



Woodstock

VFW News

Winner of 15
National Publication
Awards

www.vfw5040.org

December 2003
Vol. 49. No. 6

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

Veterans Day 2003

By Matt Klos

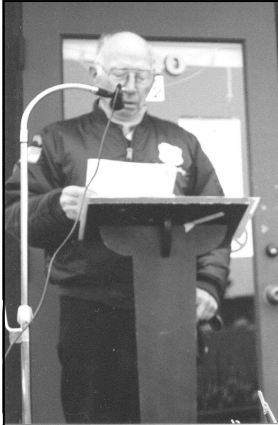
Veterans Day 2003 was remembered by the post on November 11th with a ceremony taking place in the front parking lot near the flagpole. Though an overcast day and slightly cool, the turnout for the event was fairly decent.

Sid Sherwin recited a heartfelt speech about what Veteran's day was and the concerns with our current occupation in Iraq. The rifle squad performed well and we had live bugler perform Taps. Several people in the crowd were moved to tears when Taps was played.

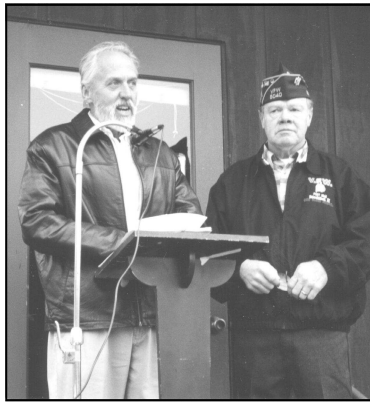
The opening prayer was given by Chuck Mathey, assistant chaplain. Mayor Alan Conue was a featured guest invited to speak. Closing prayer was given by Dwayne Raney, Chaplain for Woodstock American Legion Post 412 and life member of the Woodstock VFW 5040.

Following the ceremony, a lunch was held in the lower banquet hall of the VFW. About 150 people were fed. The hall was filled with people, the bar was busy, and we had a warm meal to eat.

Thanks to all that participated in the events for this day, and thank you to the volunteers that helped with the preparation, serving, and cleanup of the hall and kitchen. You all did a fine job.



Chuck Mathey, assistant Post Chaplain, gives the opening Veteran's Day Prayer (Don Peasley photo).



Woodstock Mayor Alan Conue joins Sid Sherwin, Senior Vice Commander of the Woodstock VFW, at the podium during Woodstock's Veterans Day observance. Both men stressed the gratitude owed veterans for their sacrifices while in military service. Sherwin stressed the seriousness of service in Iraq where terrorism continues to dominate that war-torn country. (Don Peasley photo).



Volunteer servers included Bill Lyford (seated), Chuck Mathey, Don Sword, Hank Enstrom and Hank Nulley. Not pictured are Candy Forte, Cheryl Schwartz and Geraldine Salyers who were serving coffee and cooking the wonderful meal (Matt Klos photo).

Dwayne Raney (left), Chaplain for the American Legion, gives the closing prayer for the Veteran's Day observance. Sid Sherwin (right), bows his head during the reading of the prayer (Matt Klos photo).



The Rifle Squad (right) in action (Matt Klos photo).



The Rifle Squad, commanded by Joe Thiede (far left) and the Color Guard line up for the Veteran's Day observance in the VFW parking lot. The closest to camera (right) are Alan Belcher, Marvin Munson and Dean Misler (Don Peasley photo).



VFW Post 5040 - Post Officers 2003 - 2004

Commander	Sid Sherwin	(815)-338-5573
Senior Vice Commander	Mark Clausen	Not Available
Junior Vice Commander	Donald (Sully) Sullivan	(815)-653-3298
Quartermaster	Thom Gillespie	(815)-597-1319
Chaplain	Howard Engstrom	(815)-338-4453
Assistant Chaplain	Charles (Chuck) Mathey	(815)-338-5374
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	Henry Nulle	(815)-337-7529
3 Year Trustee	Bill Lyford	(815)-337-0025

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

Woodstock VFW News is published monthly by Woodstock VFW Post 5040, 240 Throop Street, Woodstock, IL 60098. (815)-338-5040

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

Our New Commander

During our November meeting, the post met and swore in a the new Senior Vice Commander that was elected that night.

Sid Sherwin has agreed to remain as Post Commander until the next fiscal year (July 1, 2004). Mark Clausen was voted to be the Senior Vice Commander.

We wish each man the best of luck in the coming year and hope that they are able to fulfill their respective positions with a positive attitude and a dedication to their duties as set forth by the VFW.

These are not an easy positions to fill, but hopefully members of the post will provide support and encouragement as they take on these duties.

The End of Bingo at the Post?

By Ralph Ritter

As some of you may be aware, bingo played at the post has been a losing proposition for the past several months. With each Friday night bingo that is played at the post, we barely cover the costs of keeping the facility open. Usually the turnout has been very low.

The VFW Post 5040 is considering canceling bingo for the coming year or reducing the number of times a month that it is played.

If we do cancel bingo, final money in the bingo account is ours to do what ever we want. We must show where it went though. It can be transferred into other post accounts to help out with facility upkeep, helping veterans, etc. We must keep this record for three years in case we want to bring back bingo. We do not lose the pull-tabs license if we cancel bingo.

If we keep bingo going, the renewal fee is \$200 if the VFW decides to keep the license. We can play 1 or 2 days a month if we want to. A board officer must be on premise and be in charge of the games played, but does not have to work. The Auxiliary could be the workers. The ladies cannot sell pull-tabs; only the VFW can do this.

If we give up the license, it will take the Auxiliary at least 3 weeks to get a license. Have an opinion on this? Write the post or come to the next meeting to express your concerns.

ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

Ray Bachewicz, 5th District Commander, was a special guest at our November meeting. His main objective was to talk about membership and getting our numbers up before the end of the year.

To date, we have 100+ members that are in arrears for post dues. If you have not already done so, please check to see if you have paid your yearly dues. If you have not, please send in your dues for the year. If you are unsure if you paid or not, please contact the Post or National to find out the status of your dues transmittal.

Post dues have to be processed by December 31st to keep you in good standing with the VFW.

The more people that we have up to date on their dues, the better standing our post has in the District and at the National level.

Turkey Raffle a Gobbly Good Success

By Ralph Ritter

The Turkey raffle was a great success. 298 dinners were served. We had 17 raffle wheel spins for cash, steaks, pot roasts, hams, turkeys or booze. Mike David gave away two cubs ticket for a game in the spring. They are right behind home plate.

The people had a great time and enjoyed the different meats that were given away. We had six people donate turkeys that were won. Of the six, two went to the food pantries and four to the New Horizon home in Hebron for homeless vets. We had three bartenders and even that was barely enough to keep up.

Sid said that about 40% of the tickets mailed out were returned with money.

The people at the raffle expressed interest in having a meat raffle in the spring of the year. We are almost 99% sure this will happen in March.

If you won, you should have been contacted already. If you didn't win this year, better luck next year. Thanks to all that participated.



Ed O'Brien, superintendent of St. Mary's Elementary School, organized an all-school assembly to commemorate the service and sacrifice by veterans during a Veteran's Day observance. Veterans were invited by students as their guests for the assembly held November 6. From left: Tom Kennelly, Army; Bernard DeWane, Coast Guard; Joe Sullivan, Army; Eugene Weidner, Army; Steve Karson, Army; and Dwayne Raney, Army. (Don Peasley Photo).

Chaplain Report from Afar

By Howard Engstrom

Our chaplain, Howard Engstrom, was in Ft. Meyers, Florida on a medical leave and vacation during October and November. He attended a Veteran's Day event at the Lexington Country Club development in Ft. Meyers.

There are in excess of 200 veterans living at this country club. They sponsored a very impressive program including a Fife and Drum Corp playing all of the Service hymns. There was a crowd of about 175 spectators. An excellent program of speeches, readings, color guard and music was enjoyed by all. After the service, they served a tasty buffet lunch in the country club dining room.

Chaplain Howard was impressed with the service. He met several vets from several states including Illinois, but none from McHenry county. God bless Post 5040 and see you all very soon.

Below are some pictures that were taken during the ceremony.

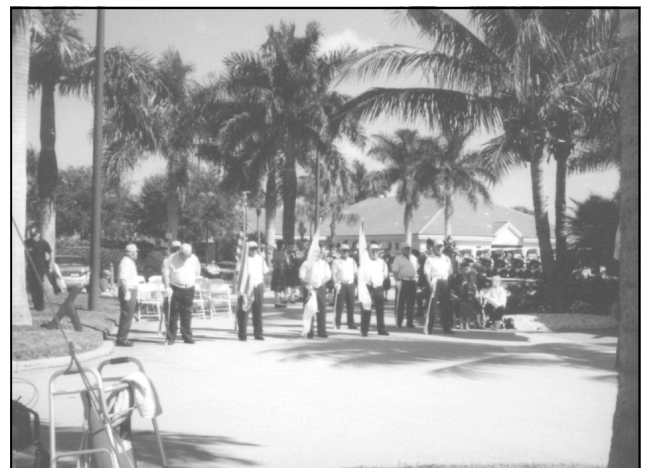
Advertising Sponsorship Renewals

By Matt Klos

As the year comes to a close, VFW post 5040 will once again be contacting our sponsors that paid for advertising space in the VFW News for the past year regarding renewal of their advertising space. Last year the price was \$100.00 for ad space for the entire year. I will be bringing up some financial information to the Post board meeting on December 9 regarding the price of the ads for the coming year. As you may know, it does cost the post quite a bit of money to print and mail the VFW news for the entire year.

As a bonus for the advertisers, I am considering of including links to those advertisers that have web pages/sites. Anyone who visits the VFW website (www.vfw5040.org) would then be able to go to the links page and quickly go to any of our advertising sponsorship. This is something I will talk over with the Board as well.

As soon as advertising space costs are determined, I will be sending out a custom letter for each advertiser with the cost for renewal. Thanks to all the sponsors this year for their continued support of the VFW News.

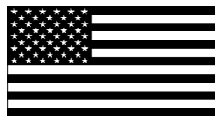


Faded Service Flag

Submitted by Hank Enstrom

Framed by our window since he went away,
His service flag has gradually faded;
Tho friendly trees have guarded it each day,
The bleaching sun has finally prevailed.
Perhaps a newer star of brighter hue
Might show that we at home yet wait and yearn,
But there is comfort in the fading blue,
Proving the time is near for his return.
So let it fade; good friends will understand
The candle of our tenderness shines clear;
Only a little while, and his own hand
Shall take it from its place, a souvenir
Thru all the years together that we face;
Reminding us how love once conquered space.



Quizzicuss



For Sale: VFW State Calendars. The post has 25 calendars at \$25.00 each. What is unique about these calendars is that there will be a raffle each day between \$25 and \$1,000. 5,000 calendars are available, so your odds are pretty good. Calendar starts with July 1 and goes to June 30.

December 2003

☆☆☆☆☆☆ Post Normal Operating Hours (unless noted otherwise) ☆☆☆☆☆☆

Closed	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1 Little League 7 pm	2 Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	3 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	4 Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Dinner 6:00 pm	5 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm Bingo 6 pm	6
7 Marine Bear/Packer Party 11:00 am	8 American Legion 7:30 pm	9 VFW Board Mtg. 7 pm Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	10 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	11	12 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm Bingo 6 pm	13
14	15 VFW Meeting 7 pm VFW Pre-Meeting Dinner (VFW Members Only) 6:30 pm	16 Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	17 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	18 Marines 7 pm Marines Auxiliary 7 pm	19 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm Bingo 6 pm	20 VFW Christmas Party Cocktails: 6:00 pm Dinner: 7:00 pm Band (Wanderers) at 8:00 pm
21	22	23 Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	24 No Dinner Tonight - Bar is open normal hours.	CHRISTMAS 25 	26 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm Bingo 6 pm	27
28	29	30 Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	31 No Dinner Tonight - Bar is open normal hours. Tool Show - 11:00 am to 6:00 pm	 1 Happy New Year!!	2 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm Bingo 6 pm	3

We Have a New Bar Manager - Have you Stopped in to Say "Hi" Yet?

We have a new bar manager, Tom Price. Tom was in the service but did not serve in a foreign war, although his time spent in the service was during the Cold War era. Tom enjoys the VFW and working the bar, talking with people, and keeping the drinks flowing.

Tom's full time job is with CTX Mortgage (Centex Homes) and is a loan officer. They specialize in Government loans, VA and FHA. Looking to refinance your current home? Tom would be glad to help you out.

Tom brings to the VFW a jovial personality and is even a top notch drink maker. He recently attended a professional bartending school in Schaumburg and graduated in the top of his class.

Come on down to the VFW one of these days and introduce yourself. You'll be glad you did.

VFW Christmas Party Scheduled

The VFW will be having a Christmas party on December 20. The band "The Wanderers" (part of the Trinket Trio) will be performing for the nights entertainment. Cocktails will be served at 5:00 pm, dinner will be at 6:00 pm and the band will begin playing at 8:00 pm. Dinner will be pork roast, mashed potato, and a vegetable and a full salad bar. Cost will be \$10.00 per person. Please RSVP by December 13th so we can plan for food quantities. It should be a fun time. See ya there!!

From the Editors Desk

By Matt Klos

As I look forward to the holiday season, I think of all the things that I have to do and get done. Shopping, work, the newsletter, the website and the list goes on. Here I am typing away at my keyboard creating another newsletter, thinking of things that I have to do with the website and changes that must be updated. I take a break and want to check the headlines, so I quickly switch over to visit the Yahoo! homepage which reminds me of why I can do this and the freedoms that I have. First news item that catches my eye is "soldier killed in Iraq". Every time I see these headlines, my heart goes out to the family of the soldier killed. They could have been a friend, a brother, a father, a mother, a sister. People die everyday in our country, but when I read or hear of the soldier, its different. I was a soldier. I helped to protect the country that I love. I was in Iraq. I came back. The list grows longer each week of those that will not come back alive. I am thankful this season for all our military forces through out the world that are doing the job to protect our freedoms and the freedoms of others. Many of our servicemen and women this holiday season will be spending it away from their loved ones and families. To them I say "thank you" and will remember them in my prayers. You have chosen an honorable profession, and there are many that appreciate all you do. I pray that God keeps you healthy and strong, your spirits high, and protects you no matter where you are. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



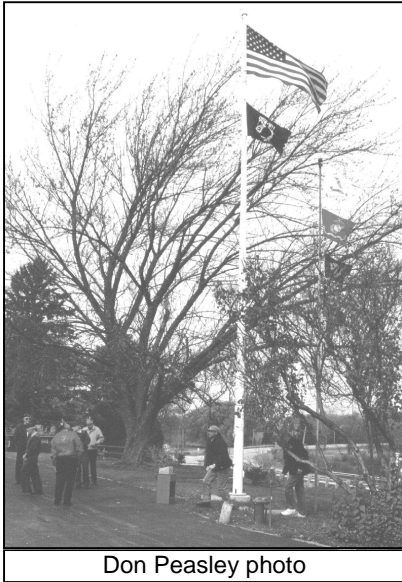
Flag Raising Ceremony Held

By Don Peasley

A small but enthusiastic crowd gathered for an emotional flag raising ceremony Monday, November 10, a ceremony stressing the importance of giving aid and comfort to veterans without a home. The occasion was the unveiling of a new flagpole at the New Horizons Center at Hebron. The center houses a dozen men who were homeless but now have hope and help seeking jobs.

The flagpole was donated by the Huntley American Legion. Three Legion members participated in the ceremony: George Hellner, Post Commander; Douglas Turnbull and Harry K. Klich.

Two residents of the New Horizons raised the American flag, James Turwall, Coast Guard veteran; and Ken Ozyuk, Vietnam veteran. The American flag and pennants of each military service were donated by Joy



Don Peasley photo

Aavang who used profits from her three books about veterans to purchase the flags and pennants. The service pennants fly from a separate flagpole.

A marker donated by Ron Nehls was attached to a marble slab donated Zoia Monument, Woodstock. Alan Belcher, the man who led the determined effort to provide home and help for veterans, reminded listeners about the significance of the flag and flagpole.

"We dedicate the flagpole where it stands tall before New Horizons for all men and women who served, but especially for those who have not been able to pursue their dreams as a result of their military service.

"We dedicate this flagpole in admiration of the idea democracy stands for. Freedom and liberty require vigilance and sacrifice. While this flag and pole may seem insignifi-

Ladies Auxiliary From the President

By Nyda Fogarty
President 2003-2004

We have lost another VFW Auxiliary member this past month. Eva Stephenson was a long time member and lived in Crystal Lake. Our sympathy to all her family.

Our Christmas party will start at 6 p.m. on December 4th. We will have a pot luck dinner with the ham being furnished by the Auxiliary. Please bring grab bag gift for exchange (please limit to \$5.00). Also bring wrapped gifts for bingo prizes. Viola Brown is in charge of party.

Our teacher's tea was a great success this year. We had over 70 in attendance. The Marian Central Advanced Chorus performed. Chris Strong from Woodstock Community High School, an English teacher for over 37 years, and Vincent Malek, a Chemistry Teacher for 39 years from Marian Central High School, were the two teachers picked as the Teacher's of the Year.

I want to thank the Committee who helped: Barb Gehrke, Rose Mary Hellstern, Geraldine Salyers, Chris Gehrke and Karen Wells. Also I want to thank any members who donated cookies for the event. We will decide on a date for the Past President's Party at our December meeting.

Please try to come to the party on December 4th. Three free dues are to be awarded for next year if your current dues are paid up.

cant, millions of these flags flying across the nation collectively say to everyone we believe in everyone's right to pursue happiness, that we believe in the freedom described in the Bill of Rights, and that we will protect them," said Belcher.

Belcher reviewed the start of New Horizons saying seven years ago a group of veterans met to find a way to provide housing and service to homeless veterans. Today, trained counselors are able to help train men for jobs and to help them find work and a place to live. Several computers have been purchased to help the men learn computer skills.

New Horizons opened to receive veterans in August 2001. The facility is located in the former Hi-De-Ho Motel north of Hebron on Illinois Route 47.

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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.
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(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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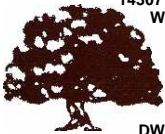
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