

Woodstock Remembers Pearl Harbor Day

By DON PEASLEY

Woodstock residents marked Pearl Harbor Day with a program in the Square on Saturday, Dec. 7. Speaking at the observance before 200 participants, Mayor Alan Cornue said the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor emphasized the need for vigilance.

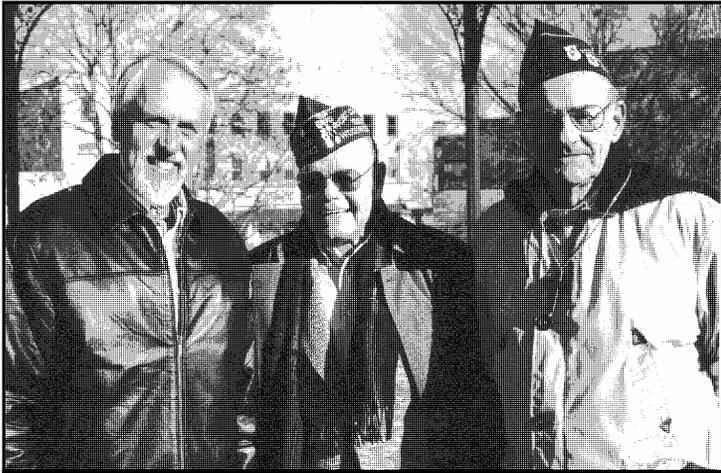
"We must avoid focusing on the few dangers we may be familiar with," said Cornue. "In our preparation and pursuit of our vigilance we need to support education that creates critical thinking skills so that we may have the ability to distinguish between unfamiliar and familiar threats."

Cornue concluded, "We thank the organizations such as the VFW who remind us of our duty to secure liberty for ourselves and future generations."

Congressman Don Manzullo recalled how on December 7, 1941, "Americans suffered a tremendous defeat that day. It was only one battle. Our brave soldiers and sailors struck back and showed the world why to this day America boasts the most brave, capable military force in the world."



The Woodstock VFW Color Guard prepares for Pearl Harbor Day ceremonies on the Square. From left: Art Slack, Howard Engstrom, Jon Showers and Bud Pflug. (Don Peasley Photo).



Woodstock Mayor Alan Cornue (left), Bill Lyford and Marv Bohnhoff, chaplain, lead the ceremonies in the Square to observe Pearl Harbor Day on December 7. (Don Peasley Photo).

Referring to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack, Manzullo said, "Today we fight a new war on terrorism. Although it is a different kind of war from the one our soldiers fought in 1941, the risks are the same."

"Today we pray for those who have lost and they who go on fighting to protect our families and our freedoms."

State Representative Jack Franks recalled the impact of the Pearl Harbor disaster and said it made Americans resolve for the United States "to become the world's freedom protector."

Bill Lyford was chairman of this year's Pearl Harbor Day program. He was assisted by Marv Bohnhoff, Woodstock VFW chaplain. The Color Guard was commanded by Joe Thiede, and the Rifle Squad was under the command of Ron Nehls.

Members of the Rifle Squad included Bob Gibson, Dick Glawe, Harold Irwin, Chuck Mathey, Ron Nehls, Hank Nulle, Art Schuld, Joe Thiede, Bruce Shisler. Don Rhodes was bugler.

Color Guard members were Joe Thiede, Commander; Art Slack, Howard Engstrom, Jon Showers and Bud Pflug.

THANK YOU

- Thanks to the rifle squad for building us another shelf to put information on. It is mounted on the wall along the handicapped ramp.
- Thanks to Julie Cruz, Sid Sherwin, Hazel Hickey, and Jon Showers for our Christmas decorations in the lower hall area.
- Thanks to Ralph and Sid for waxing the lower bar area and men's bathroom floors.
- Thanks to Warren Spencer (soon to be a new member) for decorating the upper band-stand area.
- Thanks to Larry Dohm and Don Sword for keeping the beer lines and the ice machine clean. They do this every 2 weeks and find it a mandatory part of the job to sample the beer from both tappers for quality assurance. Keep up the good work boys!!!
- Thanks to Sid Sherwin, Bob Gibson, Butch Bortchard and Ralph Ritter for cleaning the walk-in cooler. Everything was removed, the walls and floor were washed and everything was put back in.
- Thanks to Brian Ritter for installing a new compressor for the walk-in cooler. This is a savings of about \$650 dollars.
- Thanks to Charlie Mathey for shoveling the snow.
- The bar stools will be re-covered by Fred's upholstery shop. He will be finished by 1/15/03. The bar stools will be blue in color. Fred's re-covered them about 25 years ago, so they really needed to be re-covered.
- What would we do with out the kitchen cleanup crew? They are at the Post every Monday morning straining the grease, cleaning the fryers, and washing the floors and floor mats. Who are these "Super Kitchen Keepers"? They are Harold Irwin, Bob Gibson, Chuck Mathey and Wally Thomas. They don't sample the oil for quality assurance, but everyone who volunteers time gets 2 free drink tickets.
- We hired Floyd Feezel's Floor Service to strip and wax the upstairs floors and stairway. It looks 100% better now. Thanks Floyd!

Post News

- The board has set a price of **\$100** for a business card size **ad in the VFW news letter** for the 2003 calendar year. The letter goes out once a month to over 600 people, all over the country. [size of ad is scaled down to what you see currently in the paper.]
- We have a commitment from the following people to run for **office positions** for 2003/2004 year:

Commander:	Jon Showers
Sr. Vice:	???
Jr. Vice:	Sid Sherwin
Quartermaster:	???
Assistant Quartermaster:	Ralph Ritter
Chaplin:	Howard Engstrom
Assistant Chaplin:	???
Service officer:	???
Judge advocate:	???
Post Surgeon:	???
Officer of the day:	???
Judge Advocate:	Dwayne Raney
1 yr trustee:	Allen Belcher
2 yr trustee:	Tom Gillespie
3 yr trustee:	???

The charter members keep telling us that many years ago there would be several people running for each position every year. It is time to step forward and help out your post by serving in one of these positions. If you would like to run for a position, contact any present officer or leave your name at the bar.

- **Bingo** - We renewed the bingo license for 2003. We need more people to attend bingo or we will have to shut it down. We have lost money 10 out of the last 12 weeks due to low attendance. All of the workers at bingo are volunteers and are not paid, so please bingo players, thank them for their time. The other towns that have bingo on Fridays are Rockford, Belvedere and McHenry. If you would like to help out, contact Thom Gillespie.

V F W Post 5 0 4 0 Officers '02 - '03 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	Commander - Jim Smith Senior Vice Commander - Marvin Monson 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
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Are you Compliant?

- Many members are not complying with Article XI, Section One, of the Post by-laws, which states that "every member of this Post shall keep the Post Adjutant and Quartermaster advised of his/her current address by promptly reporting any change of same." One of several reasons for doing so, ASAP, is to insure that the correct address is put on your newsletter.

Today's VFW: Bridging the Gap between Old and New

By Matt Klos, Editor

About four years ago, I was asked to put something together on the subject of attracting younger members to the VFW at my old post, 6004 in Crystal Lake. I am reprinting it here for your benefit. Think about it.

Reasons for Joining the VFW

When I was still in the Persian Gulf in 1991, becoming a member of the VFW didn't even cross my mind. It wasn't until I received a complimentary membership from Crystal Lake VFW later that year that I actually thought about this organization. Through the years, I faithfully submitted my dues to the post, even though I had never been to a post meeting. I had things to do and the VFW wasn't in the plan. It wasn't until the fall of 1998 that I attended my first post meeting. So why did I decide to finally go to a meeting? I wanted to see what it was and felt honored to be part of a group that had served in a foreign conflict. I also felt that it was my duty to attend. If it hadn't been for those before me, I may have not the opportunities and benefits that I do today.

The VFW Today

What does the VFW have to offer the younger generation today? That was the subject of an article in February 1999 VFW magazine. I have asked this question many times over in my mind. I think some of the younger generation is turned off of the VFW because of the stereotype that went with it. I thought when I attended my first meeting that I would be walking into a smoke filled room with a bunch of older men complaining about what ails them that day. I knew that all posts were not like this, but that's what I had visions of. Times have changed. From the minute I walked into my first meeting, I knew this wasn't the same VFW that I had envisioned. I was glad of that. I also thought that there would be more people in my age group too. I didn't realize that I would be the youngest person there.

The Younger Generation

I thought that I should include a little bit of information about my generation so you might understand our views on organizations such as the VFW. For a younger person getting involved in these types of organizations, it can be like twisting an arm. When I was in college, our veterans club had a hard time attracting active members and giving back to the community through volunteer efforts. Living in a fast paced world and trying to get ahead, the Army and other service branches offer sign on bonuses and offered to pay for a portion of college. Growing up we were told that if you wanted to succeed in life, better go to college. Maybe that's why the armed services looked so appealing to some younger people. To see this in its true form, I will describe my situation because it is an example of how many people have viewed a service obligation in the armed forces of today.

I entered the Army when I was 20 years old in 1990. I served in the brief conflict known as the Persian Gulf War in 1991. After this, I completed my two year, three month, twenty-five day commitment and got out of the Army in February 1993. My next objective was college. When I signed up in the Army, I was eligible to participate in the Montgomery GI Bill and Army College Fund that would help pay for my higher education. I didn't really know the full benefit of these programs until I finished college. I also found out just before I left the Army that I was eligible for the Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) that would pay for tuition and some fees at a state supported school. I went to Northern Illinois University in the fall of 1993 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science in spring of 1996. So how much was that enlistment of mine worth? The IVG paid \$9,902.58 in tuition and fees. On top of this, the GI Bill and Army college fund provided another \$17,230.47 that helped to pay room and board, food, etc. My enlistment was an investment in my higher education that paid out a total of \$27,133.05

Moving On

In my generation, we are faced with a rapidly changing world and our military actions today consist of peacekeeping deployments around the globe. In US News & World Report (March 1, 1999), an article on the armed services sights this line, **"Brig. Gen. Peter Sutton, commander of the Air Force Recruiting Service, notes that fewer than 6 percent of Americans under the age of 65 have served in the military, and in Congress itself the proportion of veterans has dwindled from two thirds to barely one third."** Out of this, how many of these are eligible for entry into the VFW? From my own experience, the younger people of my generation looked at what the military could provide us in the short term. It was like a temporary job. Do your time, let it pay for college, and then move on with your life. Was this really all there was to it?

Bridging the Gap

What can we do as to recruit younger people into the VFW? One reason that makes this so tough is that there just aren't that many qualified veterans around. I know of one other friend that was in the Persian Gulf and he lives in Naperville. I also think the stereotype that goes along with the VFW shies away potential new recruits. It also has to do with an individual's perception. Was the military just a job, or does it stir up feelings of patriotism? I am proud to have served in the military, but it also took a realization that it was my obligation to give back to my community through the VFW. In the VFW magazine, it says that instead of complaining about the conditions of the Post (be it lack of people or physical structure), we should ask ourselves this question: "What have you done to benefit the VFW and your community?" It's hard to get exposure in the community sometimes and do something significant where the community that we live in really notices what we have done. This is not easy. We also want our community to realize that the VFW is still alive and strong as ever.

Volunteering and committing time at the post takes time and some of us work full time and cannot volunteer as much of our time as we'd like. We have young families to care of as well as old. For some of us, making the monthly meeting is an accomplishment in itself. Whatever time you can give, funds you can spare, it helps the VFW in the long run.

I hope I have provided you with some insight on what feelings are today of the VFW and brought up some points to make you think. Our organization is only as strong as its members. The older generations can learn from the young, and the young from the old. Together we will continue the preservation of the VFW and all that it stands for, but foremost it starts with you.

Help Needed

- January 12th from 2 PM till 5 PM we are going to have a general cleanup downstairs. This will include washing chairs and tables, mirrors, sweeping of the back room, and the washing of some of the walls. It would be great if we can also get 3 people to strip the white tile area in the dining room.
- Soup to Nuts Sale... Do we have a volunteer to head this up? If you want to do this, contact Ralph so we can get the date set aside on the calendar.
- Bingo needs more players and more volunteers to help out on Friday nights. Contact Thom Gillespie if you can volunteer your time. None of the workers for bingo are paid, so please thank them for giving up their life to do this.
- The Moose Lodge has a person in charge of entertainment and has had some fun things happening there. Could we get a volunteer to do this for the VFW? We could get some contacts through the Moose. If so contact Ralph.
- If you have any "gently used" toys for ages 2 to 12 that you could donate to the Post, please bring them down. Pat Ritter is going to set up a "Kids Corner" for families who come to dine with us. We think this would make the VFW more of a family friendly place for both parents and grandparents.
- If you have a suggestion or complaint about anything that is happening at **YOUR** Post, mail it to VFW Post 5040, 240 N. Throop St., Woodstock, IL. 60098. We will read it at the next board meeting.
- We are always looking for ways to save money. Do you have an e-mail address? If you do, please send me a test message. We can save a lot of money by e-mailing you the monthly news letter. Ralph Ritter's e-mail address is: rritter@stans.net

Come Dancing



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: January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13
 May 11
Time: 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.
Cost: \$12.00 or VFW member \$10.00

The first Vito Buffalo Night was fun and there were a lot of good dancers there. It was as much fun watching the people on the floor, (and of course listening to the wonderful music), as it was being on the floor. We have had many good comments from our Post members about the band, so show your support on January 12 at 4:00 p.m. and come on down. Remember Post members only pay \$10 per person with the general public paying \$12. We will have refreshments and sandwiches available for you to purchase and the bar will be open. If you are interested in dance lessons or have questions, contact Warren Spencer at 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.

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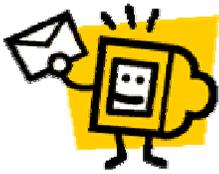
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Letters to the Editor....

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

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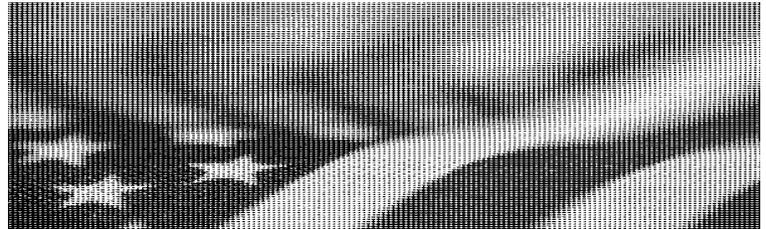
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