom we have today."

Bill Lyford, Past Commander of VFW Post 5040, was general chairman and the program's master of ceremonies. Marvin Bohnhoff, VFW chaplain, gave the opening and closing prayers.

Members of the rifle squad under the command of Ron Nehls included Harold Irwin, Dick Glawe, Art Slack, Art Schuld, Bud Pflug, Bruce Shisler and Chuck Mathey.

The color guard included Henry Nulle, Alan Belcher, Jon Showers and Bob Gibson under the command of Joe Thiede. Don Rhode, Crystal Lake veteran, was bugler for the Woodstock ceremony.

Nearly 200 people attended the traditional turkey dinner following the ceremony. The audience included many long-time veterans and their families, further united through having lived through wartime experiences impacting everyone.



Marv Bohnhoff, VFW chaplain, gives the opening prayer at Woodstock's Veterans Day program on November 11. (Don Peasley Photo).

Ladies Auxiliary FROM THE PRESIDENT

By NYDA FOGARTY, President 2002-2003

The Auxiliary Christmas Party will be on Thursday, December 5th. Cocktails will begin at 6 P.M. and dinner at 7 P.M. Baked ham will be furnished by the Auxiliary. Please bring a dish to pass, a \$5.00 grab bag gift, some white elephants that are wrapped for games, and some canned goods for the clearing house. Chris Gehrke is the Chairman of the party. For anyone attending who has their current dues paid up will be eligible for the drawing for three paid up dues for this coming year.

The Past Presidents party will be on Thursday, December 12th. Meet at the Post at 6:15 P.M. and we will depart from there for a restaurant in the area. Please bring a \$5.00 gift for an exchange. Call me at 338-1759 if you can come so I can make a reservation.

I want to thank everyone who helped and also donated cookies for the Annual Teacher's Tea on November 21st. We certainly miss our longtime and faithful worker and our Chaplain for several years, Alice McCannon. Alice is a patient at Hearthstone Manor. Stop and pay her a visit if you can.

I want to thank our editor for his get well wishes and the Auxiliary for their cards and kindness since my accident north of Champaign on September 22nd. I am grateful I did not have any broken bones and that I came out of it alive.

I want to wish everyone a Very Happy Holiday Season and most of all that everyone will be blessed with good health this coming year.

Ladies Auxiliary Elected Officers 2002-2003

President
Senior Vice President
Junior Vice
Secretary
Treasurer
Chaplain
Guard
Conductress
1 Yr. Trustee
2 Yr. Trustee
3 Yr. Trustee

Nyda Fogarty
Bonnie Kagel
Viola Brown
Christine Gehrke
Barbara Gehrke
Karen Wells
Rosemary Hellstern
Irene Brown
Joyce Monson
Ruth Gehrke
Geraldine Salyers



Judith Sowinski (center) was named Teacher of the Year during the annual Teachers Tea. With Sowinski are Nyda Fogarty (left) and Chris Gehrke, co-chairmen for this VFW Auxiliary community service program. (Don Peasley Photo).

Annual Auxiliary Teachers Tea Held at VFW Post

By DON PEASLEY

Judith Sowinski, head of the English Department at Marian Central Catholic High School, was named "Teacher of the Year" Thursday, November 21 at the Woodstock VFW's Auxiliary annual Teachers Tea.

Nyda Fogarty and Chris Gehrke, co-chairmen, have conducted this annual tribute to teachers for many years.

Accepting the award, Sowinski said she feels honored to be on the list with distinguished teachers who have influenced the lives of students. "Teaching is a calling we love. It is a profession I have pursued from my earliest memory. Our students bring a fresh life to us," Sowinski said. Sowinski has taught 27 of her 33 years at Marian Central.

In nominating Sowinski for the recognition, Charles Rakers, principal said, "Mrs. Sowinski's enthusiasm and caring for her students is exemplary. She leads by example and is a positive role model for our staff and students. She goes the extra mile to help both her students and the English Department excel." Rakers said Sowinski encourages teachers in her department to focus on grammar and usage skills, as well as on comprehension and analytical skills. "Our students' scores on the ACT have risen steadily since Mrs. Sowinski instituted this department-wide focus," said Rakers.

The VFW Auxiliary originated a Teacher of the Year recognition in 1957 and has helped called attention to the important role teachers have in the lives of our young people. This was the 47th annual Teachers Tea. No Teas were held in 1994 or 1995.

Four previous Teacher of the Year recipients attended the Tea, which featured the Woodstock High School Madrigals singing some of their Christmas program songs. The four were: Mary Ellen Howard, 1982; Darlene Gorski, 1986; Deanna Liles, 2000; and Shirley Thomas, 2001.

The Woodstock High School Madrigals, directed by Paul Rausch, provided the entertainment. Rausch announced the Madrigal Dinner dates are Friday, December 13 and Saturday, December 14. Call the high school for tickets 338-4370.

Post Chaplain Announces His Retirement !

By Dwayne E. Raney

Marvin Bohnhoff, of Grayslake, announced at the November meeting of the Woodstock VFW Post 5040, that he will not seek nor accept a nomination for re-election as Post 5040's Chaplain when the nominations take place in March of 2003.

Marv cites visual problems in driving to and from Grayslake for the regular post meetings, especially, at night and in inclement weather.

Chaplain Bohnhoff noted in his announcement not to seek another term as the Post Chaplain, that this makes some eleven years he has served in the position and thanked Don Sword for nominating him originally.

Comrade Marv also mentioned that the late Dominic Amico had also served for a long period if time.

[Editors Note: Thank you Marvin, for the time you have committed to the post and the service you have provided. You have done a fine job in this position. We wish you well and hope that the next Chaplain will keep up the good work as you given us.]

Results of the Turkey Raffle

With Thanksgiving come and gone, we hope you had a chance to attend the Annual Turkey Dinner and Raffle that was held on November 23rd. Sid Sherwin, this years chairman, wanted to thank everyone who help make this year's raffle very successful.

There was a record crowd on hand for the dinner (about 270 people) and about 300 total on hand for the raffle.

Sid personally thanks the servers, the cooks, those that sold tickets, and those that just participated in some way to make this event very successful. We also thank Ray Benoy for selling **750 ticket books** (that's 10 tickets per book) for this raffle. WOW! Great job everyone and thank you for your participation.

If you did win a turkey, you will or have already been contacted to pick up your turkey at the post. If you didn't win, better luck next year and keep trying!

ATTENTION 5040 MEMBERS!

By Dwayne E. Raney

If you are now or were ever a member of The American Legion in or out of Woodstock, Post 412, Commander Richard "Dick" Schroeder urges you to renew your membership for the 2003 year, A.S.A.P.

Those "continuous" members, plus, any "re-instated" members as well as those who were to "transfer" into the Woodstock Post by December 31st, 2002, are eligible for a **FREE DINNER** on Saturday, March 15th, 2003, at the American Legion Birthday Dinner.

The dinner is scheduled to be held in the Woodstock VFW Post 5040 clubrooms. Tentatively, a 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. social hour will precede the dinner at 7:30 p.m., plus, entertainment by the HARVARD MOOSENAIRES KITCHEN BAND.

The dinner is opened to the public and reservations will be required for all who are planning to attend, including "THE PUFLS" which stands for "PAID UP FOR LIFE" members.

Chaplains Report

By Marvin Bohnhoff

A get well card was sent to Floyd Wilcox.

Sympathy cards were sent to the following:

- Family of Ralph Ritter on the passing of his brother, James.
- Melody Padgett – Former worker for the VFW Post 5040

Still Looking for that Last Minute Christmas Gift or Hard to Shop for Relative?

The Post received a donation of 1,200 gel filled computer mouse pads. They retail for \$9.95 each and wholesale for \$4.00 each. The members can purchase them for Christmas presents. They will be for sale at the bar for \$2.00 each. They come in the following designs: hockey, golf, pizzas, fish tank, silly face, soccer, mouse and cheese. **They are unique** because they have a gel filling that various items are floating around in. **You need to take a look at them!!** Good stocking stuffers.

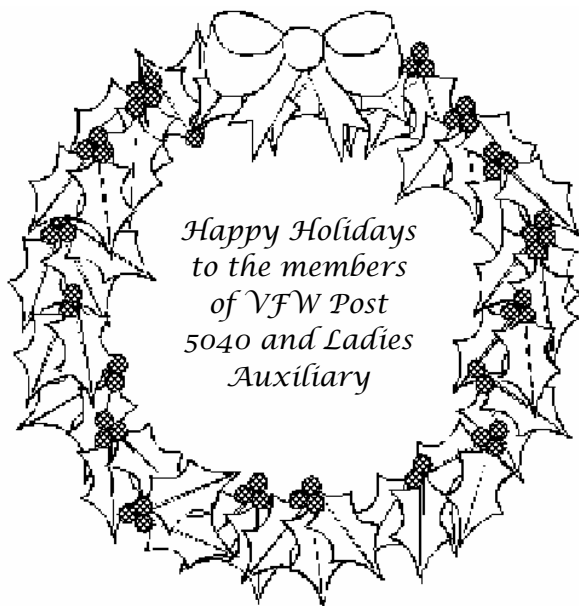
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Junior Vice Commander - **Sid Sherwin**
Quartermaster - **Ralph Ritter**
Chaplain - **Marvin Bohnhoff**
Assistant Chaplain - **Chuck Mathey**
Service Officer - **Ron Nehls**
Judge Advocate - **Dwayne Raney**
Post Surgeon - **Harold Irwin**
Officer-of-the-Day - **Bruce Shisler**
Trustees - **Thom Gillespie, Alan Belcher, Jon Showers**

The Perfect Job

- My first job was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned ... couldn't concentrate.
- Then I worked in the woods as a lumberjack, but I just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the ax.
- After that I tried to be a tailor, but I just wasn't suited for it, mainly because it was a sew-sew job.
- Next I tried working in a muffler factory, but that was too exhausting.
- Then I tried to be a chef, I figured it would add a little spice to my life, but I just didn't have the thyme.
- I attempted to be a deli worker, but any way I sliced it, I couldn't cut the mustard.
- My best job was being a musician, but eventually I found I wasn't noteworthy.
- I studied a long time to become a doctor, but I didn't have any patience.
- Next was a job in a shoe factory I tried, but I just didn't fit in.
- I became a professional fisherman, but discovered that I couldn't live on my net income.
- I managed to get a good job working for a pool maintenance company, but the work was just too draining.
- So then I got a job in a workout center, but they said I wasn't fit for the job.
- After many years of trying to find steady work I finally got a job as a historian, but there was no future in it.
- My last job was working at Starbucks, but I had to quit, because it was always the same old grind.

SO I RETIRED AND FOUND I AM PERFECT FOR THE JOB!



Ralph's Notes...

- **Vito Buffalo's Ballroom Dance Band**
This is a 10 piece band that does all of the ballroom dance tunes.
Where: VFW Post 5040 Upstairs
When: December 8, January 12, February 9,
March 9, April 13, May 11
Time: 4:00 pm until 7 pm
Cost: \$12.00 or VFW member \$10.00

Refreshments and Sandwiches will be sold
Questions call Warren Spencer 1-815-459-2578

Singles are welcome and we do mixers. Dress casual or semi formal – please no sneakers or jeans thank you. Public is welcome so tell your friends.

- We have received as a donation a new Main AC Panel. Ralph Ritter and Sully will be installing it.
- Post 5040 has donated US Constitution books to:

Marian Central
Olson Jr. high
Northwood Jr. High
Woodstock High School
St. Mary's
Lundahl Middle School

Post Members Elected To VAC Positions

By Dwayne E. Raney

At the annual meeting of the Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County, the following named members of Woodstock VFW Post 5040 were elected for the 2002-2003 term. They are, "Buck" Pearson, WWII Rep on the Board of Appeals; Arnold Doerfert, the new Senior Vice Chairman; and Dwayne Raney, the new Judge Advocate, succeeding "Connie" Chioles of Lake in the Hills.

Pearson also has been serving as the Commission's Chaplain. Doerfert had been serving as the Junior Vice Chairman, representing Post 5040 as its Alternate to the VAC.

Raney, a Past Chairman of the Commission, has been serving as the Delegate from Post 5040.

There will be no Commission meeting in December due to the holidays.

The next regular meeting of the Commission and the first official meeting for all the new officers as well as the Delegates and Alternates will be WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15TH, 2003.

December 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Memorial Day Committee (7:00 pm)	3 Dirt Group (7:00 pm) Woodstock JC's (7:00 pm)	4	5 VFW 5040 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting (7:30 pm) Woodstock JC's (7:00 pm)	6	7
8	9 American Legion Post 412 Meeting (7:30 pm)	10 Dirt Group (7:00 pm) Woodstock JC's (7:00 pm) VFW Staff Meeting (7:00 pm)	11	12 Woodstock JC's (7:00 pm)	13	14
15	16 VFW 5040 Men's Post Meeting (dinner 6:30 pm meeting 7:30 pm)	17 Dirt Group (7:00 pm) Woodstock JC's (7:00 pm)	18 Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County (7:30 pm)	19 Woodstock JC's (7:00 pm) Harley Hogs - McHenry Independent Riders (7:00 pm) Marines Meeting (7:00 pm) Marines Auxiliary (7:00 pm)	20	21
22	23	24 Dirt Group (7:00 pm) Woodstock JC's (7:00 pm)	25 CHRISTMAS ***** Last Day to Submit articles to the VFW News *****	26 Woodstock JC's (7:00 pm)	27	28
29	30	31 New Years Eve Dirt Group (7:00 pm) Woodstock JC's (7:00 pm)				

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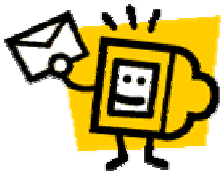
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Letters to the Editor....

If you would like to send a letter to the editor, please send it to the following address (do not send it to the post address):

Matt Klos
VFW 5040 News Editor
259 Dartmoor Dr.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
(815)-479-8842

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

klos_m259@yahoo.com
(that character between the "s" and "m" is an underscore)

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Editors Last Words...

Well folks, can you believe it? Another year has come and gone and what a year it has been. Many things have changed over the year at the post, but we made it. Thank

you to everyone that participated and helped out in some way at the post this year. I hope that everyone will have the chance next year to help out again. I am trying pictures again in this issue (courtesy of Don Peasley – thank you). We'll see in the printing if they come out. Besides that though, I wish you a very happy holiday season and a fruitful new year. May each of you enjoy your families this season. If you have not had a chance to participate that much with the post this year, why not make it a New Year's resolution to get involved, even if its just for an event at the post or dinner. It would mean a lot to our Post. After all, without you, where would our post be? Take care.

Your VFW News Editor, Matthew Klos

Woodstock VFW NEWS is published monthly by VFW Post 5040, 240 Throop St., Woodstock, IL 60098 (phone 815/338-5040). Matthew Klos, Editor. Founded in July 1955 by Don Peasley (Editor 1955-2002). Fourteen-time winner of the National VFW Awards for Best Post Publication. No. 1 in 1956, 1963, 1971, and 1985. Second in 1968, 1970, 1990, 1997 and 1999. Third in 1983, 1984, 1986, 1991, 2000, 2001. Voted Illinois VFW's best 28 times, including 1999-2001. Circulation: ~800.