



VFW News

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Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

VFW Post 5040 Patriot's Pen winner visits Post

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

The Patriot's Pen essay writing contest is a VFW scholarship program open to students in grades 6, 7, and 8. Each year the National VFW and Ladies Auxiliary set a theme and students write a 300-400 word essay on that theme. Post winners advance to District for judging, and those winners advance to Department level judging. The top national winners each receive a savings bond anywhere from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Chris Gehrke, of the Ladies Auxiliary and Mike Lackey of the VFW were the chair persons for this contest for this year.

Our Post had 30 participants in the contest this year. The chosen winner this year was 7th grader Riley Kohler from Northwood Middle School. Riley wrote a longer essay for a school assignment and was encouraged by one of his teachers, Mr. Brent Filetti, to shorten the essay and enter it into the VFW Patriot's Pen contest.

At the February VFW meeting, Riley and his family were invited to the VFW for a pre-meeting dinner. Joining Riley were his father John, mother Janis, older brother Ross, younger brother Brad, and his grandparents George and Janis Stephens. Riley's mother mentioned that Riley was wearing a tie that belonged to his great-grandfather who was in WWII. "It's kind of like my grandfather is here with me," said Riley.

After the dinner, Riley read his essay to the Post members in attendance and was then presented with \$150.00 in savings bonds from the 5040 Ladies Auxiliary and VFW.

Here is Riley's entry transcript for the Patriot's Pen contest.

2008-2009 Theme: "Why American's Veterans Should Be Honored"

This question is self explanatory. Do you enjoy your rights as an American citizen? Do you feel safe leaving your home and living your everyday life? Do you realize how lucky we are to live in the



Patriot's Pen winner Riley Kohler, 7th grader from Northwood Middle School, is presented a certificate and savings bonds for his winning entry from VFW Post 5040. Pictured from left is VFW Commander Fred Noble, winner Riley Kohler, his mother Janis, his father John, and VFW Ladies Auxiliary and chairwoman for the Patriot's Pen contest, Christine Gehrke.

'land of the free and brave'? I do. The men and women who serve our country in the armed forces serve you! They give up their daily lives with family, friends, careers and schooling so they can properly protect the people of the United States of America.

When a person decides to enlist in a branch of military, they make a monumental decision that affects their well being and that of their family. This person misses holidays, births of children, deaths in the family, celebrations and other major life events that we civilians can be part of. The Veterans of "drafts," didn't have a choice to serve their country. When mandatory drafting occurred, if you were of age, good health and no major concerns you were given a date to report to serve your country. Family was left to deal with not knowing if you would be seen again.

Once a soldier is involved in conflict their life will never be the same. If the soldier shared their experiences of war with you as a civilian, you could not understand.

Continued on page 2, "Essay"



VFW 5040 Pot "O" Gold Raffle

March 27, 2009
Tickets \$2.00 each.
Maximum 5,500 tickets to be sold.

Prizes:

- 1st Prize: \$500.00**
- 2nd Prize: \$250.00**
- 3rd Prize: \$50.00**

Lightning is over \$2,000 as of March 11. Come out for Lightning too! Only 13 numbers left! Five numbers opened per week!

All members on the mailing list should have received a book of tickets in the mail in mid-February. We encourage you to purchase or sell these to help support your local VFW Post. Thank you for your continued support.



Ladies Auxiliary Report

By Nyda Fogarty,
President 2008-2009

Notices were sent out last month about the dues that were owed for this year. Our coverage for our cancer insurance was due and it was over \$500. The money you send in for poppy donations help pay for memorials and members in need. We thank all of you who have donated some money so far. Our dues of \$15.00 is very reasonable for your membership and cancer coverage should you become in need.

We were very sad to hear of the death of Mary Lou Mishler who lived in the state of Washington. She was a 50 year member. We don't have too many of them. I had reported in the news previously that our member Jeannette Walters had gone into a home in Riley. She passed away a few weeks ago and the family wanted a VFW Auxiliary service for her at the funeral home in Marengo. Chris Gehrke obtained the flowers and sang a solo and several members went also to do the service. We are very happy that the family thought so much of us to ask.

We offer our sympathy to Bruce Shisler who lost his wife recently.

Our 5th Dist. President is quite ill with cancer as well as the District Secretary.

Anne in Afghanistan

February 22, 2009

My dear family and friends,

I arrived in Kandahar last night. This place is amazing in so many ways. 22 countries are here...different uniforms and lifestyles. Yet, there is a real sense of reality here too. I arrived right after a RPG (rocket propelled grenade) hit a tent near our headquarters. Then I went to a ramp

ceremony - which is where they load the bodies of our deceased soldiers onto the plane. There were three soldiers that were sent home last night - two special forces and one delta force. Very sobering. I am glad that I am here - there is a real need for JAG's (Judge Advocate General) and real work.

Yours in Comradeship,
Captain Anne Brophy,
VFW 5040 Member

Essay

Continued from page 1

What if the soldier makes it home alive from conflict but, they have been wounded? These are life altering situations that many of our Veterans have gone through but, have you?

What our Veterans go through mentally, physically, and emotionally during their time in the service is honorable. Leaving loved-ones, protecting you and I, along with our great nation, this is something in itself to be honored. Soldiers are what my Grandmother calls "a different breed of people" which means they have a love of their country so strong and a need to protect the people they love and respect. Veterans believe in what our country stands for and they believe in democracy that gives us freedoms that sometimes we all take for granted and should not.

I'm thankful for everything each Veteran has done to keep our country safe. I appreciate the heartache each soldier feels leaving home to defend and protect our country. I admire the courage, strength and resolve each past and present soldier has shown. These reasons are validation of "Why American Veterans Should Be Honored."

† Chaplains report †

By Pete Lockinger

Current Members on the Sick List

- Glenn Fringer
- Bob Gaylord
- Dean Mishler
- Jack Meyers
- Ashley Wilson
- Sid Sherwin

Please keep these members in your thoughts and prayers.



Soup To Nuts Sale



May 8/9 (Fri/Sat)

By Russ and Donna Freeman

Time to start thinking about the Soup to Nuts Sale coming up in May.

This is our "sell anything sale" fundraiser for the Post. As a reminder, items should be clean and in good working order. Suggested items are: books, dishes, curtains, bedspreads, working appliances, tools, furniture, etc.

Sorry, but we can no longer take old televisions or computers.

Start thinking now what about what you might want to donate. If you need a pick-up of some items, contact Russ and Donna at (815)-338-3414 after April 18.

Why the name Soup to Nuts? In the 16th and 17th centuries, enjoying a seven course meal was not uncommon. It usually began with soup and ended with wine and nuts. The phrase conveys the meaning "from beginning to end".

Think of what you can donate that may end with you and have a beginning for someone else.

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March 2009

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

Closed	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day</i>	2 Memorial Day Committee 7 pm Little League 7 pm Girls Softball 7 pm VFW Board Mtg. 6:30 pm <i>Vietnam War Begins (1965)</i>	3 Woodstock Jaycees Board Mtg. 7:30pm <i>"Star Spangled Banner" Made U.S. National Anthem (1931)</i>	4	5 VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7pm	6 VFW Fish Fry and Friday Dinner Special: Salmon Loaf (\$8) and Stuffed Pork Chops (\$8) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm	7 Saturday Raffle 4 pm
8  Daylight Saving Time Begins (Set Clock Ahead One Hour)	9 VFW Officers Mtg. 7 pm American Legion Post 412 7:30 pm	10 <i>Purim</i>	11 Cub Scouts - 7 pm Celebrity Bar Tender Night, 7-9 pm	12 <i>Girl Scouts of USA Founded (1912)</i>	13 VFW Fish Fry and Friday Dinner Special: Prime Rib (\$12) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm	14 Saturday Raffle 4 pm
15	16 VFW Meeting 6:30 pm - Dinner (VFW Members Only) 7:00 pm - Floor mtg. Deadline for April 2009 VFW News items	17  St. Patrick's Day	18 Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:00 pm	19 Marines 7:30 pm Marines Auxiliary 7:30 pm <i>Operation Iraqi Freedom Began (2003)</i>	20 VFW Fish Fry and Friday Dinner Special: BBQ Ribs (\$10) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm <i>Spring Begins</i>	21 Saturday Raffle 4 pm
22	23	24 Woodstock Jaycees General Mtg. 7:30pm	25	26	27  Pot "O" Gold Raffle Drawing \$500, \$250, \$50 Prizes VFW Fish Fry and Friday Dinner Special: Meatloaf (\$8) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm	28 Saturday Raffle 4 pm
29	30	31	1 <i>April Fools' Day</i>	2 VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7pm	3 VFW Fish Fry and Friday Dinner Special: Salmon Loaf (\$8) and Stuffed Pork Chops (\$8) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm	4 Saturday Raffle 4 pm

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Marine Corps League
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Newsletter Editor Information:

Matt Klos
VFW 5040 News Editor
269 Forest Drive
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

phone: (815)-382-4593

email: matt.klos@vfw5040.org

fax: 707-667-2621

Post Website and Email:

website: www.vfw5040.org

email: vfwpost5040@att.net

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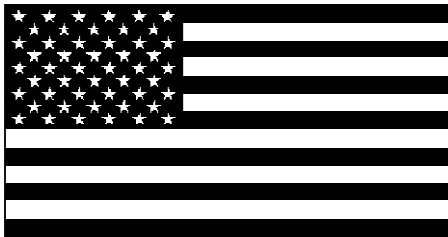
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This month's issue:

- Patriot's Pen winner essay transcript.
- VFW member Anne Brophy now in Afghanistan.
- Did you get your Pot "O" Gold Raffle tickets?
- Lightning is up over \$2,000 as of March 1! Only 13 numbers left!
- More inside...

Upcoming Events:

- Every Friday, Fish Fry and dinner Specials.
- **March 17: St. Patrick's Day - everyone's Irish today.**
- **March 27: Pot "O" Gold Raffle Drawing.**

VFW POST 5040, WOODSTOCK
We are open to the public!

VFW Post 5040 Post Officers 2008 - 2009

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Senior Vice Commander	Mike Lackey	(815)-353-5287
Junior Vice Commander	Ed Lump	(630)-460-8812
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Director	Bob Gibson	(815)-338-4142
Director	Charley Mathey	(815)-338-5374
Director	Fred Noble	(815)-338-5655
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Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 5040 Post Officers 2008 - 2009

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