



VFW News

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Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

Annual turkey raffle and dinner Saturday, 17 November 2007

This is the last note before our annual turkey raffle to say, "Sell your tickets!" If you have not sent back your ticket stubs that you should have received a few weeks ago by mail, please do so.

Even if you cannot go, think about sending the stubs back with a donation. This is one of our largest fund raisers for the year, so we need everyone's help in this. Donations and ticket stubs have been arriving in the mail, so be sure to get yours in before the raffle.



Prizes for this raffle are as follows:

1st Prize: \$150.00

2nd Prize: \$100.00

3rd Prize: \$50.00

40 turkeys next 40 Prizes!

Turkey dinner served 6pm-8pm

Saturday, November 17, 2007

Cost is \$6.00

Below poster at: <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/gallery.asp>



VFW 5040 Ladies Auxiliary celebrate 60th anniversary with dinner

By Don Peasley, VFW News Editor 1955-2002

Mike David, VFW Commander, hosted a wonderful dinner and program on September 29, 2007, helping honor Auxiliary members for 60 years of serving veterans and the Woodstock community.

Nyda Fogarty, president and master of ceremonies for the program, asked me to gather vignettes concerning the history of the Auxiliary and offer my memories of working with Auxiliary presidents and members.

I had an unusually good position to do this because as editor of the *Woodstock VFW News* from 1955-2002, I kept in close contact with Auxiliary officers and committee leaders.

Here are some recollections I presented at the dinner Saturday, September 29 at the VFW Post Home.

In **January 1947**, 26 women gathered to form the Auxiliary. They met in the Red Cross sewing room until May 1947 when the Auxiliary had its first meeting in the Post Home on Throop Street.

Pat Gaylord remembers, "We cleaned, painted, made drapes and slip covers and varnished miles of woodwork."

"We had two meetings a month, sold vanilla and kitchen utensils and held our first bake sale. We earned \$32.20."

The first Downey Hospital visit was in December 1947. Members went twice a month, took sandwiches, cupcakes, Christmas stockings, hundreds of popcorn balls, paperback books, toilet articles and lap robes.

Recalled Gaylord, "We danced with the patients and played Bingo and cards. Some of these patients were still alert. They would lie on the floor when we arrived so they could look up the

See ANNIVERSARY, page 3.

Veterans Day Ceremony VFW Post 5040 parking lot Sunday, 11 November 2007, 11:00 am

Sunday, November 11 marks a day in our nation that we remember all veterans, those living and those that have died, in wartime and peacetime.

On this day, we will honor over 23 million living veterans. We will also remember our fallen veterans, in wars past who have served our country and in current conflicts that are going on at this current moment.

VFW Post 5040 will be holding its Veterans Day Ceremony in the VFW parking lot as has been done in previous years. Special guests and speakers have been invited to participate in this event.

Following the ceremony, the public is welcome to have lunch in the VFW hall. The price for lunch will be \$8 for adults, \$7 for veterans, and \$6 for children. On the menu will be: ham, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, rolls and butter.

Please join us for this ceremony if you are able.

VFW Post 5040**Post Officers 2007 - 2008**

Commander	Mike David	(815)-338-5341
Senior Vice Commander	Fred Noble	(815)-338-5655
Junior Vice Commander	Mike Lackey	(815)-337-8255
Quartermaster	Ralph Ritter	(815)-338-5018
Chaplain	Howard Engstrom	(815)-338-4453
Chaplain Asst.	Pete Lockinger	(815)-338-6449
Service Officer	Ted Biever	(815)-338-9292
Judge Advocate	Dick Glawe	(815)-385-3156
Post Surgeon	Harold Irwin	(815)-338-1264
Officer-of-the-Day	Denny Burrs	(815)-338-7014
Adjutant	Alan Belcher	(815)-338-7689
1 Year Trustee	Amie Doerfert	(815)-385-2923
2 Year Trustee	Larry Dhom	(815)-338-4134
3 Year Trustee	Brian Ritter	(815)-276-4802

Ladies Auxiliary to**VFW Post 5040****Post Officers 2007 - 2008**

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	Geraldine Salyers	(815)-337-3770
Conductress	Irene Brown	(815)-459-3483
1 Year Trustee	Lois Freund	(815)-338-5261
2 Year Trustee	Margaret Webb	(815)-338-4213
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**Ladies Auxiliary
from the President**

By Nyda Fogarty, President 2007-2008

Even though our attendance at our 60th anniversary dinner celebration was not what we expected, it was a wonderful evening and an abundance of great food.

We thank Don Peasley for his talk and his history he gave of the Auxiliary which everyone certainly enjoyed. He took a number of pictures of charter members, past presidents and the cake the Post furnished. Cindy Paris, a Past Department President and her mother Ardath Paris from St. Charles represented the Department at our head table.

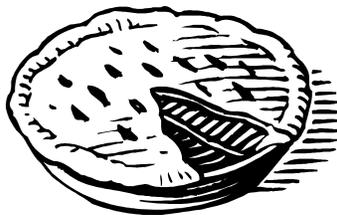
Our thanks to Chris Gehrke and Barbara Gehrke who gathered three tables of scrap books and pictures back to the year of 1947 and put them on display. We also want to thank our Commander Mike David for all his help and cooperation in the planning, getting the hall ready and taking care of everything during the evening. Without his help we could not have had this event.

Our Mayor, Dr. Brian Sager, gave a nice talk and our appreciation to Pete Lockinger as the Assistant Chaplain of the Post for his prayers.

We were happy to have Charter Members Genevieve Conway Steagall, Karlin Cooney and Betty Mishler in attendance. Each were presented with a corsage. Mrs. Steagall was our first President of the Auxiliary.

This last month, the ladies who attend our Auxiliary meetings took me out to dinner to Checkers in Union for serving as President this Past Year. I thank them very much.

The November meeting will be downstairs as the party that was scheduled for the hall has been cancelled.

**40 Pies Needed For
Veterans Day Lunch**

For those of you that will be attending the Veterans Day ceremony and lunch, we are asking our members to donate a pie for desert. We appreciate your help in advance.

**VFW Auxiliary President
Nyda Fogarty**

† Chaplains report †

By Howard Engstrom, Chaplain

Dear Comrades,

I want to express my sincere thanks to you for your cards, phone calls, and prayers during these days of Marians disability. She is still in therapy at Hearthstone Manor.

Hoping the next two weeks will bring about some drastic change, like coming home. I'm becoming weary of cooking, doing laundry, house cleaning, eating, and sleeping alone.

Eighty-three days of bachelorhood is tiring. However, during this period, the experiences has made me appreciate my own good health and more importantly my faith in God and praying friends. I have a peace and trust in the Lord that transcends my concern and worry about Marian and the family. Needless to say, living alone for three months after 61 years of marriage made me realize how important it is to have a good relationship with God, family and friends.

Pain, loneliness and anxiety is somewhat reduced. My VFW job as Chaplain and my volunteer work with "Faith and Action" has helped too. Thanks again comrades for your understanding and support during my absence. God bless you all.

Hospital and Nursing home visits:

Jack Fish
Henry Nulle
Don Holst

Cards and Phone calls:

Roy McDaniel family
Art McClain family
Ray Benoy

Draped Charter during October meeting:

Wally Ramberg
Walter Wojcik
Howard Walkington
Brian LaBatte
Charles Gehrke

A special thanks to Charlie Mathey and Pete Lockinger for filling in so well as Chaplains Assistants in my absence.

Burial plots donated

Robert "Bob" Poyner, from the Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) of McHenry County, and his wife have two burial plots in the Field of Honor at Woodstock Memorial Cemetery. They would like to donate one or both plots to a veteran. The only cost involved would be that the person interested in the plot(s) would have to pay a \$100 change fee for the paperwork. If you are interested, please contact Bob at the VAC office:

815-334-4229.

Anniversary

Continued from page 1.

volunteers' skirts as we passed by."

One determination of our men and women going to Downey Hospital was to fulfill the credo "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living." One way that was carried out is a VFW and Auxiliary activity today, namely, selling Buddy Poppies each May.

In 1949 Auxiliary members helped with the first Fourth of July Festival and this continued for a dozen years. The VFW and Auxiliary provided fireworks. One purpose was to keep people in our town off the roads during the holiday.

Many old-timers remember the 1952 festival was challenged by lots of rain and so the festival at city park was extended for three more days. That meant hurrying to make more hamburgers, chop onions and get more volunteers.

Pat Gaylord told me, "I know all this because that year I was Auxiliary president."

It was in 1957 that the Auxiliary started one of its more outstanding community programs. Until a couple of years ago the VFW honored all teachers of the community with a tea. The program was climaxed with the announcement of the Teacher of the Year. I think it's timely to note the significance of honoring teachers by the comment Woodstock's present mayor, Brian Sager, said at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon earlier this week.

Sager praised District 200 for its efforts passing referendums to expand our schools and asserted, "Education is the foundation of our future."

One thing I remember is the Auxiliary sponsoring a dinner to honor Gold Star Mothers. This was November 1957 and the loss of veterans in World War II a decade earlier was still very much in the minds of our citizens. Following a dinner at the VFW, the memorial program was held at Woodstock High School with Senator Edward Dirksen as featured speaker.

The Auxiliary was extremely active in supporting the Post in conducting the V-J Day Parade and Pageant of Drums. Members served dinners and helped make these out-of-town drum and bugle corps members feel welcome.

By 1958 the Auxiliary had formed a drill team and won many trophies for their marching, and they also formed the Auxiliettes dancing group which gave me the opportunity to take one of my favorite photos.

Well, the Auxiliary has helped with so many projects and so many drives.



Above, the Ladies Auxiliary emblem.

Left, Nyda Fogarty, VFW Auxiliary president, cuts the cake with Chris Gehrke, event chairman, at Woodstock VFW Post 5040 Auxiliary's 60th anniversary dinner (Don Peasley photo).

Here's a litany of just a few: Blood banks, March of Dimes, Cerebral Palsy, Easter Seal, Heart, Cancer, Polio Drive, sewing cancer dressings, Salvation Army Donut Day, Dixon State Hospital toy project, Valley Hi Christmas and Valentine parties and a home nursing course.

I looked at my bound volume of the *VFW News* to see how we observed the Auxiliary's milestone anniversaries. For example, on the tenth anniversary in January 1957, Beulah Cristy was Auxiliary president. Roy Stackhouse was Commander and Ruby Wilkerson was chairman for the Auxiliary's tenth anniversary. Twenty-three 10-year members were present at that dinner.

For the Fourth of July Festival that year at city park, a drawing was conducted for a 1957 coral and black Dodge convertible. The VFW was Fourth of July sponsor and provided two fireworks shows. Auxiliary staffed rides at those festivals and the rides included merry-go-round, a kiddy's ride and the Ferris wheel.

One event that year was to honor the Esquires, a group of musicians of VFW members who went to Downey Hospital to entertain veterans. Woodstock VFW and Auxiliary was assigned to be with veterans in Ward 66 because Downey officials said their veterans responded to live music at a time they didn't respond to records.

Said a Downey hospital official, "It a kind of mental therapy." Del Heidenreich was a driver and the Esquires included Jim Bates, saxophone; Bernice Yessler, pianist; Vern Jensen, drums; Joe Knapp, base fiddle; and Bob Schroeder, trumpet.

In recognition of the VFW Auxiliary's

decision to honor teachers in 1957, Woodstock Mayor Jim Cooney issued a proclamation declaring Saturday, May 4, 1957 "Teachers Day in Woodstock." At that time, Woodstock had 124 teachers in the city's 6 public and parochial schools.

The Auxiliary had an Easter party that year with a movie and Easter candy for 400 children.

In 1967 - 20th anniversary - Glenna Cross was president and my photo shows Pat Gaylord, Joan Mansfield and Marguerite Lange cutting the anniversary cake. I note that Howard Wolff was Commander and that the *VFW News* commented on the unease the veterans had about the Vietnam War.

Charter members at the 20th anniversary included Betty Mishler, Leonie Kennedy, Pat Gaylord, Eleanor Kesselring and Clara Mishler. The V-J Day Parade and Pageant of Drums was big that year. Noteworthy is the fact that the VFW sponsored a Teen-er League program that won the 1967 state title and faced West Allis, Wisconsin for the right to advance to the national tournament. I remember our team lost the first game, won the second and immediately played a third game at Elgin and lost. As a matter of fact, West Allis was defending national champion and did successfully defend its national title in baseball for young men ages 13-15-years-of-age.

In 1977: Trips to Valley HI and Children's Christmas party were mentioned.

The 30th anniversary was a potluck supper March 3. Chris Gehrke was the president. I note that Memorial Day was

See ANNIVERSARY, page 5.

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Three of the 33 charter members are special guests at Woodstock VFW Post 5040 Auxiliary's 60th. The dinner, hosted by Commander Mike David was held September 29. From left: Karlen Cooney, Genevieve Conway Steagall and Betty Mishler (Don Peasley photo).

Thanksgiving morning: Tom and Jerry's served at the Post

By Matt Klos

A few months back, it was mentioned that Tom and Jerry's once used to be served at the Post quite often around the holidays. To be honest, when I heard this, I had no idea what a Tom and Jerry was. I figured it was some type of drink, but I didn't know what was in it or made it so special that an announcement would be made that they would be served.

What is it? Well, it ranks up there with the holiday treat of spiced eggnog. Some describe it as a "boozy milkshake". Call it what you will, it's a holiday favorite, although some have not seen it around for a long time. It's the type of drink that brings back the memories of holidays past, a warm fire, good food, friends and family.

As word got around that this special drink would be made on Thanksgiving morning, the search was on for a recipe that would be suitable for the occasion. Of course, with any recipe, you want to try it out so there were plenty of "taste testers" that were willing to sample the newest recipe as it was found.

A search of the internet yields many recipes, from single servings to batches when entertaining. If you want to try one of these before attempting to make it, come down to the Post on Thanksgiving morning. Along with making Tom and Jerry's, some appetizers will be served

which include herring, pâté, and cheese.

If you are adventurous, here's a recipe for a Tom and Jerry drink (off the internet). Give it a whirl and you might have a beverage to serve up this coming holiday season.:

Tom and Jerry Drink - Batch

Batter Ingredients:

- 6 eggs, separated
- 2 pounds bar sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ground cloves
- ¼ teaspoon cream of tartar

Instructions for batter:

Beat egg yolks with 1½ pounds of the sugar and nutmeg, cinnamon and cloves until thick and light. In another bowl, beat egg whites with cream of tartar until soft peaks form; gradually beat in remaining sugar; beat until stiff. Gently fold whites into first bowl of yolk mixture.

Making the drink with prepared batter:

- 1 heaping tablespoon prepared batter
- ½ ounce Jamaican rum
- ½ ounce brandy
- Boiling water, hot coffee or hot milk

Preheat a 6 ounce mug with hot water. Dump out water. Add batter, rum, brandy, and stir. Fill mug with boiling water, hot coffee or hot milk (hot milk seems to be a favorite and makes the drink thicker). Stir and enjoy.

Anniversary

Continued from page 3.

conducted at both Woodstock and Greenwood cemeteries.

In 1987 the 40th anniversary was May 2, 1987. Cleo Engebretson was president. Engebretson noted that the Auxiliary continues devoted to backing the Post as a "silent partner behind the scenes" with the VFW members. Cleo thanked Marge Henry as hospital chairman, and Jim Gehrke who she said, "Calls Bingo and brings Barbara who always helps."

Ten years ago the 50th anniversary was held June 12, 1997, Viola Brown was president and Bob Watts was Commander. I had a note that the Auxiliary helped with the Bingo stand and that Chris Gehrke and Nyda marched in the Fiesta Day Parade in McHenry. Mary Kennelley, prominent St. Mary's teacher, was recognized as Teacher of the Year and that Henry Nulle and Bill Lyford served as Post Commanders during that anniversary year.

These are good memories, and I would simply stress that the Auxiliary today does what it can to support the work of the Post and to help honor all veterans of our communities. If there is a situation where the Auxiliary can help - such as working as volunteers to serve meals, and to help with the Soup to Nuts sale, and to help with the annual Buddy Poppies sales each May - you can be sure Woodstock VFW Auxiliary members are at the forefront.

I am honored to join you in saluting Woodstock VFW Auxiliary and its dedicated members on this 60th Anniversary.

Commander Mike David, bar manager Becky Gillespie and VFW patron Bernie O'Leary are practicing making Tom and Jerry's for Thanksgiving Day in the VFW kitchen. For every recipe they practiced making, there were willing participants to "sample" the result to ensure that it was suitable for consumption (Ralph Ritter photo).



The History of Veterans Day

US Department of Veterans Affairs

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

“Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

“Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

“Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable

places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.”

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday - a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" which stated: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."

On that same day, the President sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.

The Uniforms Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to insure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus

Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Veterans Day, 1954 By the President of The United States of America A Proclamation 3071

Whereas it has long been our customs to commemorate November 11, the anniversary of the ending of World War I, by paying tribute to the heroes of that tragic struggle and by rededicating ourselves to the cause of peace; and

Whereas in the intervening years the United States has been involved in two other great military conflicts, which have added millions of veterans living and dead to the honor rolls of this Nation; and

Whereas the Congress passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926 (44 Stat. 1982), calling for the observance of November 11 with appropriate ceremonies, and later provided in an act approved May 13, 1938 (52 Stat. 351), that the eleventh of November should be a legal holiday and should be known as Armistice Day; and

Whereas, in order to expand the signifi-

cance of that commemoration and in order that a grateful Nation might pay appropriate homage to the veterans of all its wars who have contributed so much to the preservation of this Nation, the Congress, by an act approved June 1, 1954 (68 Stat. 168), changed the name of the holiday to Veterans Day:

Now, Therefore, I, Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States of America, do hereby call upon all of our citizens to observe Thursday, November 11, 1954, as Veterans Day. On that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain.

I also direct the appropriate officials of the Government to arrange for the display of the flag of the United States on all public buildings on Veterans Day.

In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to wish to join hands in the common purpose.

Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this eighth day of October in the Year of our Lord nineteen hundred and fifty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and seventy-ninth.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

Lost your VFW membership card? Current card worn out?

Contact Quartermaster Ralph Ritter. He can put in a request to get a plastic one sent out to you.

Post 5040 Service Officer can help you out with veteran requests

Dear Veterans of Post 5040:

To introduce myself, my name is Ted Biever. I am a member of VFW Post 5040. I am also a Veterans Service Officer for the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs. I have been employed by IDVA for 10 years.

My office is located in the National Guard Armory at 1301 Sunset Ridge Road in Woodstock just 3.3 miles West of Rt. 47 on Rt. 14 next to the Claussen Pickle factory.

My office hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday thru Friday. However, second and fourth Wednesdays of each month my office is closed for service to veterans at the DeKalb Senior Center.

I enjoy my job. I feel as though I am working with family. Some of the services in which I provide are as follows:

- File claims for Veterans and their dependents. To include: service connected compensation, non-service connected pension, widows pension, D.I. C. Survivors' compensation.
- Government Markers
- Burial benefits, Cartage and erection fees, Burial Flags
- Aid and Attendance/house bound
- Tax exemption for these veterans in receipt of Specially Adapted Housing
- Illinois Veterans Homes, Camping and admission fees
- Hunting and fishing privileges
- VA Home loans
- VA Hospital,
- Disabled Veterans License plates,
- War bonuses
- Medals
- Educational Benefits

I will try placing an article in this newsletter each month pertaining to a benefit that may be beneficial to you or your family.



Thank you for your Service to our Country,
Your Service Officer,
Ted Biever,
Semper Fi

Post holds memorial service for Diane Stolzke

Family and friends of Diane Stolzke gathered at the post on October 7th for her memorial service. Deacon Joe Kayser of Saint Patrick's Church in Hartland performed the service.

Out of town mourners included Dave and Lisa Akins with Daughters Lenzie and Kalie. All of us at the Post will miss Diane and we offer our deepest sympathy to her husband Dick.

Dick Stolzke, Army veteran and brother of VFW member Art Stolzke, is a regular customer of the canteen and supporter of the post. Diane often came with him to the fish fry and events held at the Post.

Reminder: Blood drive coming in January



As a reminder, VFW Post 5040 will be holding a blood drive at the VFW towards the end of January. Why are we reminding you now? Because if you decide to donate blood within the first or second week of November, you will meet the qualification of the minimum of 8 weeks between donations and eligible to donate blood at the end of January. So give the gift of life this coming holiday season and donate blood.

In late January, our 3rd annual blood drive will serve up breakfast that will be free to blood donors. Even if you are not able to donate, you can still get breakfast for a modest fee. 30 pints are targeted for collection during the drive.

More reminders will be coming up in the next two newsletters.

Got time for a visit?
Eugene Kuhn is at Crystal Pines Health Care Center for rehabilitation.
He has no phone and is in room 107. He would like some visitors from friends that remember him. Kuhn is a retired barber from Woodstock.

Post 5040 donates funds to support Cubmaster in Iraq

By Rick Sanner
Winnebago Pack 5

U.S. Army Major Matt Voyles, Cubmaster of Pack 367 of Woodstock in the Blackhawk Area Council, deployed to Iraq in April of this year. Matt has recently begun an effort to hold a Pinewood Derby for MWR (Morale, Welfare & Recreation) purposes for the troops located on his base in Iraq and for some of the local children near the base. Matt has already been able to secure a track, timer, and software from a vendor, but is in need of the supporting materials (kits, decals, lubricant, etc.). Matt recently contacted Rick Sanner of Pack 5 in the BAC to relay his intent and to request any support that we might be able to provide to him. Rick has identified a well-known vendor of Pinewood Derby materials (Randy Davis of www.maximum-velocity.com) that is willing to assemble a "Pinewood in a Box" package of materials and to provide them at a 35% discount in support of this effort.

In response to this, VFW Post 5040 donated \$200 to this effort out of the Post Relief fund.

Woodstock welcomes home one of its own

By Don Peasley

A large throng gathered in the Woodstock Square early Friday evening, October 12 to welcome Army Specialist Bryan Henning home from 15 months' duty in Iraq. As the Patriot Guard Riders motorcycle brigade led the parade into and around the Square, the newly-installed bell atop the Opera House heralded the event.

Henning, 22, resumed his military duty two days after the parade, going to Fort Lewis, Washington for the final month of his enlistment. Woodstock VFW Commander Mike David helped organize the welcome and served as master of ceremonies. Several of Henning's family members were at the ceremony with the Woodstock VFW honor guard and Woodstock Mayor Brian Sager.

Addressing Bryan, Sager said, "We honor you and those who have served at your side with 21 bells in recognition of faithful service to this country, this community and indeed, the world."

Addressing Bryan on a per-

sonal level, Sager said, "First, it must be known that none of us here will ever be able to know or comprehend the experiences of war which is now part of your life.

"Neither can we understand the magnitude and impact these experiences have had on you.

"Secondly, it must be said that you will never know the volume of hopes and prayers held by your family, friends, neighbors, community and country and whispered in the quiet hours in your name and the names of those with whom you served."

Turning from the microphone as he spoke to look at Henning, Sager continued, "We can all know this, however. You served. You were called to duty and you answered the call. There is truly no nobler goal than the goal of service and you served with honor and dignity and we are proud of you."

Concluding his remarks Sager asserted, "On this evening, at this hour, in this beautiful city of your hometown, on behalf of a grateful nation, we thank God for your safe return and we welcome you home.

"Thank you for your noble service, and we commend you to your future. May it

be filled with the blessings of hope, love and joy."

Henning addressed the attentive throng in the Square on a cool, October evening, still moved by the surprise welcome arranged by his older sister, Darcy Kniola, with the help of the Patriot Guard Riders and the Woodstock VFW.

After thanking the audience for joining him in this homecoming celebration, he reminded them it was important to continue thinking about those still fighting the war.

Declared Henning, "Just because I am back doesn't mean you have to stop praying for the guys in Iraq. Those guys are working their butts off, 24-hours a day, seven-days-a-week, 100 percent of the time."

While on duty in Iraq for 15 months, Henning worked with other soldiers to rebuild cities and look for Al-Quida as a member of the Third Combat Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. He served in and around Mosul and Bagdad. While in Iraq Henning was injured by a roadside blast. He recovered and is eager to end his military duty.

After being discharged he plans to enroll at Eastern Illinois University at Charleston.



Army Specialist Bryan Henning (left) was honored guest during a ceremony in the Woodstock Square following his military duty in Iraq. He joins VFW Commander Mike David in the Pledge of Allegiance Friday night, October 12, 2007. (Don Peasley Photo)

Participants in a ceremony welcoming Army Specialist Bryan Henning home from duty in Iraq gather following the ceremony in the Square Friday evening. Henning returned to Fort Lewis Monday to finish his final month of his enlistment. He had served 15 months in Iraq. From left: Woodstock Mayor Brian Sager, Bill Urch, American Legion Commander; Rev. Thomas Larson, St. John's Church pastor; Bryan Henning and Mike David, VFW Commander (Don Peasley photo).



VFW member from Des Plaines shares awe of Cantigny

On Saturday, August 11, 2007, my wife and I drove to Cantigny (kän-tē-nyē') Park, the Col. Robert R. McCormick Estate located on the SE corner of Winfield Rd and Roosevelt Road in Wheaton, IL. Though living as close as we do, we had never visited Cantigny Park before.

The grounds were the Estate of the late Col. Robert McCormick (1880-1955) editor/publisher of the Chicago Tribune for many years. The estate is built on 1,000 acres, and perhaps better known for the Cantigny Golf Course which has 27 championship holes on the course. The original home was built by Joseph Medill (1823-1899) and was named Red Oak Farm. Col. McCormick remodeled the mansion and renamed it Cantigny after the name of a French town in which the First Division fought in WW I. Tours are available of the 35 room McCormick Mansion and museum, and the 1st Division Museum provides most interesting military displays from the Revolutionary War thru the Gulf War. There are over a dozen tanks from WWI thru the Gulf War available for close inspection and photo opportunities.

The 1st Division Museum has ten galleries with displays depicting events in the wars in which the 1st Division fought. There are recreations of trenches that one can walk thru to the sound of exploding artillery and machine-gun fire, and, following a short documentary on the D-Day landings you can walk thru a replica of Omaha Beach on D-Day and thru a destroyed French farm house.

A volunteer at the 1st Division Museum told us that the park is a "best kept secret" as a recent survey of the surrounding counties disclose that 85% of the population are unaware of Cantigny Park and all that it has to offer the public.

This is unbelievable, at least to me, so I am inspired to write this letter to make veterans and their families as well as the general populace aware of Cantigny Park and the beautifully maintained grounds which are open to the public Tuesdays thru Sundays most of the year. The location reminds one of what Sherwood Forest must have looked like with hundred year old red oak trees, and over 40 acres of colorful flower gardens accessed by well maintained walkways. The gardens and museums access are disability friendly. Photos may not be taken in the museums, but there are great photo opportunities for those who appreciate gardens and stately

Computer course offered at VFW

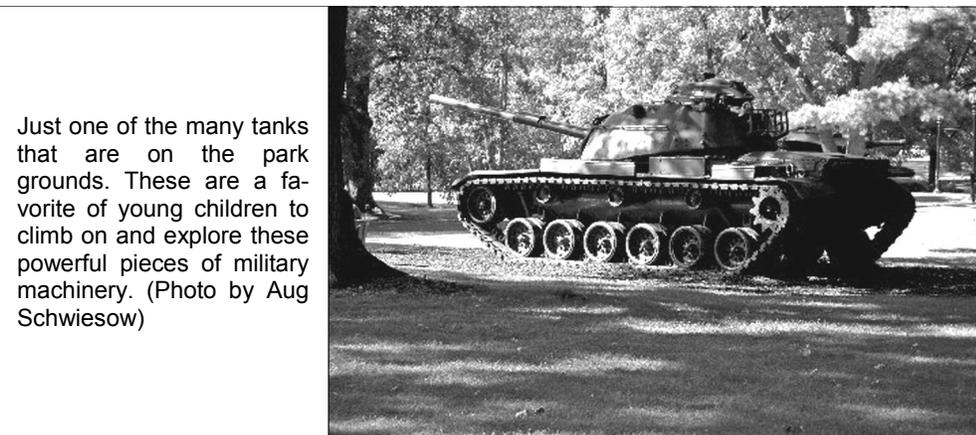
Woodstock VFW members and other Woodstock area residents have an opportunity to participate in an ongoing free program guided by Woodstock resident, Cindy Christ.

Cindy has 20 years of experience in technical training and project management. Her motivation for providing this program originates from a strong desire in the importance for extended families to stay in touch.

Each course will go over the same topics with variation depending on the participants. The course will open with introduction to the computer including operation of the equipment and how to choose the technology best suited for the individual's needs. This will follow a discussion on getting on the internet, searching for websites and developing the benefits of e-mail. Instruction will also include purchase and use of digital cameras and the way to save, print and modify photos.

With limited seating available, participants are asked to sign up by calling the VFW at 815-338-5040.

Christ will offer two classes at the VFW on Monday, **November 26, 10 a.m. to 1:00 and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**



Just one of the many tanks that are on the park grounds. These are a favorite of young children to climb on and explore these powerful pieces of military machinery. (Photo by Aug Schwiesow)



The front entrance of the 1st Division Museum at Cantigny Park. Notice the flower decoration (left middle) in the shape of a "Big Red One" military patch. (Photo by Aug Schwiesow)

old oak trees.

While walking the grounds you will occasionally hear the sounds of inspirational songs played in a bell tower. One such song, AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL even brought a tear to this old man's eye as it chimed over the area. Our America is a beautiful country, and, sadly, it is experiencing a divisiveness now probably not seen in a hundred and fifty years.

Col. McCormick's legacy was to make this wonderful estate open to the public for entertainment, recreational and educa-

tional purposes. He died in 1955 and he and his first wife are buried on the grounds of the estate.

Veterans and residents in the NE IL area should know that this wonderful, "little known" attraction is so available in their area. More information is available at: (630) 668-5161 or - www.Cantigny.org

Aug Schwiesow, Life Member of American Legion Post #0036 and VFW Post #2992, Des Plaines, IL



WOODSTOCK VFW NEWS

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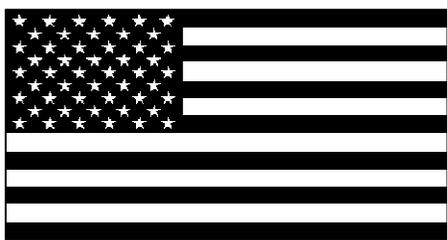
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