



Woodstock

# VFW News

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

Winner of 15  
National Publication  
Awards

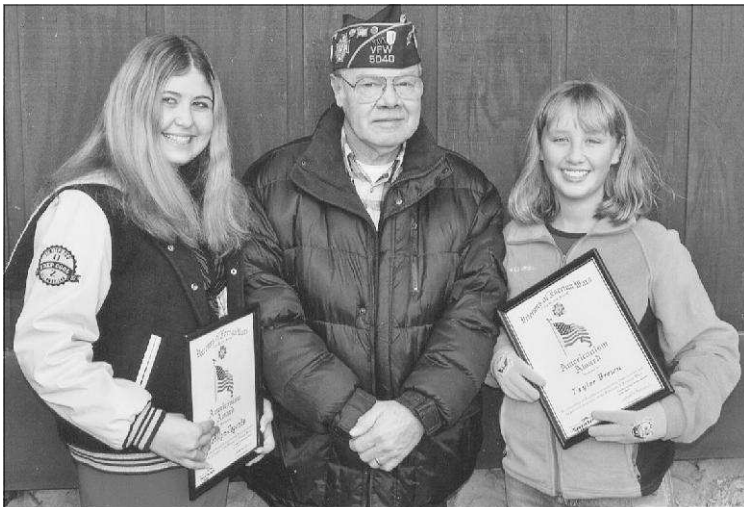
State Second Place  
2004

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

December 2004  
Vol. 50. No. 6



Prominent participants in Woodstock's Veterans Day program include (from left): Sid Sherwin, VFW Commander; Howard Engstrom, VFW Chaplain; Darrell Baxter, American Legion Commander; Dwayne Raney, American Legion chaplain; and Joe Thiede, a VFW charter member and Past Commander of the Woodstock VFW. (Don Peasley Photo)



Northwood Middle School students provided important tributes accorded veterans at Woodstock's Veterans Day program at the VFW November 11. From left: Kaitlyn Dagencis, soloist who sang God Bless America; VFW Commander Sidney Sherwin, chairman; and Taylor Brown, who read her winning essay on "Keeping America Strong." (Don Peasley Photo)

## \$1,000 Donation Made

The **Midwest Antique & Classic Motorcycle** club donated \$1,000 to the post to be used for our building, for our continued support and help we have given them at shows. Thank you very much to this club for their donation.

## Veterans Day Ceremony 2004

Although a bit cold, the Veterans Day Ceremony held at the post had a good turnout of observers. Tributes to veterans were made by Woodstock Mayor **Alan Cornue** and Northwood Middle School students. Below is the winning essay from Northwood Middle School's contest, "Keeping America Strong." **Taylor Brown**, a sixth grade student who wrote the winning essay, read it aloud to the observers:

Dear Veterans,

I just wanted to say how happy I am that you're here today! You have changed people's lives. You have fought for our freedom and I am proud!

You are our strong leaders! Having you fighting in wars has made people realize that we need to pay more attention to our country! It has also been hard for some people because they fought in the wars and died! You have become our loyalty and pride! You fought for our freedom, and we really have to thank you! You have given us better lives, more privileges, and became our heroes! All the terrorism going on has made me think that I don't have to worry, that there are people out there trying to save us like you Veterans did in the war! When I hear of talk about the Veterans, I stop and look at the American flag and say, "Thank you, Veterans for all your hard work!"

You have loyalty from all over the world, and also have a lot of respect from us! By giving us freedom you have given us the right to vote, helped people build the "Freedom Tower" in place of the Twin Towers, and let African Americans be an equal part of America! You have been able to stick together, and I am very proud to say that!

Not only are you heroes for serving our country; you are heroes here today. You volunteer at schools for flag ceremonies, provide military honors at funerals, raise money for needy causes, and volunteer at numerous events. You teach us the importance of being an active part of our community. You have given us almost everything we need! We definitely have to thank you and appreciate what you have done for us! I know I do! When I sing the Star Spangled Banner I say, "Thank you to the people who gave us freedom," and that they knew that we needed freedom for better lives!

You are very special to me because you have and still are keeping our country and America strong!

My uncles were involved in the Armed Forces, and I

**See Veterans Day, page 3.**

## VFW Post 5040 - Post Officers 2004 - 2005

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Senior Vice Commander	Bill Lyford	(815)-337-0025
Junior Vice Commander	Henry "Hank" Enstrom	(815)-337-5856
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	Elmer "Bud" Pflug	Not Available
Post Surgeon	Harold Irwin	(815)-338-1264
Officer-of-the-Day	Bruce Shisler	(815)-338-4735
1 Year Trustee	Henry Nulle	(815)-337-7529
2 Year Trustee	Larry Dohm	Not Available
3 Year Trustee	Michael David	(815)-338-5341

## VFW Post 5040 Ladies Auxiliary Post Officers 2004 - 2005

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	Rose Mary Hellstern	(815)-338-0653
Conductress	Irene Brown	(815)-459-3483
1 Year Trustee	Margaret Webb	Not Available
2 Year Trustee	Geraldine Salyers	Not Available
3 Year Trustee	Lois Freund	Not Available

## †††††††††† Chaplains Report ††††††††††

By Howard Engstrom

<u>Personal Visits</u>	<u>Draped Charter (November Meeting)</u>	<u>Cards and Phone Visits</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herb Hensel (Valley Hi)</li> <li>• Otis Setser (Valley Hi)</li> <li>• Arthur Slack (home, wake &amp; funeral)</li> <li>• Ralph Ritter (hospital visit)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edward Koster</li> <li>• William Evanoff</li> <li>• Arthur Slack</li> <li>• John Schilvock</li> <li>• Dr. Bernard Neuchiller</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robert Reese</li> <li>• Edward Koster family</li> <li>• William Evanoff family</li> <li>• Daryl Baxter (American Legion member in hospital)</li> <li>• Robert Schoenbeck</li> <li>• Alan Belcher</li> </ul>

### Thanks Comrades

Comrades, I would like to Thank the Post for the Get Well card that the Chaplain sent. The Card arrived when I needed cheering up. I am doing better and should be fully recovered in the near future.

- **Fred Wallis, SFC, USA Retired**

### Annual Turkey Raffle a Great Success

Mike David reported that there were over 300 people at the Turkey Raffle on November 20. A detailed report will be provided in next months *VFW News*. This was the best turnout we have had in several years. Look for the article next month.

### Possible Dues Increase in 2005?

An unofficial announcement was made at the November post meeting that dues for the VFW will possibly raise next year, after January 1, 2005. While this cannot be confirmed, this would impact life memberships as well. If you have been considering getting a life membership but have been putting it off, now might be the time to do it.

The post still has in effect the program that will give \$50.00 towards the purchase of a life membership for each member of our post that wishes to purchase a life membership. Please contact the post as soon as possible if you wish to pursue this so paperwork can be submitted.

### Ladies Auxiliary From the President

By Nyda Fogarty, President 2004-2005

Plans were made at a recent meeting for our Christmas party on December 2nd. Cocktails will be at 6:00 pm and dinner at 7:00 pm. The Auxiliary will furnish the meat and coffee. Please bring a dish to pass and a \$5.00 gift to exchange. For members who are present and have paid their dues, there will be a drawing for three free dues for next year. Games will be played, so please bring extra gifts for prizes.

Our Safety Net program has come to an end and has been very successful. The safety booklets were given to the schools for distribution to all students in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades the first part of November. We wish to thank all our merchants and companies in Woodstock for their help in making this program possible. It has been an outstanding community service project for the Auxiliary.

The District President will be doing her inspection of the Auxiliary on Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. A pot luck dinner will precede the meeting at 6:00 pm.

*Nyda Fogarty*

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.

## Veterans Day, continued from page 1.

understand what a commitment you make to our country. You are away from family and friends for extended periods of time, acquired permanent injuries and some of you have even lost your life or became prisoners of war. Emotionally this must take a great toll on you. How hard it must be to lose friends who were standing beside you to defend our great country.

I feel everyone should take the time to visit the Arlington National Cemetery and the traveling Veterans Memorial Wall in honor of all you veterans. At the cemetery people can learn about history and honor the nation's heroes. The traveling Memorial is set up in different towns during special events for people to honor those whose lives were lost in the war. Families can make sketchings of their loved ones from names on the wall.

"I'm proud to be and American..."

God Bless the USA!"

## World War II Memorial Dedicated

By Don Peasley

World War II veterans from Illinois will be special guests at the dedication of a World War II Illinois veterans memorial conducted December 4 at Oakridge Cemetery in Springfield.

The memorial, which is dedicated to the 987,000 Illinois men and women who served in World War II, cost between \$1.3 million and \$1.5 million, according to George Cordier, a director of the Memorial Association.

Of that, \$150,000 came from the federal government and \$1.3 million from the state. The Memorial Association received another \$60,000 as a result of a check-off box on state income tax forms last year.

Also, commemorative granite bricks placed in the central plaza are being sold starting at \$300 each. As of November 22, 1,195 commemorative bricks have been sold; there is room for 3,700 altogether.

People who purchase a brick may have it engraved with the name of a loved who served in World War II. For information call the toll-free number. (866) 992-4145.

The Memorial Association also is selling sponsor bricks; so far about 100 have been sold.

The Urbana firm of Isaksen Glerum & Associates is the architect of record for the new memorial.

## Sweetheart Raffle

By Matt Klos

The Turkey Raffle is now over comrades. Our next big raffle that will be coming up very soon is a biggie, the February Sweetheart Raffle.

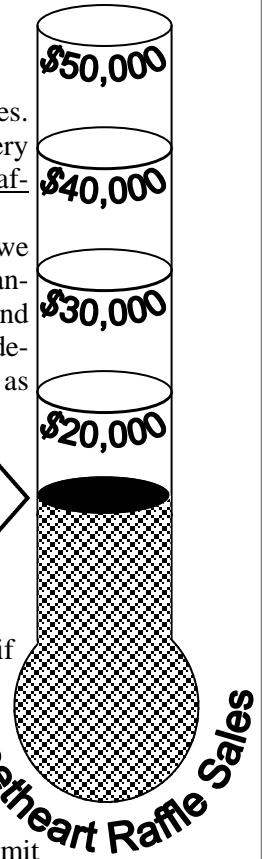
With only 74 days left as of December 1<sup>st</sup> we really need to sell those tickets. We are planning on having a nice dinner, live dance band and some other raffle prizes as well. More details will follow in next months VFW News, as this will be the last issue before the raffle.

Main prizes are as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> prize will be **\$5,000**, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is **\$3,000**, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize is **\$2,000**, and 4<sup>th</sup> prize is **\$1,000**.

How easy is it to sell these? Very easy, if you just ask people! The day before Veterans day I sent out a memo at work to about 27 co-workers telling them about the raffle. The next day, I had four people buy one ticket each, and a group of five buy a single ticket. I have two more people commit to me that they will buy a ticket. How's that for a quick sell? Don Sword had a similar story as well that when he started talking about raffle tickets at a dinner, he sold several tickets as well.

With the holidays around the corner, I plan on asking my family members to buy tickets. With Christmas coming up, how about buying a ticket for that hard to buy person? Please help your post out and sell as many as you can. The prizes are quite significant, so that should be an incentive as well. Good luck!

Sales to date:  
**\$15,000**



## Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy Winners Announced

By Hank Enstrom

We have submitted the winner's from Post 5040 to District 5 on November 12<sup>th</sup> 2004. The winner's are as follows:



Patriots Pen

**Kelsey E. Harding**

6th Grade St. Mary School, Woodstock, IL



Voice of Democracy

**Michael R. Koerner**

12th grade Huntley High School, Huntley, IL

The winner's will be honored at our January 2005 Post Meeting. A special thanks to all that participated at the Post in judging the contest and Chris Gerhke, Auxiliary Chairman. Congratulations winners!



To all our Post and Auxiliary members,  
Post 5040 wishes you  
and your families a happy  
and safe holiday season.  
Merry Christmas and  
Happy Hanukkah!



## Dr. Neuchiller Dies at Age 91

By Don Peasley

Dr. Bernard B. Neuchiller, one of 224 charter members of Woodstock VFW Post 5040, became involved in military service as a member of the Army Reserve. By March 1940 he had established his medical practice in Woodstock after joining Dr. Thomas Brand. He was called by the Army Reserve in March 1940 to serve a year of duty and given a month to close his office.

Dr. Neuchiller died November 13 following an illness that slowed him down the past year. He would have been 92 this December 13.

After war was declared in December 1941, he served on active duty from 1941 to 1946. He was stationed at three sites in the United States. During the war he was stationed in Brisbane, Australia. The Australian government had taken Chinese people off the seas and put them in internment camps. The U.S. government took over, built a camp for the Chinese and taught them to build barges for the military. Dr. Neuchiller had his dispensary in the camp, treating the few U.S. soldiers living there and the 1,000 Chinese workers for 23 months.

He re-established his medical practice first in a vacant apartment at Calhoun and Dean streets and then in 1951 built an office at 454 West Jackson Street. He especially recalled the patient-doctor relationship.

"I was involved in the private lives of my patients. They came to me for personal advice, and we had a good rapport. Their problems were my problems," he remembered.

The accepted fee for an office call was \$1.25 in his earlier medical practice year. Obstetrical care cost \$50. Included was all pre-natal care, delivery, a 10-day hospital stay, care of the baby and a six-week checkup!

"Our standard speech to the patient was, 'You pay as you go along,' but it never worked," he smiled.

Many patients had little money after the war. He continued. "We would go along for weeks without pay. We got by on the money my wife saved while I was in the service."

One giant breakthrough in medicine was penicillin, an antibiotic. It was available after the war in 1946. Previous to penicillin a sulfa drug was used. He described the new discovery as a wonder drug. "It eliminated infections without having to resort to certain types of surgery. It had to be injected every four hours but it was improved and became longer-acting," he recalled.

I will remember Dr. Neuchiller as a gentle person, kind, thorough, unhurried and deeply involved in his community. He established an attendance record as a Kiwanis member. He served as an active member of the medical staffs at Memorial Hospital and Harvard Hospital.

He was a co-founder of the Adult and Child Rehab Center. He received great satisfaction in the success of the therapy center which has grown to become an outstanding McHenry County patient-caring facility. He maintained his association throughout the organization's 55 years as its medical adviser.

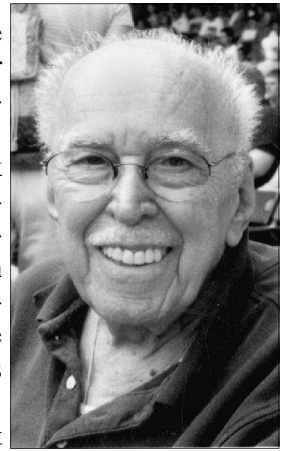
He served on the board most of those years, often-times as president or vice president of the board of directors.

Dr. Neuchiller came to Woodstock in 1939 in answer to an advertisement by Dr. Thomas Brand, a well-established Woodstock physician who was also the county home physician. Dr. Neuchiller's immediate job was to post quarantine signs throughout the county.

Old-timers will remember his first office after the war was in a building on the Square owned by Charlie Hayes, and Todd Nolan. A year later he relocated in a vacant first floor apartment at Calhoun and Dean streets owned by Mr. Burton. In 1951 he built an office on West Jackson Street. He speaks with pride of those years which saw him experience the introduction of penicillin in his earlier practice days and the tremendous technological advances.

Though he retired in 1993, he continued to attend medical seminars to keep abreast of medical advances. Advancements in the use of antibiotics and more sophisticated advances in surgical techniques were among interests he followed with his innate curiosity and professional interest.

The Therapy Center honored him with its distinguished award in 1993. The Woodstock Chamber of Commerce and Industry chose Dr. Neuchiller recipient of its prestigious Harold Buschkopf Award in 1996. This award reflects community involvement and leadership—a person who has made a difference "and made the community a better place, to live, work and play."



## Ralph Ritter Resigns from Board

By Matt Klos

On October 16, Ralph Ritter turned in his resignation from the VFW 5040 Board. Ralph was also the canteen manager. We are sorry to see Ralph leave, but for the past several years he has "dedicated his life" to see that the post get to where it is today. In the past several years, when the post was on the verge of closing, Ralph played a major role in getting it back on its feet. From maintenance to payroll, security features to post improvements, electrical work to heating work, Ralph has done it all.

"I've had enough," said Ralph. "The work I was doing, along with the help of others, required so much of my time. I have fond memories of many people I worked with at the post, but I feel that it is time to move on."

One project that will have to be taken over is the Vietnam Wall scheduled to come to Woodstock in 2005. To date, none of the other Veterans organizations Ralph has contacted has offered to help out with this. If this is something that any one might be willing to chair, please contact the post. **Ralph, thank you so much for your time and dedication. Good luck to you! :-)**

# December 2004

☆☆☆☆☆☆ 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	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	2 VFW Ladies Auxiliary 7:30 pm	3 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	4
5 Woodstock Memorial Day Committee 7 pm Little League 7 pm	6	7 Dirtt Group 7 pm	8 Cub Scouts - ?? pm Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	9	10 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	11
12	13 American Legion 7:30 pm	14 VFW Board Mtg. 7 pm Dirtt Group 7 pm	15 Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:30 pm Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	16 Marines 7 pm Marines Auxiliary 7 pm	17 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	18
19	20 VFW Meeting 7 pm VFW Pre-Meeting Dinner (VFW Members Only) 6:30 pm	21 Dirtt Group 7 pm	22 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	23	24 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	25  Merry Christmas
26	27 Girls Softball ?? pm	28 Dirtt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	29 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	30	31 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	1  Happy New Year




(left) VFW and American Legion members comprise the Color Guard at the 2004 Veterans Day program on November 11. From left: Darrell Baxter, Woodstock American Legion Commander; Henry Enstrom, Henry Nulle, Marv Munson and Dean Mishler, VFW.



(right) The Rifle Squad salutes veterans in a tribute including Woodstock's annual Veterans Day program. (Don Peasley Photos)


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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**  
**269 Forest Drive**  
**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**

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). Fifteen 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. Second Place 2004. Circulation: ~800.

**WOODSTOCK VFW NEWS**

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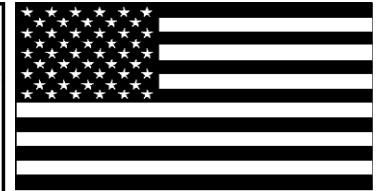
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