



Woodstock

April 2006 • Issue 10, Vol. 51

# VFW News

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Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

# 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Woodstock VFW Post 5040

Woodstock, Illinois  
March 4, 1946 - 2006

### **VFW Post 5040 - Post Officers 2005 - 2006**

Commander	Thom Gillespie	(815)-338-6826
Senior Vice Commander	Mike David	(815)-338-5341
Junior Vice Commander	Jim Clegg	(815)-334-0210
Quartermaster	Jim Smith	(815)-653-9238
Assistant Quartermaster	Anne Brophy	Unavailable
Chaplain	Howard Engstrom	(815)-338-4453
Assistant Chaplain	Charles (Chuck) Mathey	(815)-338-5374
Service Officer	Ron Nehls	(815)-568-0708
Judge Advocate	Dick Glawe	(815)-385-3156
Post Surgeon	Harold Irwin	(815)-338-1264
Officer-of-the-Day	Bruce Shisler	(815)-338-4735
Adjutant	Matthew Klos	(815)-479-8842
1 Year Trustee	Larry Dhom	(815)-338-4134
2 Year Trustee	Allen Belcher	(815)-338-7689
3 Year Trustee	Arnie Doerfert	(815)-385-2923

### **Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 5040 Post Officers 2005 - 2006**

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	Margie Humphrey	Unavailable
Conductress	Irene Brown	(815)-459-3483
1 Year Trustee	Geraldine Salyers	Unavailable
2 Year Trustee	Lois Freund	(815)-338-5261
3 Year Trustee	Margaret Webb	(815)-338-4213

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

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

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## Forward...

Happy 60th Anniversary Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5040 in Woodstock Illinois! This is the official anniversary issue that will cover some of our Post history and current events as well. In this issue, you will find vignettes that try to capture each decade of the VFW from its beginning in 1946 through present day 2006.

To begin, I want to set some expectations and rational behind what you have in your hands. The original editor of the *Woodstock VFW News*, Don Peasley (editor from July 1955 - July 2002), created several "anniversary" issues for the Post. These were created for each decade (10, 20, 30, etc.) as well as the 25th, 35th and 50th anniversary. Wanting to keep with tradition, a 60th anniversary issue would help our membership recall some of the special events in the past 60 years. Since taking over the job of *VFW News* editor, I have not been trying to show Don up nor do I think I could ever do that. Don is a wonderful writer and historian, something that had benefited this community for a long time. What he has done with the *VFW News* since 1955 is something I strive to do. However, I have to do this in my spare time.

When you think about it, 60 years is a long time for any organization to be around. Many events have taken place at the Post and with them, photographs and stories. Due to Don Peasley's diligence in capturing events at the post and chronicling these events in each monthly issue of the *VFW News*, there are literally hundreds, if not thousands, of photos and stories that make up our 60 year Post history.

This causes a slight problem. You can't reprint all the pictures. You can't reprint all the stories. You want to include as much as you can but the budget draws you back to reality and you must make a decision on what to put in vs. what to leave out.

What I wanted to do with this issue is similar to what Don has in the past, using vignettes to capture the history of our Post, but also a little different. Don has grown with the Post from its early beginnings and has seen the changes in its history, seen the good times and the hard times, and knows a lot of stories from the members he has interacted with over the years. As the current editor, I don't have these experiences. The post was already 24 years old when I was born. So my perspective on the Post is somewhat different in what I have found interesting about the post.

When preparing this issue, I had access to most of the *VFW News* issues dating back to the beginning of when the first *VFW News* was printed in July 1955. This provided a vast amount of pictures and stories to read about. Some of the things that happened were more significant than others. What I thought I would do for this issue was to capture events of each decade that stood out as I looked through the *VFW News*. Most all the pictures and cutlines for each photo are courtesy of Don Peasley which came from either an old issue of *VFW News* or from his personal collection. I want to thank Don for creating a lasting memory of our post through the *VFW News*, so membership may look back and recall all that it has accomplished through pictures and words. Without the many years of documentation, a lot would be forgotten.

Pictures and cutlines, mixed with a bit of history and facts, create a tribute to our Post 60 years. Enjoy this issue and I hope you recall some happy memories with it. **Hope to see you at the 60th Anniversary Dinner on April 29!**

*VFW News Editor, Matthew Klos*

# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

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Comrades and Sisters  
Woodstock Post 5040  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

It is an honor for me to congratulate you upon the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your Post.

Throughout Woodstock and the State of Illinois, the members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5040 are known as staunch community leaders. Year after year you have provided tremendous public service to the community and to your nation. Post members have lived up to the VFW credo: "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living." You have done much to advance the health and welfare of those who bear the burden of defending our nation and our way of life, and have provided a network for each other, relying on each other as friends, colleagues and fellow service members, for support and advice.

Your continued dedication to protecting and promoting American ideals serves as inspiration for all to follow.

Sincerely,



James R. Mueller  
Commander-in-Chief

## *Remember when...in 1946...*

### **Living costs:**

...a new house cost \$5,600.00  
...the average income was \$2,500.00 per year  
...gasoline cost 15¢ per gallon  
...a postage stamp cost 3¢ each  
...a new car was \$1,125.00

### **Food:**

...eggs cost 22¢ per dozen  
...fresh baked bread cost 10¢ per loaf  
...vitamin D milk cost 70¢ per gallon  
...granulated sugar cost 75¢ for 10 pounds  
...ground coffee cost 50¢ per pound  
...bacon cost 47¢ per pound  
...ground hamburger cost 40¢ per pound

### **Movies:**

...Notorious  
...Song of the South  
...The Big Sleep  
...It's a Wonderful Life  
...The Best Years of Our Lives  
...My Darling Clementine

### **World News:**

...Winston Churchill give his "Iron Curtain" speech.  
...the United Nations holds its first session.  
...The bikini swimsuit, named after Bikini Atoll and the atomic explosions conducted there, debuts in Paris.  
...Lebanon declares the independence of France.  
...the People's Republic of Albania is established.  
...Europe and Japan begin the process of rebuilding.

### **Sports:**

...U.S. Open Golf: Lloyd Mangrum.  
...Pro Football Champion: Chicago Bears.  
...College Football Champion: Notre Dame.  
...Stanley Cup Winner: Montreal Canadians.  
...World Series Champion: St. Louis Cardinals.  
...Heisman Trophy Winner: Glenn Davis from Army.

### **National News:**

...the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) is formed.  
...birthrates jump to over 1.4 million in one year with the return of WWII veterans.  
...the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, a civilian group, is formed by an act of Congress.  
...the United States gives the Philippines independence.  
...AT&T announces the first car phones.  
...Alaskans vote in favor of statehood.  
...WWII veterans, making use of the provisions of the GI Bill of Rights, head to college in record numbers.

### **Music:**

...The Old Lamplighter - Sammy Kaye  
...The Gypsy - Dinah Shore  
...Rumors are Flying - Frankie Carle  
...Ole Buttermilk Sky - Kay Kyser  
...Surrender - Perry Como  
...To Each His Own - Ink Spots  
...I'm A Big Girl Now - Sammy Kaye  
...Symphony - Freddy Martin  
...Personality - Johnny Mercer



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*On behalf of the City of Woodstock and its residents, it is an honor to congratulate VFW Post 5040 on its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to thank those charter members for their vision and dedication. Through its many services, events, and newsletters over the past 60 years, Post 5040 has been a vital, contributing organization, responding to the needs of its members and the City. You have served our country and community with distinction and it is with heartfelt pride and gratitude that we recognize you on this most significant occasion.*

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Sager".

Brian Sager, Ph.D.  
Mayor

## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

As State Commander of the Department of Illinois, Veterans of Foreign Wars, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to the Officers and members of Woodstock VFW Post 5040 on attaining 60 years of service to their community and to their fellow veterans. I am gratified that some of your Charter members are alive and well. Over the last 50 years, we have all enjoyed reading about the activities of your Post and its members through your award-winning newsletter "Woodstock VFW News" and I am pleased that it continues to provide insight and information. I wish you and the members of your Post continued success as you continue to "Honor The Dead By Helping The Living".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Leon Barnes".

R. LEON BARNES  
State Commander

# ★★★ VFW Post 5040 Officers and Auxiliary: 1996 - 2006 ★★★

<b>Commander</b>	<b>1996-1997</b> Henry Nulle	<b>1997-1998</b> Robert Watts	<b>1998-1999</b> William Lyford	<b>1999-2000</b> William Lyford	<b>2000-2001</b> Alan Belcher
<b>Sr. Vice</b>	Robert Watts	William Lyford	Jack Meyers	Alan Belcher	Mark Siddons
<b>Jr. Vice</b>	William Lyford	Dick Glawe	Alan Belcher	Mark Siddons	Paul Kitterer
<b>Quartermaster</b>	Joe Thiede	Jim Gehrke	Jim Gehrke	Jim Gehrke	Jim Gehrke
<b>Chaplain</b>	Marvin Bohnhoff	Marvin Bohnhoff	Marvin Bohnhoff	Marvin Bohnhoff	Marvin Bohnhoff
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	Walter Kuck	Walter Kuck	Walter Kuck	Lou Aiello	Lou Aiello
<b>Surgeon</b>	Art Schuld	Harold Irwin	Harold Irwin	Harold Irwin	Harold Irwin
<b>Auxiliary President</b>	<b>1996-1997</b> Viola Brown	<b>1997-1998</b> Nyda Fogarty	<b>1998-1999</b> Nyda Fogarty	<b>1999-2000</b> Cathy Schmeiding	<b>2000-2001</b> Cathy Schmeiding
<b>Senior Vice Pres</b>	Barbara Gehrke	Bonnie Kagel	Bonnie Kagel	Barbara Gehrke	Barbara Gehrke
<b>Junior Vice Pres</b>	Ruth Gehrke	Barbara Gehrke	Viola Brown	Bonnie Kagel	Bonnie Kagel
<b>Treasurer</b>	Margaret Thiede	Margaret Thiede	Marge Thiede	Nyda Fogarty	Nyda Fogarty
<b>Chaplain</b>	Alice McCannon	Alice McCannon	Alice McCannon	Alice McCannon	Alice McCannon
<b>Secretary</b>	Irene Brown				Chris Gehrke
<b>Conductress</b>	Loraine Loss	Irene Brown	Irene Brown	Irene Brown	Irene Brown
<b>Commander</b>	<b>2001-2002</b> Mark Siddons	<b>2001 Nov -Term End</b> Dwayne Raney	<b>2002-2003</b> James Smith	<b>2003-2004</b> Jon Showers	<b>Dec 2003 -Term End</b> Sid Sherwin
<b>Sr. Vice</b>	Paul Kitterer	James Smith	Marvin Monson	Sid Sherwin	Mark Clausen
<b>Jr. Vice</b>	Eric Siddons	Thom Gillespie	Sid Sherwin	Donald Sullivan	Donald Sullivan
<b>Quartermaster</b>	Carl Peterson	Gary Rubow	Ralph Ritter	Henry Nulle	Thom Gillespie
<b>Chaplain</b>	Marvin Bohnhoff	Marvin Bohnhoff	Marvin Bohnhoff	Howard Engstrom	Howard Engstrom
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	Gary Rubow	Bob Benson	Bob Benson	Hank Enstrom	Hank Enstrom
<b>Surgeon</b>	Harold Irwin	Harold Irwin	Harold Irwin	Harold Irwin	Harold Irwin
<b>Auxiliary President</b>	<b>2001-2002</b> Barbera Gehrke		<b>2002-2003</b> Nyda Fogarty	<b>2003-2004</b> Nyda Fogarty	
<b>Senior Vice Pres</b>	Cathy Schmeiding		Bonnie Kagel	Bonnie Kagel	
<b>Junior Vice Pres</b>	Chris Gehrke		Viola Brown	Viola Brown	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Nyda Fogarty		Barbara Gehrke	Barbara Gehrke	
<b>Chaplain</b>	Alice McCannon		Karen Wells	Karen Wells	
<b>Secretary</b>	Chris Gehrke		Chris Gehrke	Chris Gehrke	
<b>Conductress</b>	Irene Brown		Irene Brown	Irene Brown	
<b>Commander</b>	<b>2004-2005</b> Sid Sherwin	<b>2005-2006</b> Thom Gillespie	<b>2005 Aug - Oct</b>	<b>2005 Nov -Term End</b>	
<b>Sr. Vice</b>	Bill Lyford	Mike David			
<b>Jr. Vice</b>	Hank Enstrom	Jim Clegg	Jim Reece	Jim Smith	
<b>Quartermaster</b>	Thom Gillespie	Dwayne Raney			
<b>Chaplain</b>	Howard Engstrom	Howard Engstrom			
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	Bud Pflug	Dick Glawe			
<b>Surgeon</b>	Harold Irwin	Harold Irwin			
<b>Auxiliary President</b>	<b>2004-2005</b> Nyda Fogarty	<b>2005-2006</b> Nyda Fogarty			
<b>Senior Vice Pres</b>	Bonnie Kagel	Bonnie Kagel			
<b>Junior Vice Pres</b>	Viola Brown	Viola Brown			
<b>Treasurer</b>	Barbara Gehrke	Barbara Gehrke			
<b>Chaplain</b>	Karen Wells	Karen Wells			
<b>Secretary</b>	Chris Gehrke	Chris Gehrke			
<b>Conductress</b>	Irene Brown	Irene Brown			



# ★★★ VFW Post 5040 Original Charter Members in 1946 - 224 total ★★★

Dominic M. Amico	Duane W. Eckert	Elwood Leveroos	James G. Rietheimer
Salvatore Amico	Floyd E. Eckert Jr.	Lester P. Liddell	David J. Riley
William J. Asmus	Lester Edinger	James W. Lilja	James R. Riley
Clarence R. Axelson	Richard L. Edinger	Ben H. Lindgren	James S. Robertson
Gustave A. Axelson	Robert W. Edinger	Louis C. Magliano	Ben H. Rosenberg
Emil O. Bachman	James E. Farrell	Albert R. Mansfield	James D. Rousey Jr.
George E. Baker	Charles C. Fay	Charles M. Mansfield	Robert A. Sahs
Charles A. Ballard	Joseph B. Fywicki	Harry E. Mansfield	Paul A. Schmidt
Erwin H. Bauman	Louis H. Gehrke	William F. Mansfield	Walter F. Schmidt
Richard J. Beardsley	Glen R. Gibson	Walter H. Manske	William J. Schoepperle
Max P. Behler	Robert J. Glawe	A M. Maxwell	William L. Scott
Robert W. Behler	Glenard Grimes	Edward E. Maxwell	Elmer R. Secor
Douglas T. Bennett	Leonard E. Grimes	Samuel A. Maxwell	Walter E. Shepard
Edwin R. Bernadoni	Adolph J. Gross	Richard A. May	Caroll W. Sherburne
Ralph K. Bernhardt	Sterling L. Hacker	Earl B. McBroom	Elwood Sherwin
Walter E. Bernhardt	Walter O. Hanson	Robert K. McCoy	Bernard E. Shulfer
Kenneth W. Bertram	George A. Harding	Roy D. Meiswinkel	Walter C. Silliman
Edward L. Biel	Dave L. Harrington	Fred B. Merrill	Thomas W. Sinkay
Donald J. Blodgett	Raymond J. Heniken	Thomas B. Merwin	Lowell M. Slinde
Charles M. Bochkus	Carl L. Henning	Alfred P. Messman	Marvin J. Smith
Arthur Brewer	Victor S. Hermanson	Harold J. Meyer	Paul Smith Jr.
Henry Brown	William J. Hinner	Jack R. Meyer	Raymond Soenksen
Raymond T. Brown	Edward W. Hipps	Robert H. Miles	Lester C. Sohst
Volney E. Brown	Maynard H. Hogan	Robert Miles	Oscar J. Sommer
Edwin J. Buckley	George F. Hogberg Jr	Clyde C. Miner	William B. Stamets
Patrick F. Buckley	Earl M. Holm	Dean F. Mishler	Stanley H. Steadman
Nelson I. Bullis	Alvin E. Holtz	Eugene W. Mishler	Edwin F. Steinwehe
George M. Burke	Matt Hosley	Gerald N. Mungle	Herbert C. Stoldorf
Saul Burton	Richard E. Howell	Clifton E. Murphy	William J. Stone
Cloyd L. Butts	Harold G. Huffman	Raymond A. Murphy	George E. Sullivan
Martin Carlson	Lyle L. Huffman	Elmer M. Musser	Matthew J. Tanzer
William M. Carroll	Kenneth P. Hunt	Bernard B. Neuchiller	Joseph B. Thiede
Lloyd V. Church	Richard D. Hurley	Allen Nichols	William J. Thompson
Robert W. Clark	Harold R. Irwin	Kenneth W. Noble	William Thompson
Elmer C. Clausen	Thomas M. Jacobs	Harry E. O'Brian	Donald J. Thurow
John E. Conway	Alen A. Jankowski	Leonard D. O'Leary	William J. Tilicke
Patrick E. Conway	Charles P. Jenner	William J. Padolski	Arthur L. Tilstra
Robert J. Conway	Donald M. Johnson	Gerald F. Palmquist	Charles R. Tryon
William C. Conway	Henning J. Johnson	Don L. Perkins	Robert L. Tuttle
Cornelius Cooney	Robert Johnson	Roger R. Petterer	Cecil C. Urch
James H. Cooney	James E. Jones	James J. Phelps	Augustus W. Wagner
Ray J. Cooney	Andrew P. Jonsen	Charles L. Pierce	Clayton L. Wallis
Wesley D. Coonrad	Robert C. Joorfetz	James R. Pierce	Gordon R. Wallis
Chester L. Cooper	Benedict A. Kausal	Calvin L. Poe	Milton P. Ward
Jack Cooper	James T. Keclik	Nicholas Polizzi	Jack L. Wendt
Pete Cordek	Harold L. Kemerling	Donald J. Powers	Louis A. Wendt
Arthur J. Corey	Frank L. Kennedy	Auvergne B. Pratt	Arthur E. Westerman
Charles E. Corey	John C. Kennedy	Charles Pratt	Lewis B. Wheeler
Leroy R. Corey	Wilbur E. Kiefer	Jay T. Pratt	James C. Whiston
Daniel H. Desmond	Harold G. Knutson	Loren J. Pulver	John W. Wideman
Robert H. Diggins	Jim Koca	Richard M. Rabbitt	Julius Wien
Stuart K. Diggins	Vernon T. Kopsell	John J. Rainsford	Donald F. Wilkerson
Orville S. Disbrow	Robert A. Korslin	Frederic W. Reese	Maynard M. Wilkerson
Francis J. Dittberner	Harold V. Larson	Harold E. Reese	George H. Wilson
Edwin E. Dusthimer	Thomas A. Lauzon	Robert J. Reynolds	Raymond D. Woods
Sam Dykstra	Delbert J. Lee	Urban C. Riedl	John J. Wurtzinger

## Recap of the last several years

In keeping with tradition as Don Peasley, *VFW News* Editor from 1955-2002, has done in the past, we will recap some of the events over the last several years covered in the *VFW News*. The last time this was done was in the April 2002 issue in which Don recapped highlights from June 1996 through March 2002. Prior to this period, the 50th Anniversary Issue provided the recap from March 1986 through May 1996.

**March 2002** - Roy Stackhouse, past VFW Commander dies.

**April 14, 2002** - Walter Kuck, past VFW Commander dies.

**May 8, 2002** - Loraine Loss, past Auxiliary President dies. Vietnam Traveling Wall comes to Woodstock. *VFW News* editor sought.

**June 2002** - *VFW News* receives it's 15th National VFW award. Large turnout for Traveling Vietnam Wall visit.

**July 2002** - Don Peasley, *VFW News* editor, retires after 47 years of starting newsletter in 1955. Elmer Clausen, first commander of VFW Rifle Squad dies.

**August 2002** - Matt Klos, Crystal Lake VFW Post transfer, take over as *VFW News* editor.

**September 2002** - Domed part of seal coated.

**October 2002** - New juke box put in bar.

**November 2002** - Judith Sowinski, head of English department at Marian Central High School named "Teacher of the Year" at Auxiliaries Teacher's Tea.

**December 7, 2002** - Pearl Harbor Day remembered.

**January 2003** - Past Commander Allen Belcher receives Buschkopf Award for outstanding community service.

**February 2003** - Patriotic Pen Essay winners announced. Katie Russell from St. Mary's and Eric Peterson from Olson Middle School.

**March 2003** - VFW launches VFW 5040 website. Support our Troop rally takes place on square.

**April 2003** - Antique & Classic Motorcycle club donate \$2,000 to Post.

**May 2003** - Fred Riggs, who served with Robert Sweeney, donates Robert Sweeney Purple Heart medal to Post.

**June 2003** - \$1550 drawing nets \$4,610 for Post.

**July 2003** - Major sewer leak at Post take 3 days to fix.

**August 2003** - Alice McCannon, Chaplain of Auxiliary for many years and Mary Clausen deaths announced. Interview with Matt Klos published in National VFW magazine.

**September 2003** - Ken Kerns recounts memories of VFW for *VFW News* article.

**October 2003** - Another \$1,550 drawing held.

**November 2003** - Commander Jon Showers announces resignation.

**December 2003** - Sid Sherwin takes over as Commander.

**January 2004** - Post decides to stop Bingo on Friday nights.

**February 2004** - Northern Illinois Fire Museum holds open house at VFW.

**March 2004** - Allen Belcher, past VFW Commander, receives Community Builders award from Woodstock Mason Lodge. Historical Society Honors Don Peasley.

**April 2004** - Results of survey published on computer use and involvement in VFW.

**May 2004** - *VFW News* takes 2nd place in State publication contest.

**June 2004** - Ralph Ritter and Mike David attend State Convention.

**July 2004** - Commander Sid Sherwin's first meeting as an elected officer.

**August 2004** - VFW sets up information booth at Flyers and Tires at Galt Airport.

**September 2004** - Parking lot arrangement with city of Woodstock expires Sept 1.

**October 2004** - Concrete divider put in place to separate VFW and city parking lot.

**November 13, 2004** - Charter member Dr. Bernard Neuchiller dies.

**December 2004** - Jack Wendt presented with WWII Honor and Remembrance Medallion from his nephew, MSG Jack Crossman.

**January 2005** - Commander Sid Sherwin hold blood drive at Post.

**February 2005** - Sweetheart Raffle, giving away \$11,000 in prizes, held.

**March 2005** - VFW captures First Place State title for publication contest.

**April 14, 2005** - Past Commander Ken Kerns dies.

**May 2005** - Vietnam moving wall revisits Woodstock.

**June 2005** - Post give \$1,000 to Family Alliance that provides services to veterans cared for at the adult daycare facility.

**July 2005** - *VFW News* marks 50th anniversary with new look.

**August 2005** - Two past VFW Commanders die, Delmar Heidenreich and Arthur Schuld Jr.

**September 2005** - John Hansen hold Post picnic at his house.

**October 15 2005** - Past Commander Earl Holm dies.

**November 2005** - Turkey raffle nets \$11,376.00

**December 2005** - Patriot's Pen contest winners, Egon Naab from Northwood Middle School and Alesa Mueller Heine-man from Huntley Middle School, honored at Post meeting.

**January 2006** - 2nd annual blood drive at Post collects 27 pints. Mary Harriette Buckley, a charter member of the Auxiliary dies on January 8.

**February 2006** - Spaghetti dinner and Auction takes place at post to raised over \$2,400.

**March 2006** - Past Commander and Charter member Joe Thiede dies March 11 at age 88. Post is 60 years old on March 4.



# Decade 1946 - 1956: our first years.

With this being the first decade in the history of VFW Post 5040, a lot happened in a short amount of time. According to previous written accounts, the idea of starting a post was spawned from Bill Thompson while visiting in California with friends. On November 15 1945, members met in the Knights of Columbus hall to organize and elect officers, pending official approval. Neil Cooney, commander; Robert Johnson, senior vice commander; Dave Riley, junior vice commander; Dick Howell, quartermaster; and Julius Wien, Bill Thomson, and John Rainsford, trustees.

On March 4, 1946, the Post received its charter making VFW Post 5040 official. Frank Kennedy was elected as the first commander. 224 charter members started Post 5040. 60 years later, between 20 to 30 members are known to be living.

- December 1946: Post members vote to purchase Austin property on Throop Street as new Post home. Cost was \$12,000 and shares sold for \$25 each to members.
- January 29 1947: Auxiliary receives charter and Mrs. Genevieve Conway installed as first president.
- 1948: Firing squad, color guard, and honor guard organized, trained, and equipped. Veteran's Housing Council formed and Don Wilkerson was the first chairman. The need to build low-cost housing for the growing population resulted in about 400 new homes within city limits.
- 1949: First 4th of July Festival held. Committee formed seeking cost of addition on rear of Throop street home.
- 1950: Flag pole erected at Clay Street school. Since then, at all schools, a flagpole has been erected by the VFW.
- 1951: Burned mortgage on old building.
- 1952: Voted to buy six acres on Route 47 inside city limits. Work begins on Throop Street to add addition at a cost of \$50,000.
- 1953: Major membership push and need to establish long-range Community Service program discussed.
- 1954: Post provides playground equipment for Children's Home in Woodstock. 400 children attend Christmas Party.
- 1955: VFW News started, Don Peasley Editor. First V-J Parade and Pageant of Drums. Membership reaches 500.
- 1956: Annual meeting for the VFW association has assets totaling \$106,000 in building, property, and other inventory. Post celebrates ten years. VFW News wins national award and places first in its category.



Original eight members of Woodstock's VFW Honor Squad. From left: Elmer Clausen, Commander of the Honor Guard; Robert Church, Francis Dittberner, George Wilson, William Mansfield, Roy Stackhouse, Frank Cacci and Joe Thiede. (Medlar Studio). 1947.



Fourth of July Festival! For many years, this was a VFW sponsored and staffed community-wide celebration "to keep family off the roads" and provide wholesome local entertainment. This a 1954 view of City Park where the swimming pool is now located.



Who can forget the Auxiliaryettes, a dancing group of Auxiliary members who entertained and had plenty of fun? From left: Ruby Wilkerson, Jan Riggle, Pauline O'Brien, Betty Stackhouse, Lorraine Holm, Helen Lee, Betty Mishler, and Loretta Heidtke. They danced to the tune of FIVE FOOT TWO. Betty Thiede played the piano for the group. 1956.

The VFW entered this float in Woodstock's Centennial Parade in 1952. The VFW is big on parades, sponsoring the memorable V-J Day Parades and Pageant of Drums from 1955 through 1974 and now taking part in the Dick Tracy Days parades as honor guard with the colors to lead the parade.



Earl Holm, VFW Commander, presents the post's annual award for Most Valuable player to Terry Britz, St. Mary's quarterback who piloted the team to the conference co-championship. The Rev. Father Joseph Egan, St. Mary's pastor, is at right. 1955.





Fluttering gently in the breeze, the American flag now occupies a prominent spot on the Woodstock Children's Home. Part of the \$300 donated to the home in 1954 was used to purchase and erect the flagpole. 1955.



This display was erected by Betty Stackhouse and Ruby Wilkerson to call the public's attention to Poppy Day. It was in the Huffman Real Estate window. Poppy Day netted about \$390 for the VFW and Auxiliary. Money is use for our relief fund. Lorraine Holm is shown with the display. 1956.



The monthly trip to Downey Hospital is one our proudest services. Both men and women of Post 5040 and Auxiliary make the trips to entertain hospitalized vets. This photo shows part of those who went. 1956.



This is our first home, purchased from the Austins for \$12,000. When our new addition was completed in 1953, we moved from this building and then furnished the building cost-free to the Physical Therapy Center. 1953.



Dinner scenes such as this played out in the post quite often. Here is a scene from the 1956 Membership Kickoff dinner in which 225 people attended.



Proud moment for Marilyn Lindvall, VFW Queen candidate, as she is crowned Miss Woodstock by Bill Mansfield, VFW representative at the contest. Other contestants are Nona Knuth, Lions' club; Sandra Leonard, Moose; Marilyn Lindvall, Bill Mansfield, Wilma Brown, Guardian Electric; Rose Foss, Elks, and Carla Gillis, Legion. 1956.

V-J Celebration - Pageant of Drums open with the Scouts doing crowd pleasing maneuvers like this. 8 units featured. 1955.



# Decade 1957 - 1966: gearing up.

The second decade in our Post sees an increase in membership and community activity. Focus on building the community by sponsoring events is a major driving force in our membership.

- 1957: Auxiliary celebrates 10 years. Auxiliary nationally honor teachers. Post home hosts meeting for community on whether to keep or sell city-owned power and light plant.
- 1958: Post membership climaxes at 779 members. Post organizes Boy Scout Troop 173. VFW sponsoring Teener baseball league. Roster includes Tigers (Mgr. Joe Thiede), Dodgers (Mgr. Bob Gibson), Senators (Mgr. Ray Stanger) and Leaders (Mgr. Howard Dermont). Auxiliary sees climb in membership to 267.
- 1959: March of Dimes and Heart fund among Charitable Drives VFW and Auxiliary support. An estimated 30,000 saw the V-J Parade and 6,000 attended Pageant.
- 1960: Spanish-American war veterans honored. VFW votes to purchase 17 acres, located 6/10 of a mile east of Rt. 47, east of Northwood School and west of Marian Central Catholic High School. Cost is \$13,000.
- 1961: Dues are \$6.00 for VFW, \$2.25 for Auxiliary. Woodstock's Pleasant Street flew American Flags. VFW Commander Dean Mishler and Mrs. Olcott sent telegram to President Kennedy to let him know that people in Woodstock are eager to cooperate with his campaign for greater Americanism.
- 1962: Company G, group of Woodstock and McHenry county residents who fought together in World War I honored at VFW. 40 of 150 still living at the time. First annual Military Ball takes place where former servicemen dress up in service uniforms.
- 1963: 17-acre plot seeks membership approval to sell property to pay off mortgages and raise operating capital. Woodstock chosen as semi-finalist in All-America Cities contest, the VFW and Auxiliary helping to gain that honor due to the V-J Day Parade and Pageant of Drums, Teener baseball league, Fourth of July Festival Sponsorship, and many other contributions to the community.
- 1964: Woodstock wins All-America city. Illinois VFW moves headquarters from Chicago to Springfield.
- 1965: Approval to sell 17-acres plot for \$18,000 or more approved by membership. VFW and Auxiliary march in National VFW parade in Chicago in mid-August.
- 1966: Veterans of Vietnam are eligible to join VFW. Russ Miller is the first Vietnam war member to join. VFW, in cooperation with Elgin Courier-News, sells flag kits for \$2.75 which include a 3x5-foot flag, a State of Illinois seal pennant, mast and brackets.



Miss Mary Gannon, third grade Teacher at Olson school, is visited by VFW Auxiliary committee members on National Teachers day. Nelson Stork, superintendent of schools, said he was happy the Auxiliary was saluting the communities 124 teachers and recognizing their vital role in bringing up children. Left to right: Mrs. Eugenia Mansfield, Nelson Stork, Miss Gannon, Mrs. Carol Courier, and Mrs. Jane Dahm. 1957.



One of first projects Boy Scouts in new troop sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars started was the carving of neckerchief holders. Left to right, Jim Hogan, Ben Messman, and Ronald Benoy. Jay Graf, Mike Kulisek, and Emery Cross, Sr., assistant Scoutmaster. 1958.

Our Auxiliary won state recognition for its fine community service program. Scrap book compiled by Mrs. Pat Gaylord, left, placed second in state. Clippings and photos showing variety of activities are admired by Mrs. Naomi Olcott, president in 1957. 1958.



We honor Spanish-American war veterans. From left, front: Emil Bachman, Charles Krause, Paul Smith, Charles Smith and Charles Ballard. Back: Maynard Wilkerson, chairman; Ken Kerns, VFW Commander; Judge William M. Carroll, Sr., speaker; Don Wilkerson, MC; and William Thomson, committee member. 1960.



These young ladies made the dresses they are wearing in the sewing course sponsored by the VFW. Mrs. Clara Koltz, center rear, taught the course. This was another community service effort of Post 5040. 1960.



Checks for \$507.10 each were presented to Fred Ferris (left), McHenry County Red Cross chairman; and Rev. Clifford Reading, superintendent of the Woodstock Children's Home by VFW Commander Dean Mishler. Proceeds were from ticket donations at Springtime Pageantry. Maynard Wilkerson (right) was general chairman. 1961.



One of the largest crowds in years attended Memorial Day ceremonies in the city Square. Photo shows way people listened and remembered the sacrifices made by those who died in the service of their country. 1961



Military Ball proved to be one of the surprise hits of the social year. From left, prize winners included Arnie Romo, Robert Shoembeck, Ron Kramer, Irv Aavang, Les Liddell, and Al Mansfield. 1962.



Two beauties! The young woman you probably recognize - she's miss Janice Pilcher, our Miss VFW for 1959. The car - you recognize it too, probably, because it is the sensational Ford Falcon. This is a special Falcon, the one the VFW is giving away at its Fourth of July Festival July 1-4. 1960.

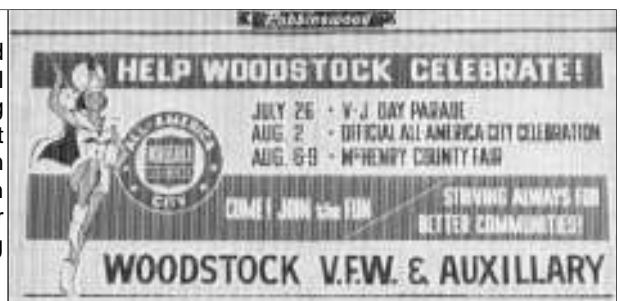


VFW flag flies at half mast as nation mourns John F. Kennedy. Notice in this picture the house in relation to the newer addition added. 1963.



Members of the VFW color guard team include (from left) Herb Henzel, Arnold Romo, Hoyt Sherrill, Larry Kyle, Les Liddell, and Carl Young. Post 5040 had the honor of serving as the Fifth District color guard the past year. 1965.

VFW and Auxiliary tell about the big three-event program ahead with this outdoor advertising sign. 1964.



# Decade 1967 - 1976: Vietnam.

The third decade in Post 5040 history find our nation at war in Vietnam and a nation torn on the issue. The Post 5040 continues to support the troops. Membership is a main driver each year, and many columns throughout the decade call for specific membership drives to increase Post numbers.

- 1967: VFW lounge gets makeover with dark paneling, booths added, and a repainted downstairs meeting room. Post holds program to inform citizens on Viet Nam war, given by USMC. Membership decides that each commander, at the end of their term, be given a Life membership to the VFW.
- 1968: VFW sends photo albums to Woodstock men and women in service. Albums contained photos of Woodstock, Christmas scenes, etc. VFW News wins 3rd National Award for best Post Publication.
- 1969: Post 5040 has over 25 Life members which makes it eligible for a perpetual charter. In March, the count is 30 Life Members.
- 1970: Monthly trips by Post members to Downey Hospital continue. VFW kitchen remodeled.
- 1971: VFW celebrates 25 years. Dues increase to \$11 from \$8.
- 1972: VFW sponsors circus in Woodstock. Auxiliary leads Cancer Crusade. 30 veterans attend V-J Day from Downey Hospital as VFW guests. VFW Association tries to decide what to do with \$30,000 - invest or make improvements? Decided to tear down original VFW home nearest street to first level and erect a flat roofed structure in its place.
- 1973: VFW News to slim down format to trim costs, starting with November issue.
- 1974: VFW National celebrate 75 years. V-J founder, Maynard Wilkerson accepts award from National VFW Commander for organization of the V-J Day Celebration which started 20 years ago this year.
- 1975: Unwanted toy drive planned for post to collect, repair, then distribute at Christmas time. Dues increase to \$13.00.
- 1976: Membership fall short of previous year and several officers resign. As of November 232 members are paid up.



Little Miss VFW candidates at the picnic, with judges (Miss VFW's) in back. From left, front: Julie Schmall, Julie Stevenson, Tammy Nihan, retiring Little Miss VFW; Kelly Gates, 1967 winner; Ranee Steinwehe, and Karen Raney. Middle: Carolyn Pittman, Nancy Olson, Lynnette Baumgard, Debbie Pierce, Linda Krohn, Carnella Stompanato and Karen McKim. Back: Mary Kristensen, 1966 Miss VFW; Cheryl Setser, 1965 Miss VFW; and Nancy Reavy, reigning Miss VFW. 1967.



VFW's recruiting exhibit is timely, for we start our 1969 Membership campaign right now! This exhibit shows the display at the county fair a year ago. Now is the time to sign for 1969. 1968.



Don Peasley, left, accepts the National VFW award presented to the editor of the national award winning post publication, Woodstock's VFW News. Making the presentation is Dwayne Raney, commander during the year the award was earned. This is the third national award for the VFW News. 1968.



Ken Korst, patriotic chairman, with VFW reminder poster distributed throughout the nation. 1968.

Post 5040 receives its Perpetual Charter from two National VFW officials, Ray Soden (left) and Art Muller. Ed Wille (right), 1968 Commander, accepts the charter. March 29, 1969.







We participate in Great Lakes Naval Hospital Christmas program! Peggy Collins, right, Miss VFW, is among those visiting veterans at Great Lakes, and our post collected Christmas gifts. From left: Don Librande, Vietnam chairman for the Carpentersville post; Art Schuld, our post commander; and Peggy. 1970.



VFW presents a new flag to Memorial Hospital for McHenry County in conjunction with National Hospital week. From left: Bert Hanson, administrator; Ken Schuh, president; Ken Korst, VFW Americanism chairman; Mrs. Virgil Smith, Auxiliary president; Dr. Robert Simpson, medical staff president; and Mayor Mel Stuessy. 1970.



This is history! Paul Smith (center), 96, a veteran of the Spanish-American War, gathers with a representative of each war since 1898 for this Silver Anniversary. From left: Les Liddell, World War I and II; Arnie Romo, World War II; Paul Smith, Spanish-American War; Chuck Gehrke, Vietnam War; and Jim Shoemaker, Korean War. 1971.



Demolition of the old Austin home, post headquarters in its early years. Work began on November 16. Workmen will take building to the first floor level, then erect siding, a roof and a new entrance at the corner of this area which will become one large room. 1972.



Joe Gitlin, Mayor of Woodstock, issues proclamation concerning Buddy Poppy Days. With him are Chris Gehrke and Al Gignac, chairman for the May 4-5 project. 1973.

Dedicated Comrades from the VFW and American Legion and their prospective Auxiliaries take a bit of rain during the solemn Memorial Day ceremony. 1976.



Sr. Vice Commander Bryan Porter, far right, presents State Buddy Poppy Pin Awards to post and Auxiliary members at a recent meeting. Left to right: Frank Loss, Toni Gignac, Al Gignac, Lorraine Loss, and Mary Guthrie. 1975.

# Decade 1977 - 1986: financial woes.

The fourth decade of the VFW begins to see financial strain within the Post and lower yearly membership. However, the Post continues to plug along with yearly community activities and ever trying new ways to encourage members to come to the Post, support the post, and help with activities. Monthly meetings see lower turnouts of members.

- 1977: Post begins to see financial problems. Operating expenses are exceeding income.
- 1978: Bingo at Post makes its debut. \$800 in Poppy sales. Veteran's Post homes find themselves on the ballot with the concern in Illinois that veterans' organizations post homes be exempt from property taxation.
- 1979: Teener baseball league disbanded. Little League establishes Senior Division for 13-15 year old players. 53 life members now. Fifth District gets realignment. Lower hall repainted and fixed up.
- 1980: Dues go up to \$15. Little League uses upstairs hall for Las Vegas night fund raiser. VFW helps out as well takes part in the festivities. Post collects S & H Greenstamps to obtain needed kitchen equipment.
- 1981: Post celebrates 35th anniversary. Past Ladies Auxiliary president Nyda Fogarty elected President of the Fifth District.
- 1982: Front office building re-roofed. Soup to Nuts nets \$1,061.10
- 1983: First flag flown at Post in honor of a deceased veteran. Post to continue to fly flags in order as they come to the Post. Poppy Day sales hit record of \$2,557.48.
- 1984: 91 life members keep Post membership steady. Lower meeting room gets re-floored and is driven by a Tile Drive. From \$1 and up you can buy a floor tile to help defray costs.
- 1985: McHenry County Board turns down formation of Veterans Assistance Commission.
- 1986: Viet Now members seek McHenry County Board for permission to erect a simple granite memorial to memorialize 34 McHenry county residents killed in action from 1961 to 1975. Marengo VFW transfers 80 members to Woodstock VFW. Remodeling fund to raise \$4,500 to be used in remodeling projects around the Post that conserve energy and reduce operating costs.



Pat Gaylord and Roger Nolan empty the Poppy Day containers - one part of the job that takes time - but its fun! 1978.

Bill Thompson (left) receives his 35-year membership pin from Woodstock VFW Commander Jim Gehrke. Bill, World War I veteran, was commander of the Woodstock post and recalled how he was a member of Crystal Lake before urging Neil Cooney and several others to form a VFW in Woodstock. 1979.



VFW presents checks for \$300 to the two sports leaders. From left: Roger Nolan, Tom Brink, Little League; Sue Stanger, Girl's Softball league; and Jerry Beckus. Funds came from the Sports Night in April, a VFW benefit. 1979.



Relaxing a moment during the hectic pace of getting ready for the VFW picnic are workers Bill Victory and Loraine Loss. 1979.



Thanks to many volunteers, the south side of the Post home was painted in mid-July. Appreciation and a "well done" go to Dick Heubsch, Dean Mishler, Arnie Romo, Harry Jackson, Jim Shoemaker, and Betty Huebsch. Also helping were Harriet Pope, Jack Fish, Bob Molthen, Jim Gehrke, and Bob Long. 1981.



Leaders spearheading Soup to Nuts, from planning to execution - Bob and Pat Gaylord and Sally and Jim Shoemaker. 1981.



Games of skill, games of trial and error, games of fun - all for a good cause. Helping Little League raise funds, and the VFW is pleased to be able to help with its facilities and other ways. After all, the VFW is co-founder of the Little League, way back in 1954. 1980.



VietNow veterans provided the firing squad for the 1984 Veteran's Day observance. From left: Rick Walters, John Sorensen, Joe Lewis and David Dahl. 1984.



Poppy Day Co-chairman Helen Kyle and Joe Barter. Poppy sale are best ever up to this year. 1983.



Ray Soden, Past National VFW Commander, joins Ed Buckley, Post 5040 Commander, for our 40th anniversary celebration. 1986.



VietNow leaders join Commander Ed Buckley in hosting the VietNow's POW/MIA flag. From left: Joe Lewis, vice president, Marengo; Joe Thome, treasurer, Woodstock; and Ed Buckley, Woodstock, VFW Commander; and Wes Woodall, president, Woodstock. 1986.



# Decade 1987 - 1996: getting by.

The fifth decade for the Post begins to see some aging of membership. Things begin to slow down somewhat. The Post home begins showing its age as more remodeling projects take place to keep it running efficiently.

- 1987: Auxiliary celebrates 40 year anniversary. Lower level remodeling nears end. New insulation and drywall put in place. Walter Kuck was elected 5th District Commander. Membership is at 641.
- 1988: Joe Thiede, club manager for 15 years, announces retirement. Joy Aavang begins to record information on veterans' experiences in the war.
- 1989: Life membership board created.
- 1990: 275 youngsters are served breakfast in upper hall during Dick Tracy days, sponsored by Crime Stoppers.
- 1991: Desert Storm addresses published in VFW News. Post requests information on any Desert Storm participants in county. New roof to be put on main building at cost of \$20,000. 26 free memberships given to Desert Storm veterans. VFW remembers Pearl Harbor, 50 years ago.
- 1992: First Commander of the VFW, Frank Kennedy, dies at age 74.
- 1993: Chris Gehrke elected to Fifth District President. Poppy Days collects \$3,825.15.
- 1994: Poppy sales hit best ever with \$5,214.35. Post donates \$1,000.00 to Veterans Assistance Commission to buy bus.
- 1995: Joe Thiede again announces retirement as club manager. Plans begin for Post 5040 50th anniversary.
- 1996: 50th Anniversary of VFW celebrated. Don Peasley creates 44 page issue of special VFW News. Ray Heniken, last World War I member dies.



Color Guard (left to right): Elmer Clausen, commander; David Dahl, Ray Hills, Loraine Loss, Ed Henry, Marge Henry, Jack Meyers, Irv Aavang, Corabelle Rahn and Joe Frozley. 1988.



The Woodstock Veterans of Foreign Wars led the Dick Tracy Days Parade, presenting the colors on Main Street and around the square for the unique community outing. From left: Jack Meyers, Jim Gehrke and Harold Irwin. Past Commander Charles Brown also marched part of the long route with the color guard. 1990.



Phil Bohn (left), of Bohn's Ace Hardware, presents three American flags to Jack Meyers, commander of Woodstock VFW Post 5040, in honor of his father, Ernest E. Bohn. 1990.



Several Desert Storm veterans participate in the Woodstock Prayer Breakfast as guests of honor. The event was held on the Fourth of July. Kneeling: Sgt. Paul Selchow, Woodstock; Cpl. Bart Iverson, Harvard; S./Sgt. Anthony Intravartolo, Woodstock, and MR-2 Andrew Perez, Harvard. Middle row: VFW Commander Michael Vujovich, Harvard; Sr./Airman Andrew Rousey, Lake Geneva, Wis.; Cpl. David Perez, Harvard; Cpt. Tony Wember, McHenry; Cmdr. Noel Narut, Lake Geneva; and 1st Lt. Kathleen Belmonte, Woodstock. Back row: Spc./4 Kevin Schrock, Union; and Spc./4 Jack Zenner, Johnsburg and Woodstock. 1991.

Mike Vujovich (left) is the new Commander of Post 5040. He takes over in June following the May 25 installation. With him is outgoing commander Jack Meyers, elected three-year trustee; and Jon Showers, elected Sr. Vice Commander. 1991.





Veterans fire three volleys to salute the men and women killed during the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941. Jan 1992.



Softball teammates reunite at the VFW's 50th anniversary in June 1996. All are VFW members. Front: Joe Thiede and Pat Buckley. Back: Ray Murphy Francis Dittberner and George Burke. 1996.



Elizabeth Bowdish, Harvard, winner of the Post 5040 Voice of Democracy contest, enunciates her winning essay at the Memorial Day services in the square. She became the first to win the Fifth District contest from our Post. 1993.

This 11-passenger van has been purchased through the efforts of veterans organizations and individual donors to transport veterans to Veterans Administration hospitals at Milwaukee, North Chicago and Hines. John Weller (left) and Charles Brown represent the Woodstock VFW on the 34-member Veterans Assistance Commission board. 1995.



50th Anniversary VFW News issue prepared by Don Peasley. 44 pages of a very memorable history of the VFW. Four pictures depict four pillar foundations of the VFW: Veterans, Community, Patriotism, and Youth. 1996.



Post 5040 Charter Members attending 50th anniversary, front: Harry O'Brian, Del Lee, Wilbur Kiefer, Richard Rabbitt, Elmer Musser, Fred Reese, Patrick Buckley. Middle: Robert Reynolds, Maynard Wilkerson, Dr. B. B. Neuchiller, Joseph Thiede, Earl Holm, Robert Joorfetz, Dean Mishler, Clifton Murphy, Raymond Brown, Raymond Murphy. Back: Albert Mansfield, Harold Irwin, Gordon Wallis, Glenn Gibson, Elmer Clausen, Harold Knutson, Jack Meyers, Francis Dittberner, George Burke, LeRoy Corey, Arthur Corey, Elwood Sherwin, Lester Sohst. 1996.



This is the plaque that was placed in the square and dedicated Memorial Day in tribute to the U.S. Armed Forces of all wars, past, present and future. Ron Nehls donated funds for this plaque, and Jim Zoia made the plaque to be mounted on a base. 1996.

# Decade 1997 - 2006: new millennium.

This sixth and last decade leading up to the 60th Anniversary of the Post sees things slow down even more. Involvement in monthly meetings hovers at a steady rate, with dedicated group of individuals coming to each meeting. Volunteers are sought after even more as a majority of membership becomes more aged and physically cannot help out for health reasons. The post again sees some financial difficulties and we also have some shake ups in leadership at times. Each year elections present an arduous task for the Post, as asking members to step forward to be leaders for the next year is very difficult. However, the Post keeps running. For the record, 549 members belong to the Post. Of this, 331 are Life Members (as of 3/21/2006).

What lies ahead for VFW Post 5040 in the next 60 years will be interesting to see. As we begin a new decade in our Post history, we have challenges ahead and need to focus on getting new members into our Post to take over the legacy set so far. For now, we keep going and pushing with the manpower we have. We always seem to find a way to make things better. We must be doing something good because we still have our Post home after 60 years, we continue to help our community, our youth, and most importantly our Veterans. Happy Anniversary Post 5040!

- 1997: Auxiliary celebrates 50 year Anniversary. Post faces reality that expenses are significantly more than income. Small loans are taken out to offset some of the debt.
- 1998: V-J Day Parade organizer Maynard Wilkerson dies. Post joins National VFW in preparation for National VFW's 100th Birthday celebration.
- 1999: VFW National turns 100. Post celebrates with anniversary party in April.
- 2000: Post 5040 honored as All State Post. VFW organizes celebration in November to welcome home 170 men and women on active duty who spent five months in Kuwait guarding Patriot missile sites. An old mail box is turned into a flag collection box and placed outside of VFW entrance.
- 2001: Crystal Lake VFW and Woodstock VFW approve merger. Reorganization in Post leadership takes place.
- 2002: Post institutes Life Membership discount of \$50 to be paid by Post if you want to be a Life Member. Traveling Vietnam Wall comes to Woodstock. Lower level hall renamed to Thiede Hall. VFW News editor sought after Don Peasley announces he will retire with the July issue. Don Peasley wins 15th National Award for VFW News. Matt Klos takes over as editor.
- 2003: VFW Post 5040 gets its own website. Support our Troops Rally in Woodstock Square draws about 700 people. \$1,550 drawing raises \$4,151.61 for the Post. Reorganization in leadership takes place.
- 2004: Illinois Fire Museum uses hall for open house. WWII Memorial dedicated in May in Washington DC. VFW parking lot sectioned off from city. Friday night Bingo is cancelled due to poor attendance.
- 2005: Traveling Vietnam Wall returns to Woodstock. Sweetheart Raffle gives out \$11,000 in prizes and makes a profit of \$18,508.29, generating much needed funds for the Post. VFW News celebrates 50 years of publication. July marks 600 issues.
- 2006: Post reaches 60th Anniversary to be celebrated on April 29th with dinner.



Auxiliary charter members at June 1996 50th anniversary of the VFW. (12 of the 33 charter members are still living). From left: Betty Mishler, Karen Cooney and Mary Harriette Buckley. Back: Pat Gaylord and Genevieve Conway Steagall. Present for the Auxiliary's 50th anniversary dinner but absent from photo: Phyllis Palmquist and Doris Neuchiller. 1997.



The best turnout for a meeting in years occurred in September, and these are part of the 70 attending. We had over 50 at the October meeting where members are eager to help solve the knotty problems so Post 5040 can thrive and serve. 1997.



Members of Post 5040's 100th Anniversary committee gather to display the flag that signifies the Woodstock Post as an official participant in the National VFW 100th Anniversary throughout all of 1999. From left, front: Dwayne Raney, chairman; Harold Irwin, Pennie Nolan and Barbara Gehrke. Back: VFW Commander Bill Lyford and VFW Auxiliary President Nyda Fogarty. 1998.



John Isbell and Dale Behm are presented certificates of Appreciation from the Woodstock VFW. Following city council approval, they erected the Veterans Way street sign at the entrance of the Woodstock VFW. The sign was part of Post 5040's observing the 100th Anniversary of the National Veterans of Foreign Wars. From left: Harold Irwin, project chairman; Isbell and Behm, Woodstock Public Works Department; and Bill Lyford, VFW Commander. 1999.



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 Allen Belcher, Marvin Monson, and Dean Mishler. 2003.



Woodstock VFW Post 5040 website. Website was launched in 2003 as a means for communicating with Post members on the World Wide Web, attracting new membership, and putting the monthly newsletter on the website. Address of the site is:

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

2006.



Many Woodstock Post 5040 members turned out for the Eisenhower Ash Tree planting at Emricson Park near George Sullivan Field. 2001.

Woodstock VFW members staff a booth at the McHenry County Fair to sell chances on the Sweetheart Raffle and to seek memberships. Several members staffed this booth in Building D and staffed a similar booth at Flyers and Tires at Galt Airport Aug. 14-15. From left: Chuck Mathey, Don Sword, and Bill Lyford. 2004.



Cherished VFW project is to decorate veterans' graves with the American flag each Memorial Day. 1998.

Woodstock VFW color guard members join John Scharres (Uncle Sam) at Woodstock's Fourth of July band concert on June 30. Scharres is executive director of the Woodstock Opera House. From left: Bob Fleck, Brian Ritter, Hank Enstrom, John Scharres, Bob Gibson, and Chuck Mathey. 2004.



## Joe Thiede, 88, dies

By Don Peasley

VFW and Auxiliary members united for a farewell to Joe Thiede on Tuesday, March 14. Joe died at his home Saturday, March 11 after recent months of serious health problems related to cancer. He would have been 89 on March 29.

Joe had asked Howard Engstrom, Post 5040 chaplain, to conduct his funeral services. Joe had said earlier while hospitalized he deeply appreciated Engstrom's devotion and prayers as he battled this illness.

Howard revealed his visits with Joe at the hospital were uplifting to both him and to Thiede. He talked about reading the 23rd psalm with Joe and their discussion of one of Howard's favorite Bible verses from the Gospel of John that begins, "Let not your heart be troubled. . ."

Engstrom said, "Jesus says that to us today. Those significant words are true over the centuries." He said Joe received comfort in their discussion.

Joe and Marge were married October 2, 1965. He was a U.S. Army veteran serving in 1941, most of the time at Pearl Harbor.

A charter member of the VFW, he was the first club manager following purchase of the building on Throop Street in 1947. Over a period of 55 years he served as club manager and chef for more than 25 years. He served as Post Quartermaster from 1980 to 1999. He retired as manager twice, and when no one stepped forward he returned as manager and chef for extended service.

When the Little League was started in 1954 he was on the board and when the National VFW established its Teen-er League program for 13-15-year olds, Joe became team manager and a leader of that program for many years.

Randy Thiede, his son, says he will remember his dad for his love of gardening, his relationship with the VFW, his enjoyment on the golf course and "his excitement with the success of the Chicago White Sox."

Survivors include his wife, Marge, who was a tower of strength in his VFW responsibilities and in caring for him in later years; his son, Randy; his daughter, Jan; two step-daughters, Carolyn and Judy; ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Madeline Frame, wife of Bill Frame, a sister, also survives.

## Ladies Auxiliary, from the president

By Nyda Fogarty  
Auxiliary President 2005-2006

Our April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting will be election of officers for the year of 2006-2007. The 5<sup>th</sup> District Spring Frolic honoring the 5<sup>th</sup> District President and Commander will be held on Saturday night, April 22 at VFW Post 7448 in Winthrop Harbor, Illinois.

It seems every month I have sad news to report. We lost our devoted long time member Ruth Gehrke the last week of February. Ruth had been ill for several months besides falling and having hip surgery. She served as a Trustee of the Auxiliary for a number of years. When she came to meetings she would pick up other members and bring them. I presented her with a 50 year membership pin in 2001. She spent the last two months of her life at Valley Hi Home. Our sympathy to her two sons, Jim and Chuck; their wives, Barbara and Chris; and their families. She will certainly be missed by the Auxiliary.

On April 29<sup>th</sup> the Post is celebrating their Anniversary. Past Presidents and Charter members will be recognized in their program.

## Commander's column

By Thom Gillespie  
VFW Commander 2005-2006

Hide-ho there friends and neighbors, and a Happy Anniversary to our Post! 60 years and what a run it has been so far. Well, to get onto business.

The time has come upon us to select the new officers to represent your interests in the coming year. In accordance with SEC 217 PARA 2 in our Congressional By-Laws, "a member making the nomination of an absentee for any office shall have presented to the Adjutant, in writing, the consent of the member being nominated prior to the opening of nominations." Section 217 also has provisions for a polling system instead of an open vote at the Post meeting.

I would like to institute a polling system as that would allow members to vote that are unable to attend the floor meeting. This procedure has to be approved by the floor prior to opening nominations at the April meeting or election of officers must take place at the April meeting. This was approved in the March meeting, so ballots will be printed and elections will be held

See COMMANDER, page 22.

Trustee's Report of Audit of				
The books & records of the Quartermaster & Adjutant of 5th Dist. POST 5040				
Department of ILLINOIS for the Quarter ending Mar 31, 2006				
FISCAL Quarter >>>	Feb-06			
POST 5040				
	Start of Qtr	QTR In	QTR Out	End of Qtr
1. Nat & Dept Dues	1,230.00	172.50	116.00	1,286.50
2. Admin or App Fees	-315.00		150.00	-465.00
3. POST Gen Fund	12,606.56	4,064.00	4,167.04	12,503.52
4. POST Relief Fund	3,367.40	41.00	250.00	3,158.40
5. Post Dues Reserve Fund	2,447.26			2,447.26
6. Post HOME Fund	-5,854.94	4,001.00	2,781.87	-4,635.81
7. New Building Fund	14,879.03	271.00		15,150.03
8. Fly Flag Book Fund	2,041.46			2,041.46
9. Memorial Day Fund	2,256.25			2,256.25
10. Raffel Account	3,000.00			3,000.00
11. Other in Post Account	2,335.11	66.00	996.38	1,404.73
12. Rifle Squad	2,592.52	350.00		2,942.52
13. Post Bar / CANTEEN Acct.	2,447.98	7,329.98	7,808.91	1,969.05
14. Pull Tab Account IL. LISC. P-0839	1,802.52	600.00	300.00	2,102.52
15. Savings Account Interest	0.00			0.00
Totals:	44,836.15			45,161.43
Post AND Savings Total	37,585.65	8,965.50	8,461.29	38,089.86
Operations			Reconciliation of Fund & Account Balances	
Have required payroll deductions been made?	Yes	Savings Acct		33,000.04
Tax Payments been made to ST. & Fed?	Yes	Canteen Bar		2,140.86
Sales Taxes collected & PAID?	Yes	Post Acct		4,918.01
Club employees bonded?	some	Pull Tab Acct		2,102.52
Amount of outstanding bills?	\$ -	Raffel Acct		3,000.00
Value of Real Estate?	\$ 657,000.00	Uncleared checks		-45,161.43
Amount of Liability Insurance?	\$ 2,000,000.00		Quicken Total	0.00
Owed on Mortgages & Loans?	\$ -		Bank Total	0.00
Trustee's & Commander's Certificate of Audit				



## Duties of officers (in summary from By-Laws)

Ever wonder what all the Officer positions that we nominate members for entail as far as job description? Our National By-Laws go into detail about each position, what is required of that position, and how it supports the VFW. If you ever want to read these for yourself, see one of the current officers. They should have a Charter and By-Laws book handy for you to take a look at. Maybe now that by looking at some of these positions you get some understanding of what these are about and maybe even want to have yourself nominated for one of these positions at the next VFW meeting which will take place on April 17.

**Commander:** (a) Preside at all meetings, (b) enforce laws of VFW, (c) conduct business and activities according to VFW standards (d) decide all questions of law (f) approve expenditures (g) assure QM is bonded (h) assure all dues are forwarded to Department (i) assure all reports are correct (j) assure all eligible veterans encouraged to join and maintain membership (k) assure that he or representative attend District Conventions (l) comply with and perform duties of VFW.

**Sr. Vice:** Assist Commander in preserving order and preside in absence of Commander.

**Jr. Vice:** Assist Commander in preserving order and preside in absence of Commander and Sr. Vice Commander.

**Quartermaster:** (a) receive and properly account for all monies and property in Post (b) pay our authorized payments (c) be bonded (d) collect monies giving receipts (e) keep dues accounts on members (f) collect annual membership dues (g) transmit dues to Department (h) refrain from issuing memberships until dues paid (i) maintain dues reserve (j) expend dues paid by Post on members from general fund (k) maintain relief fund (l) maintain books (m) deliver to successor all records (n) serve as treasurer in all committees (o) comply with all VFW laws.

**Adjutant:** (a) prepare all reports required of him (b) attest by signature all actions of the Post (c) keep in books: by laws, member applications, meeting minutes, orders from higher offices, correspondence file, proof of eligibility, roll of departed comrades (d) transfer all records to successor (e) comply with all VFW laws

**Chaplain:** Shall be chairman of visiting committee of Post. Visits sick and disabled members and make report to membership.

**Judge Advocate:** Gives commander legal assistance.

**Surgeon:** Chairman of Health committee. Shall promote and put into effect health programs for the benefit of the Post and community.

**Officer of the Day:** (a) Custodian of the Post colors, alter flag, Bible, ballot box, gavel and other such property (b) at the beginning of meeting, inspect membership card (c) have Post colors in position prior to meetings (d) at the close of meetings assures that all property is under his control (e) prepares ballots (f) carry out

order of commander.

**Trustees:** (a) audit books and records of the Post (b) submit a Post trustees report of audit to Department QM (c) verify all expenditures (d) audit the records and accounts of all committees (e) perform duties that are incident to position.

**Guard:** (a) allow no one to enter meeting room who does not possess a dues receipt card or membership (b) notify Officer of the Day of all distinguished guests present (c) perform duties that are incident to position.

**Service Officer:** Assist members of the Post, widows, and orphans in obtaining rightful benefits from federal and state governments, preparing proper forms for applying for benefits, and assembling required evidence.

**Assistant Adjutant:** Assists Adjutant as requested.

**Assistant Quartermaster:** Assists Quartermaster as requested.

**Legislative Chairman:** Inform Post membership of all legislative information sent to him by Department or National.

**Employment Chairman:** Work for the accomplishment of the employment programs adopted by the National and Departmental conventions and Post to promote employment of veterans.

**Public Relations Chairman:** Publicize the activities of the Post which enhance the prestige of the Post and membership. He shall seek cooperation of local publications and broadcast media to obtain favorable publicity for the VFW of the US.

**Americanism Chairman:** Maintains record of all Patriotic Days and shall initiate programs for their proper observance by the Post and community.

### Reminder: 60th Anniversary Dinner

**Date:** Saturday, April 29, 2006

**Time:** Reception at 5 pm

Dinner at 6:30 pm

Presentation 7:45 pm

**Cost:** \$12.50 per person due by April 5.

**Contact Post with Questions:**

338-5040

Entertainment provided by Talisman.



### Display items wanted

Bud Pflug is still collecting pictures (and items) from people when they were in uniform when they were in the service.

If you can lend a picture of yourself for the display, send it to:

Bud Pflug  
240 Throop St  
Woodstock, IL 60098

# Recollections of Joe and his dedication to the VFW

By Don Peasley

I vividly recall my last two visits with Joe Thiede. I received a call from his wife Marge saying, "Joe wants you to visit him at the hospital." This was in early February and as I opened the door to Joe's room he glanced in my direction, flashed a warm smile, reached out his hand and said, "I'm glad to see you. I have something I want you to do."

We visited and it was typical of Joe who was thinking about the kindness shown him and other veterans by Howard Engstrom, current VFW chaplain. Joe was in good spirits though frustrated that he needed to be hospitalized frequently for blood transfusions.

Joe's death March 11 re-triggers memories of my last visits at the hospital with the popular, long-time VFW manager, chef and elected official.

Thiede's thoughts turned to the start of the VFW as he ventured "I hope I'll be up and around so I can make the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner at the end of April." That quickly triggered his memories of the early years when he was a leader in acquiring a Post home soon after the VFW was chartered March 4, 1946.

Joe became the first club manager. This is the position he subsequently occupied over more than 25 years. Joe's steady managerial skills and thorough knowledge of how the VFW can serve veterans made him the main pillar of the organization's success over six decades.

He was in the forefront of each of those decades. He served as Commander in 1954, and typical of his willingness to come forward, he agreed to serve as Commander again in 1974. From 1980 through 1997 he served as the elected Quartermaster, a responsible position, while serving as the building manager, chef and member of the board of directors.

His love for baseball (he was an ardent White Sox fan) made him the ideal VFW representative when the Little League was organized in 1954. Joe then became the leader when the VFW established a team for 13- and 14-year-olds and the National VFW's Teener League program.

During my hospital visit, Joe reached into his memory recalling with satisfaction the aggressive way returning World War II veterans pooled their energy to make a success of the newfound service organization.

"We sponsored the Fourth of July Festival at city park. We handled concessions and carnival at the county fair. We donated flags and flagpoles to schools. We established citizenship awards to local high schools and continued that award each year since 1947," he said.

Thiede said one of the VFW's most significant undertakings was to help establish the county housing authority because, he explained, "We faced a severe shortage of housing for veterans and it was up to us to demand governmental help in this regard."

Joe smiled with satisfaction as he pointed out, "From the beginning the VFW and Auxiliary were generous in donations to charitable causes. After building the addition to the old house on Throop Street the VFW donated the front part of the building as a home for the Easter Seal Therapy Center."

Then he added, "Supporting community projects is an on-going policy. We also collect money through Poppy Days to help hospitalized veterans at North Chicago."

I complimented Joe for his skill in management by stepping forward but he turned that aside with the comment "When I asked, people rallied. I couldn't do it myself. Members did help. I knew I could count on them."

I'll remember Joe for his almost always-even disposition and his delight in being able to be accommodating. Joe and Marge Thiede were indispensable sources concerning individual members, happenings of the past and projects planned for the future throughout my half-century of producing the monthly *Woodstock VFW News*. Joe was a reliable, accurate source, and always accommodating.

The Woodstock VFW members honored Joe and Marge Thiede in 2004 by erecting a large photograph of the couple and naming the downstairs meeting hall in their honor. VFW members now have a reminder of this couple's contribution to servicing veterans each time they attend a function at the VFW.

## † Chaplains report †

By Howard Engstrom

### **Phone / Cards:**

- Fred Wallis
- Joe Thiede
- Walley Ramberg
- Nyda Fogarty

### **Draped Charter (March):**

- William R. Leanna Jr.
- Joe Thiede
- Mrs. Fred Wallis

We received word that again one of our own members will be traveling to foreign lands again. This message was received from Jim Reece who is a Military Police Officer in the Army Reserves.

His note: "I just returned from Ft. Leonardwood. I'm doing some train-up for the detachment I'm leaving with. I don't yet know when we are leaving, but there are eleven of us who are going to Afghanistan to train Marines and Air Force how to conduct prisoner operations. Have been busy with two jobs and the Army. That's life in uniform I guess. I'll get back in touch before I take off again."

Later, Reece

Comrades, please keep the members of our armed forces in your daily prayers whether they are at peace or in combat. They need our prayers to help keep them safe and know that we are thinking about them on the home front.

## Commander

Continued from page 20.

in May, date to be decided by floor in April.

A good leader will take his people where they wish to go. A great leader will take his people where they ought to go. I am not now and never will be a great leader. All members of this Post need to be able to have their opinions heard to enable this Post to proceed in the direction that the members want it to go.

Even though I was nominated for commander, I have not decided if I will accept the position. If anyone is thinking about running for Commander, send a letter to the Adjutant or come to the April meeting.

The election will not be at the April meeting but will be in May either the first or second week during the day so more people can vote. Bring your VFW card to prove your membership.

The following nominations (left) were made at the March 2006 meeting.

### Elective Officers

Commander: Thom Gillespie  
Sr. Vice: none  
Jr. Vice: none  
Quartermaster: none  
Judge Advocate: Dick Glawe and Anne Brophy  
Chaplain: Howard Engstrom  
Surgeon: Harold Irwin  
3 Yr Trustee: none  
3 Yr Director: none

### Appointed Officers

Adjutant: Matt Klos  
Assistant Adjutant: none  
Officer of the Day: none  
Guard: none  
Service Officer: none  
Assistant QM: none



# APRIL 2006

☆☆☆☆☆☆ Post Normal Operating Hours (unless noted otherwise - closing times vary depending on patronage) ☆☆☆☆☆☆

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
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3 Memorial Day Committee 7 pm  Little League Team Day 7 pm  Girls Softball ?? pm	4 Dirtt Group 7 pm	5 Wednesday Night Dinner - Fried Chicken (\$8) 5 - 8 pm	6 VFW Ladies Auxiliary 7:00 pm	7 Fish Fry / Salad Bar Special: Salmon Loaf 5 - 8 pm	8
9	10 VFW Officers Mtg. 7 pm  American Legion 7:30 pm	11 VFW Board Mtg. 7 pm  Dirtt Group 7 pm	12 Cub Scouts - ?? Pm  Wednesday Night Dinner - Prime Rib (\$10) 5 - 8 pm	13	14 Fish Fry / Salad Bar Special: Chicken Bake 5 - 8 pm	15
16  Happy Easter!	17 VFW Meeting 7:30 pm VFW Pre-Meeting Dinner (VFW Members Only) 6:30 pm  Deadline for May 2006 VFW News items	18 Dirtt Group 7 pm	19 Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:30 pm  <u>NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER SERVED TONIGHT</u>	20 Marines 7 pm  Marines Auxiliary 7 pm	21 Fish Fry / Salad Bar Special: Meat Loaf 5 - 8 pm	22 Hall booked.
23	24	25 VFW Board Mtg. 7 pm  Jaycees 7 pm  Dirtt Group 7 pm	26 Wednesday Night Dinner - Swiss Steak (\$8) 5 - 8 pm	27	28 Fish Fry / Salad Bar Special: Lasagna 5 - 8 pm	29 VFW 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Party 5 pm cocktails 6:30 pm dinner
30	1	2	3 Wednesday Night Dinner - Fried Chicken (\$8) 5 - 8 pm	4 Star 105.5 Karaoke Contest at Post	5 Fish Fry / Salad Bar Special: Salmon Loaf 5 - 8 pm	6



2



Don't forget, Soup to Nuts Sale on May 12 and 13! Save your stuff!

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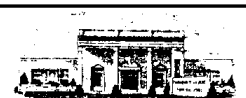
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**Letters to the Editor....**

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**  
**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**

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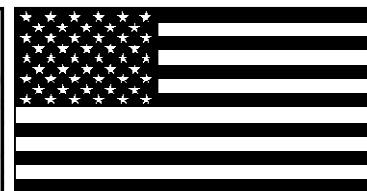


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