



From the Commander

By Jon Showers
Commander 2003-2004

My message will be brief this month but very important. Your support is needed to keep our Post strong and moving forward this year. Your participation in the upcoming annual Turkey Raffle and the \$1550 Drawing (see page 2) is important to achieve our fundraising goals. Also, this is your Post so please come down to support it and join us for a great Chicken, Ribs and Candy's special surprise (always delicious) every Wednesday. On Friday nights bring your family and friends and try our Fish Fry. I have heard it is the best in town!! Comrades, we would appreciate your ideas for fund raisers. Please call or write the Post and you can even e-mail Matt, our newspaper Editor. Thank you.

Reflections of Today

By Bob Wasberg Sr.

Every morning as soon as the newspaper arrives I glance at the headlines and then go to page 4 to look through the obituaries. As the old tale goes, "If I can't spot my name then it is OK to get up and go to work." Actually, I check the listing to see if any of my friends are named.

Being a WWII veteran I also look for the listings with our flag shown which denotes fallen comrades. Sometimes there is a claim for being a WWII veteran. Upon checking the date of birth I find that the deceased person was only in their early teens in 1946 when the papers were officially signed, although the war ended in 1945.

Once there was a short story stating that an individual lead a band of soldiers all the way through Germany, and he was only 17. I believe that, at the time he could have driven a school bus safely through Germany because our troops were held up because of an agreement between FDR, Stalin and Churchill.

Another oddity was, our group was sent back to the Munster area to guard POW camps and such. I was selected for guard duty at a German distillery. What a scary duty that was!! It was almost time for the Nazis to give up, and I had a line up of field officers from nearby divisions carrying 5 gallon water cans which they requested filled with the delicious products made in the distillery.

See **Today**, page 5.

A Special Ride Home

By Author Unknown

I sat in my seat of the Boeing 767 waiting for everyone to hurry and stow their carry-ons and grab a seat so we could start what I was sure to be a long, uneventful flight home. With the huge capacity and slow moving people taking their time to stuff luggage far too big for the overhead and never paying much attention to holding up the growing line behind them, I simply shook my head knowing that this flight was not starting out very well. I was anxious to get home to see my loved ones. I was so focused on "my" issues and just felt like standing up and yelling for some of these clowns to get their act together.

I knew I couldn't say a word so I just thumbed thru the "Sky Mall" magazine from the seat pocket in front of me. You know it's really getting rough when you resort to the over priced, useless sky mall crap to break the monotony. With everyone finally seated, we just sat there with the cabin door open and no one in any hurry to get us going although we were well past the scheduled take off time. No wonder the airline industry is in trouble I told myself.

Just then, the attendant came on the intercom to inform us all that we were being delayed. The entire plane let out a collective groan. She resumed speaking to say, "We are holding the aircraft for some very special people who are on their way to the plane and the delay shouldn't be more than 5 minutes." The word came after waiting six times as long as we were promised that "I" was finally going to be on my way home. Why the hoopla over "these" folks? I was expecting some celebrity or sport figure to be the reason for the hold up...Just get their butts in a seat and lets hit the gas I thought.

The attendant came back on the speaker to announce in a loud and excited voice that we were being joined by several U.S. Marines returning home from Iraq!!! Just as they walked on board, the entire plane erupted into applause. The men were a bit taken by surprise by the 340 people cheering for them as they searched for their seats. They were having their hands shook and touched by almost everyone who was within an arm's distance of them as they passed down the aisle. One elderly woman kissed the hand of one of the Marines as he passed by her. The applause, whistles and cheering didn't stop for a long time. When we were finally airborne, "I" was not the only civilian checking his conscience as to the delays in "me" getting home, finding my easy chair, a cold beverage and the remote in my hand. These men had done for all of us and I had been complaining silently about "me" and "my" issues.

I took for granted the everyday freedoms I enjoy and the conveniences of the American way of life. I took for granted others paid the price for my ability to moan and complain about

See **Plane**, page 5.

VFW Post 5040 - Post Officers 2003 - 2004

Commander	Jon Showers	(815)-338-4675
Senior Vice Commander	Sid Sherwin	(815)-338-5573
Junior Vice Commander	John (Sully) Sullivan	(815)-653-3298
Quartermaster	Henry Nulle	(815)-337-7529
Chaplain	Howard Engstrom	(815)-338-4453
Assistant Chaplain	Charles Mansfield	Not Available
Service Officer	Ron Nehls	(815)-338-3671
Judge Advocate	Henry (Hank) Enstrom	(815)-337-5856
Post Surgeon	Harold Irwin	(815)-338-1264
Officer-of-the-Day	Bruce Shisler	(815)-338-4735
1 Year Trustee	Alan Belcher	(815)-338-7689
2 Year Trustee	Thom Gillespie	(815)-597-1319
3 Year Trustee	Jim Smith	(815)-653-9238

VFW Post 5040 Ladies Auxiliary Post Officers 2003 - 2004

President	Nyda Fogarty	(815)-338-1759
Senior Vice President	Bonnie Kagel	(815)-648-4958
Junior Vice	Viola Brown	(815)-338-1446
Secretary	Christine Gehrke	(815)-338-3533
Treasurer	Barbara Gehrke	(815)-338-1546
Chaplain	Karen Wells	(815)-338-4821
Guard	Rosemary Hellstern	(815)-338-0653
Conductress	Irene Brown	(815)-459-3483
1 Year Trustee	Ruth Gehrke	(815)-338-5093
2 Year Trustee	Margaret Webb	Not Available
3 Year Trustee	Geraldine Salyers	Not Available

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Woodstock VFW Post 5040, c/o VFW News Editor, 240 Throop Street, Woodstock, IL 60098.

Copy Only	Name	Saturday, October 11, 2003	 <h1>VFW GRAND DRAWING</h1>	Copy Only	
	Address				First Prize: \$1550.00
	City				Second Prize: \$450.00 Third Prize: \$350.00
	Phone				Fourth Prize: \$250.00 Fifth Prize: \$150.00
		\$50 Bonus If Present To Benefit VFW Building Fund VFW POST 5040, Woodstock, IL Saturday, October 11, 2003 – 7:00 p.m. All Tickets To Be Drawn – Every 20 th Wins \$100 ONLY 200 TICKETS AVAILABLE Donation: \$50.00 each Winner Need Not Be Present			

Want to get in on our annual **VFW Grand Drawing**? We've made it easy for you to get a ticket! Fill out your Name, Address, City and Phone and cut out and send the above "ticket" along with **\$50.00 to the Post, Attention Alan Belcher**. He will transfer your information to a numbered ticket and return your part of the ticket to you. Please send your donation no later than October 1st. Want more than one ticket? Just include a note that you need more than one ticket and include the correct donation amount for the number of tickets that you want and we'll send you more than one ticket! Suggestion: get a group of friends to donate with you, but list yourself as the donor. They'll have to trust you! Thank you and good luck!

Quartermaster Notes

By Hank Nulle, Quartermaster

At the post meeting on July 21st, Jack Kemmerly, a Korean veteran, was voted in as a new member of our post. Jack is a resident of Woodstock.

On orders of the National Commander, the flag was put at half staff from sunrise to sunset in honor of the Korean Armistice on July 27th.

The color guard, comprised of Bob Gibson, Dick Glawe, Chuck Mathey and Hank Nulle, raised the flag at the fairgrounds on July 30th to start the McHenry County Fair for 2003.

The Antique Motorcycle Show will be held this year on September 28th at the McHenry County Fairgrounds. They have asked us to help out again. The post voted to do so. The last 2 years we have received a sizeable donation from them for our help.

Story Published in VFW Magazine

Matt Klos, VFW News Editor, had an interview published by the VFW National Magazine in the August issue, page 44 (Membership Section). Thanks to Harold Irwin for submitting Matt's original story (January 2003 issue) to VFW National Magazine.



Chaplains Report

By Howard Engstrom

Nursing Home Visits:

Delmar Heidenreich - Valley Hi
Gerald Palmquist - Valley Hi
Edgar Gates - Residence

Home Visits:

Earl Holm - Woodstock
Stan Danielson - Woodstock

Phone Calls:

Howard Simpson - Alden Terrace
McHenry

Chaplains Prayer: That God's peace, unity & spirit be our post's experience.

Corrections in Last Months Newsletter

Last month, in the story "Our Post Chaplain", on page 2 was a listing of the Chaplains from 1946 - 2002. Several Chaplains were listed as "Unknown." Here are the Chaplains that should have been included in this listing:

1954, Ted Bates
1960, Roy Stackhouse
1972, Ed Mortensen

Thanks to Ken Kerns for making me aware of these names.



Memories of the Old Guard

by Ken Kerns, Commander 1960-61

You may call them "The Old Guard" or the "Geezers". Either way they are the members that worked hard for the VFW in the 40's, 50's and 60's when the younger crowd was busy growing up, making money and furthering careers. And there were those whose jobs prevented them from becoming active in the Post. We too, worked to raise families and bring in the bacon, so to speak, but our hearts were deep in the VFW. Now some are no longer with us and others don't go out to night meetings due to health problems, poor vision, etc. but we are still interested in the welfare of the post.

There was the famous VFW July 4th Festival, second only to V-J Day. It ran 4 to 5 days at the Woodstock City Park. Many of us worked every night operating the various booths and rides until past midnight, then we went to the club and counted money. We all went on to our jobs in the morning, tired but happy.

Loyal workers come to mind: There was Jack Fish who was in charge of the rides; Maynard Wilkerson was in charge of the \$2000 fireworks display. Joe Thiede, Bob and Bud Behler, Art Schuld, Nick Stemper, Dean Mishler, Don Peasley, Roy Stackhouse, Earl Holm, Frank Cacci, Bob Conway, Dwayne Raney, and Irv Burg were some of the loyal workers.

The Mansfield brothers, Harry, Bill and Al, operated the Turtle Game. Arnie Romo and Chester Dietz were in charge of parking and the ladies of the Auxiliary sold tickets for the rides. Each year we gave away a brand new car and Marv Smith, Louie Gerhke and their committee members worked the raffle distributing tickets all over the county. The festival was a great money maker.

In 1959 when I was Senior Vice Commander, I was co-chairman of the festival with Arnold Larsen, who was serving as Junior vice. It seems that Woodstock mayor, Ralph Ostrander, was against any drinking in the city park and so the council rejected our request to hold the festival there. Wow, what a blow! We did the next best thing; we rented the McHenry County Fairgrounds and held our festival there. The beer tent was set up just outside of the fairgrounds on a piece of land owned by a member. That was where the beer was sold. The sale of beer was very important as it helped to bring in needed funds.

The festivals were hard work but the same loyal group came forth and we managed to make the yearly event very successful over the years. Also, not known to many, the VFW was in charge of the rides at the McHenry County Fair for many years. And yes, the same loyal bunch took over that task, too!

Continue to Support Our Troops

While we may not be in an official war, we still have many men and women overseas doing their job in Iraq that could use a little support from home. Want to help out? Visit www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html for ideas.

McHenry County Marine Corps Wants you to Know...

McHenry County Marine Corps League will be Co-Hosting with USMC Recruiting Station Chicago the 2003 Marine Corps Ball at the Crystal Lake Holiday Inn 6 PM, 8 November 2003. Choice of Beef, Chicken, Salmon and Vegetarian, open bar from 9-12. Price is \$50 per person paid before October 15th. \$55 after the 15th October and \$60 at the door. Dress is casual coat & tie. RSVP with choice of meals with payment to the McHenry County Marine Corps League, PO Box 311, Woodstock, IL 60098. Open to all Veterans and the Public. Room Reservation MCL \$79 plus tax by October 20. We are looking to Sponsor a Donation for this event.

Chicago MCCC All Hands Conference - Saturday 25 October -0800-1300 at HQ 2/24 - 3034 W. Foster Ave., Chicago. Chow, Colors Ceremony, Unit Briefs, Special Guest Speakers, Displays of Marine Equipment, Camaraderie. Cost is \$15 before 24 October, send a check to MCCC, 33733 N. Kildare, Chicago, IL 60641-3045.

Marine Band Performances - "The President's Own" - Friday 31 October at Northwestern University, Saturday 1 November at Frankfort, IL, Thursday 6 November at Illinois State University. For additional details and ticket information, visit www.marineband.usmc.mil.

Any questions please write or e-mail ruffnermb@aol.com or call 847-370-4107

WWII National Memorial Dedication

The World War II National Memorial will be dedicated on Saturday, May 29, 2004. A four day event is planned that will run through the Memorial Day Weekend, May 27 through May 30th.

Construction of this memorial started in September 2001, and is currently on schedule to finish Memorial Day weekend, 2004, and should be open to the public in early April 2004.

Already plans are underway by many veterans organizations to plan a trip next year and be present for the dedication and take part in the many events planned for that weekend.

If you would like to go, or want to join a group of people that are planning to go to the ceremony, you should check with other veteran's groups and the many web sites that have information available on this event. You should plan on making reservations early for this event, as there will be many people at the event that will be staying in hotels, booking flights, etc.

A good place to start in gathering information is the following web site: www.wwiimemorial.com. This site tells you about the history, events planned, has some visitor information that may help you and much more.

Another website to visit is: www.ilfirstdivision.org/wwii_national_mem.html. An American Legionnaire, Bill Morrison (708-544-0888) of Berkeley, IL, describes the trip he is putting together and is looking for 175-200 people to

See **WWII**, following page.

So How is Our Website Doing?

Below are some statistics on our web site and some definitions below to help you understand them. Its not the busiest on the web, but it shows that people are visiting.

Month	Unique Visitors	Number of Visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Mar-03	85	161	1180	8558	29.7 MB
Apr-03	84	130	573	5002	27.03 MB
May-03	32	47	183	1442	5.98 MB
Jun-03	45	52	166	1431	6.12 MB
Jul-03	27	30	97	541	3.9 MB
Aug-03	111	155	500	2741	28.57 MB
Total	384	575	2699	19715	101.31 MB

Unique Visitors:

When tracking the amount of traffic on a Web site, it refers to a person who visits a Web site more than once within a specified period of time. Unique visitors are measured according to their unique IP (Internet Protocol) addresses, which are like online fingerprints, and unique visitors are counted only once no matter how many times they visit the site.

Number of Visits:

A visit is a web user with a unique address entering a website at some page for the first time that day (or for the first time in a lesser time period). The number of visits is roughly equivalent to the number of different people that visit a site.

Pages:

A document having a specific URL (Universal Resource Locator) and comprised of a set of associated files. A page may contain text, images, and other online elements. Our web site currently has 16 web pages.

Hit:

When users access a website, their computer sends a request to the site's server to begin downloading a page. Each element of a requested page (including graphics, text, interactive items) is recorded by the site's web server log file as a "hit". This is a poor guide for traffic measurement.

Bandwidth:

The amount of information that can be transmitted over communications lines at one time. Every time someone visits our site, information is transmitted. We have a limit each month on the amount of bandwidth that is used, and then we have to pay a small price for extra bandwidth. Our limit is 2000 MB (mega-bytes) per month. As you can see above, we have not even come close to reaching our limit. A single, 3.5" floppy disk is 1.44 MB in capacity.

Attention All Officers: If you would like a personalized 5040 e-mail address, let me know. With our web site, I can set up to 100 personal email addresses that can forward mail to any address you choose. For example, if someone mails me at matt.klos@vfw5040.org, that message will be sent automatically to my Yahoo! e-mail account. This is not a 5040 e-mail account where you have to log to get your mail, its just a forwarding service. If you have e-mail, I would at least like all the officers to have a 5040 e-mail address. This way, on the Officers web page listing for the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary, if a visitor wanted to, they could send you an e-mail directly. E-mail me a note with the address you want set up this way and I will make it happen.

WWII, continued from previous page.

go with him at a cost of \$545 per person. This would include bus pick up at Reagan National Airport, hotel lodgings, bus transfer to the various affairs, and reserved seats at the Ceremony. Meals would not be included. Bill is thinking that this would be a two night, three day affair. As of April 1, 2003, 50 people have signed up to go with him (people that are likely from the Legion and around the Berkeley area).

For all you WWII veterans in our post, this memorial dedication will likely be a very memorable event, especially for you. Memorial Day is nine months away, but you may want to begin thinking about this. It could be a nice trip if you begin planning on it now.

The Editors Desk Notes

By Matt Klos, Editor VFW News

Hello again comrades. I wanted to thank you again for your continued support and contributions to making this news letter possible. I had some interesting letters come my way, some of which made it into this months newsletter. It's always interesting to hear stories of the past, what post members did during the wars they were in.

About a month ago, when I was trying to fly home from Baltimore at the end of my work week, weather prevented me from flying out of BWI airport so I had to spend the night at a Holiday Inn. As I had dinner at the bar, I listened to conversation of two men that were obviously in the military. One of them was just getting back from a tour in Iraq, heading home to Washington State.

I started to ask the soldier about his military experience. We shared a common bond in that we were both in Iraq during the Persian Gulf war in 1991. Since then, he mentioned that he had at some point or another been in all the "peace keeping" missions overseas since 1991 and this war with Iraq was his latest.

His meal that he had just finished was the "best tasting steak I had in months." I asked him if this was it, was he headed back home for good? He said, "No, I will spend a week or two back at home and then I head back for another 4 months or so." Back to Iraq? Yes, that was the plan.

We talked some more about what he did during the war, things he had seen, then talked about the Persian Gulf War during 1991. I told him what I had done, what I did after I returned back, assignments, etc. I was just finishing my meal when two more guys came in, both civilians and they got in on our conversation. The two new guys bought him a drink. I listened to the conversation for a little while, then decided it was time to retire back to my room.

As I paid my bill, I went over the soldier and gave him a firm handshake and I said, "Thank you for your hard work and good luck to you. Keep safe." Strange that was for me, being on the other side. He was only 30 and his reason for going back - "I love my country and I love my job." That is our fighting force of today.

Plane, continued from page 1.

a few minutes delay to "me" those Heroes going home to their loved ones. I attempted to get my selfish outlook back in order and minutes before we landed I suggested to the attendant that she announce over the speaker a request for everyone to remain in their seats until our hero's were allowed to gather their things and be first off the plane. The cheers and applause continued until the last Marine stepped off and we all rose to go about our too often, taken for granted everyday freedoms...I felt proud of them. I felt it an honor and a privilege to be among the first to welcome them home and say Thank You for a job well done.

I vowed that I will never forget that flight nor the lesson learned. I can't say it enough, THANK YOU to those Veterans and active servicemen and women who may read this and a prayer for those who cannot because they are no longer with us. GOD BLESS AMERICA! WELCOME HOME! AND THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE !!!!!



Ladies Auxiliary FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Nyda Fogarty
President 2003-2004

The meeting on October 2nd will be an inspection by our District President. **Our meetings will start at 7:00 p.m.** from now on instead of 7:30 p.m. Dues are due at this time and they are \$15.00. Anyone who has not paid up their dues from this past year must do so or you will be dropped from membership.

Today, continued from page 1.

They were all getting ready to celebrate the end of the war in Europe, which was predicted in just a week. I certainly hope they had a great celebration, I know that our group did. At the time I was 20 1/2 years of age. My, my, where did the time go.

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Auxiliary hats also for
sale.

Place order for merchandise at bar.

SOUP TO NUTS SALE

By Russ and Sonnia Freeman

Yes, we will be having a Soup-To-Nuts sale again on May 1 & 2, 2004. Start saving the goodies that you no longer use and ask your friends to do the same.

We have been helping Bob & Pat Gaylord for several years and they now want a break, so we are taking it on. Hope we can do as good a job as they did.

If things need to be picked up, we will do that the week or so before the sale in May. We will need your help to make this a success. Thanks for your support.

Basic Benefits for Gulf War Era Veterans

People who served on active duty during the Gulf War Era are eligible for the same benefits offered to U.S. veterans of other conflicts.

For most benefits, what counts is that you wore the uniform. Benefits include: Education: Montgomery GI Bill (www.gibill.va.gov). Provides up to 36 months of educational benefits. Home Loans: (www.homeloans.va.gov) No money down and low interest rates are features of the GI Bill home loan. Insurance: (www.insurance.va.gov) Veterans can convert their Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) to Veterans Group Life Insurance within 120 days of discharge without a medical exam. Other benefits include VA Pension and Veterans Preference. For more information, visit www.va.gov.

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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:

matt.klos@vfw5040.org

Visit our Post Website:
www.vfw5040.org

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