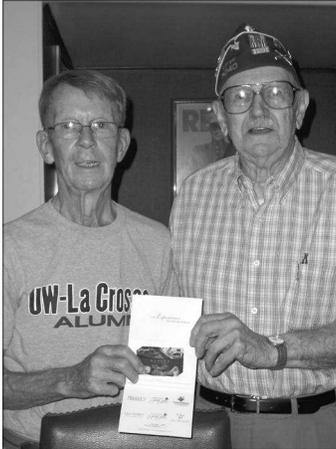




VFW News

Visit us online at www.vfw5040.org

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary



And the winner is...

William Schuette, left, is presented with a gift certificate by VFW 5040 Quartermaster Fred Noble. William was the winner of the \$500 Grand Geneva Getaway Raffle. The drawing took place on September 11, William's birthday. William is a Korean War veteran, having served in the Navy from 1950-1953. Congratulations!

Ever hear of man named Roy Lechner?

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

I have another "internet" story for you this month. This one deals with events of decades past. When I do get random emails from people searching for information, I find it wonderful that we can help out.

I received an email from Bob Lechner stating that he was searching the internet to find out information about his father.

Bob has was born in Carmi, Illinois. His father was Roy Lechner, Illinois State Commander of the VFW in 1956. His father had died 35 years ago while Bob was still in school and his mother five years before his father.

"I am interested in trying to find little stories about my father and share it with my three sisters, my own kids and grandkids. His military records were lost in the National Personnel Records Center St.

Louis fire in 1973, so I have little idea as to his military service other than he was in Europe during World War II," expressed Bob in his letter.

When you have little to go on, memories of veterans sometimes are tucked away, never passed on or shared, and are gone forever. Such is the case of Roy Lechner.

Bob went on to explain, "As a kid I remember asking him about his service in the war but he would never talk about it. I did not understand it then but have come to do so as I've gotten older. Since he never talked about it, I don't know much about his service but believe he served in Italy, France and Germany."

Several years ago, I began running a series in the *VFW News* each month titled "50 Years Ago This Month", highlighting events and vignettes of days long past that took place 50 years ago in honor of our *VFW News'* 50 year anniversary. For the May 2006 issue, I had written about the

See Roy Lechner, Page 2

Turkey raffle tickets in a mailbox near you

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

Gobble Gobble. Yes, it's getting to be near that time of year again. October is already in progress when you read this newsletter and that means November and Thanksgiving are not too far away. You should have received in the mail, within the last week or two, notice of the annual VFW Turkey Raffle and dinner (November 21). This is our biggest fund raiser of the year. Everyone should have received two books of tickets this year, a total of 20 tickets. On behalf of the Post officers, I ask that you help support your organization and either purchase or sell the tickets and return the proceeds in a timely manner.

You may be asking yourself, why? Doesn't the money just go to the VFW to keep it open? Yes and no. A lot of what you don't hear about where the funds go is dealt with at the monthly meetings. As a membership, we vote on where funds go

and to what causes. Sometimes at the meetings a request will come up to help a local veteran or family of a veteran that is in need of funds to pay utilities, service to home or car because they cannot pay for repairs, medical, etc. We don't publish these because most of the time it's handled privately (yes, they are researched and checked out to make sure they are legitimate). The Post just votes on how much to give. When a member passes away, we try to do something for the family (flowers, donation, etc.) We use funds for the scholarship money (Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, etc.). Requests come in every month from National and District VFW asking for donations to their projects. Locally



we get requests asking for donations for worthwhile causes (Boy Scouts, softball, baseball, monument creation and restoration, fund raising dinners, walks, etc.). All these take money. While we are not a wealthy organization, we do have monetary funds that, as one of our goals of the VFW, is to help veterans and those in need. So we do what we can with the funds that we have.

So, annual fund raisers such as the Turkey Raffle help to replenish the depleted funds and ensure that we can continue to do our part in helping those veterans and others in our own community.

This year donating will be especially hard for many because of the economic turmoil we've experienced in the last year. We are counting on you though, just like in years past. A bad economy affects everyone and every organization. So, before you toss those tickets into your paper recycling, give it some thought. Write out check, even for a few of the tickets. You'll be helping out a worthwhile organization, especially one that you are a member of and counts on you for your support.

Ladies Auxiliary Report

By Nyda Fogarty,
President 2009-2010

Our new Treasurer is working hard to get out notices that your dues are due for this year (2009-2010). We will be getting a new card to you if you have already mailed your check. Dues are \$15.00 and it covers cancer insurance for you.

Chris Gehrke and I attended the dinner put on for all Past Presidents and Past Commanders at Winthrop Harbor Post on Saturday, September 19.

We are happy to welcome our new manager, Pat Auvenshine, to the club and the dinners she will be serving.

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Note for any of our readers out there: the Post 5040 Board of Directors is offering a \$500 finders reward if you find someone to rent the office space.
Contact Bud Porter.

Announcement:

**VFW Post 5040
is now a
member of the
Woodstock
Chamber of
Commerce**

Winners of the Fall 9-Ball Classic

Willie Peto - Winner
Matt Collangelo - Runner Up

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Roy Lechner

Continued from Page 1

VFW State Commander coming to visit our Post on its 10 anniversary which was in the May 1956 issue of the *VFW News*. I included the name Roy Lechner and a quote from the old newsletter. This little tidbit of information was all that was needed to turn an internet search into a "hit" in Bob's search results.

Bob contacted me about the issue last month. I looked back and found what issue Bob was referring to, saw which month was being highlighted and got the actual copy of the newsletter from that year. I scanned it into my computer and sent it to Bob. He was glad to get another glimpse of his father in action, along with some pictures from the 53 year old issue.

"While I was just a kid, I know that dad felt strongly about the VFW. He was proud of the organization and its members. While he belonged to other veteran organizations, his heart was always with the VFW," said Bob.

I'm glad our VFW was able to provide information for Bob. For me, I always find that these 'treasure hunts' for information are fun to learn about and helps bring closure for people seeking information. We got lucky this time. If I hadn't put in the information in the newsletter, the name would have never come up in a search and the information would have not been known. I'm happy it turned out like it did.

If any of our membership has any other information about Roy Lechner that they'd be willing to share with Bob, contact the *VFW News* Editor (see back page) and I will give you Bob's contact information.

[Editor's Note: If want to read an interesting account of the fire, read this on the internet: <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/nprc-fire.pdf>]

† Chaplains report †

By Pete Lockinger

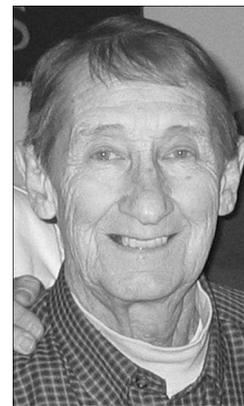
September Charter Draped for:

- Jack Fish

Remembering Jack Fish

By Don Peasley

As I reflect on the death of Jack Fish I'm struck with "service" as my strongest memory of him. Jack Fish died September 2, 2009.



Jack Fish was appreciated for his professionalism as a painter. I remember watching him in awe as he hung wallpaper.

Fish's service extended into volunteering for decades at the VFW—scrubbing pots and pans,

cleaning floors, repairing equipment and maintaining facilities. He worked for years in the kitchen as a volunteer.

He wanted to make sure veterans were remembered. Each Memorial Day he headed a committee placing American flags to mark veterans' graves. During WWII Fish served in a tank destroyer unit in Italy 1945-46. He returned to work as a baker for short time before establishing his painting and decorating business.

VFW Past Commander Bill Lyford has high regard for Fish's devotion to serve veterans. Besides his physical work Lyford remembers, "After I obtained the old post office mailbox for people to dispose American flags, Jack painted the box attractively before we placed it at the front entrance of Post 5040."

Lyford spoke about Fish's ability to prepare dummy rifles for use by the color guard for special occasions.

"Jack was one of those people who cared for what the VFW post stands for," said Lyford.

I remember I had the pleasure of photographing Jack and Barbara's wedding in 1958, one of my first weddings to record with my camera.

VFW Turkey Raffle mailing helpers

Many thanks to the helpers who stuffed envelopes, stuck address labels, sealed envelopes, and stamped stamps. You did a great job.



Voice of Democracy



2009-2010 Theme
“Does America Still Have Heroes?”

Entry Deadline
November 1, 2009

The Voice of Democracy, endorsed by the National Association of Secondary School Principals' contest criteria, is an audio essay contest for high school students in grades 9-12. The annual contest, which is designed to foster patriotism, allows students the opportunity to voice their opinion in a three to five minute essay based on an annual theme.

Created in 1947, the scholarship program annually provides more than \$3 million in scholarships. Each Department's first-place winner receives an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., plus the opportunity to compete for national scholarships. The first-place national winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship.

For entry forms, teacher packets, and previous year winning essay, please visit www.vfw.org and look under the menu item “Programs”.

Patriot's Pen



2009-2010 Theme
“When is the Right Time to Honor Our Military Heroes?”

Entry Deadline
November 1, 2009

Patriot's Pen, a youth-essay writing contest endorsed by the National Association of Secondary School Principals' contest criteria, is a nationwide competition that gives students in grades 6, 7 and 8 the opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy. Annually, more than 115,000 students participate in the annual contest.

Contestants write a 300-400 word essay based on an annual patriotic theme. The first-place winner receives a \$10,000 savings bond and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. The top national winners each receive a savings bond anywhere from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

For entry forms, teacher packets, and previous year winning essay, please visit www.vfw.org and look under the menu item “Programs”.

Annual VFW Post 5040 picnic at John Hanson's

By Matt Klos

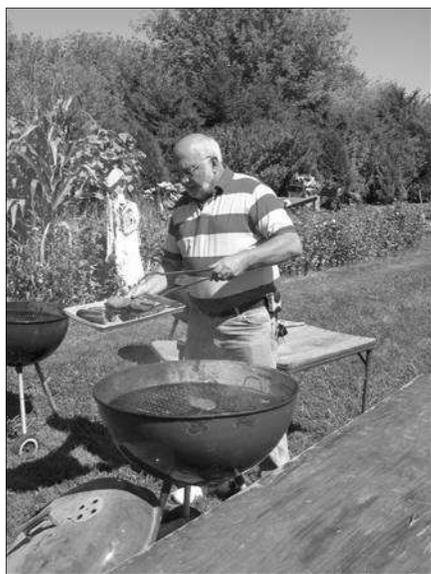
The VFW picnic was lucky to get such a nice day on Sunday, September 13. It was a sunny day, the pool was open (for those inclined to swim), and the food tasted great. About 30-40 people attended the picnic. Under the tent that shielded most everyone from the sun, we had some after-

noon football games on television and people sat around tables socializing. It was very casual, but we all had fun.

A horse shoe tournament was held by several attendees and the winning team was Don Sword and John Hanson's son, Chad Hanson. Congratulations, guys!

Thanks to John and Ann Hanson for opening their home for this annual festivity. It takes a lot of work to set up and prepare for, so thanks John and Ann! Also

thanks to Bob McDaniel and Jack Peetz for providing some of the door prizes for the games played. Thanks too for the people who brought a dish to pass (always makes for an interesting treat because you never know what will be put out on the table), Ralph Ritter cooking on the grill, Ann making all those shish kabobs, and those that set up and took down the tent and tables. We all enjoyed the hospitality. Thanks again.



VFW steak fry and dance

By Russ and Donna Freeman

On Saturday, September 19, the VFW held a steak fry and dance. 85 steaks were grilled outside from 5-7pm. Dancing went from 7-12. Everyone who came seemed

like they had a fun time.

Thanks to Jones Country Meat in Woodstock for the great steaks that were sold to us and Walmart for the money card they gave us to use for the other food we had served.

Thanks to Pat Auvenshine and her son-in-law who cooked the steaks just right. Thanks too to Isac and Randy for washing

dishes and clearing tables. Mike David helped us serve up the steaks and a big thanks to DJ Nitrous Audio's Keith Parr for our dinner dance music.

It turned out to be a good money maker for the VFW and we couldn't have done it by ourselves. Thanks to all that helped and all those who supported this event by having dinner at the Post.





...and a few last pictures from the steak fry. (Thanks to Russ Freeman for taking all these pictures and Kelly Gorham for use of her camera.)



The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Chicago Park District are proud to invite you to:

Veterans' Adaptive Activities Day

A day of sports, games, food, music and inclusive fitness for Veterans with Disabilities and their families.

October 9, 2009
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Northerly Island Visitor Center

(South of the Adler Planetarium and East of Soldier Field)

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(Free Parking)



Please pre-register by e-mailing chris.miller@illinois.gov or by calling 312-814-5538

Join us for a wide variety of adaptive activities throughout the day including:

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October 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 |
| 27 <i>Gold Star Mother's Day</i> | 28 <i>Yom Kippur</i> | 29 <i>VFW Day VFW Established (1899)</i> | 30 | 1 <i>VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7pm</i> | 2 <i>VFW Fish Fry 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm</i> | 3 <i>Saturday Raffle 4 pm</i> |
| 4 | 5 <i>Memorial Day Committee 7 pm Little League 7 pm Girls Softball 7 pm VFW Board Mtg. 6:30 pm</i> | 6 <i>Woodstock Jaycees Board Mtg. 7:30pm</i> | 7 <i>Cub Scouts - 7 pm War on Terror Began (2001)</i> | 8 | 9 <i>VFW Fish Fry 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm</i> | 10 <i>Saturday Raffle 4 pm</i> |
| 11 | 12 <i>VFW Officers Mtg. 7 pm American Legion Post 412 7:30 pm Columbus Day</i> | 13 <i>U.S. Navy Established (1775)</i> | 14 | 15 <i>Marines 7:30 pm Marines Auxiliary 7:30 pm</i> | 16 <i>VFW Fish Fry 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm National Boss Day</i> | 17 <i>Saturday Raffle 4 pm</i> |
| 18 | 19 <i>VFW Meeting 6:30 pm - Dinner (VFW Members Only) 7:00 pm - Floor mtg. Deadline for November 2009 VFW News items</i> | 20 | 21 <i>Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:00 pm</i> | 22 | 23 <i>VFW Fish Fry 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm</i> | 24 <i>Saturday Raffle 4 pm United Nations Day</i> |
| 25 | 26 | 27 <i>Woodstock Jaycees General Mtg. 7:30pm Navy Day</i> | 28 | 29 | 30 <i>VFW Fish Fry 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm</i> | 31 <i>Halloween Saturday Raffle 4 pm</i>  |

From the Editor's Desk By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor



Don't forget, Veterans day is coming up next month. If you are in the area, VFW Post 5040 will be having a ceremony and lunch as we have done in the past. Veterans Day falls on a Wednesday this year, and for those of us that work, it might be kind of hard to take the day off in the middle of the week. If you can make it, please come down to the VFW to help us remember this day and pay tribute to those in uniform.

As we near the end of the year, I am still toying with ideas on what to do with the newsletter, keeping it monthly or going bimonthly. I'm kind of torn right now. Producing a bimonthly will cut down on costs, as well a free up some time, but there will be a greater lag time in getting information out to our members if we need to distribute something sooner than every two months. Any of you have any input on this (i.e. pro's/con's)? Let me know if you do. Email, call me, or let me know at the monthly meeting.

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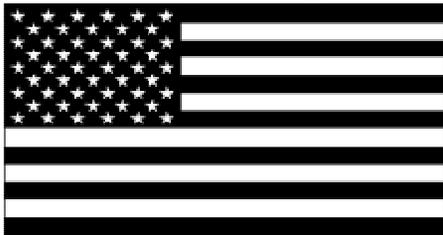
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This month's issue:

- Scholarship information. Last month for VOD and Pat. Pen! Due 11/1.
- Pictures from the picnic.
- Pictures from the steak fry and dance.
- And more inside...

Upcoming Events:

- Every Friday, Lightning Raffle and Fish Fry.
- **Oct 1:** Auxiliary Meeting.
- **Oct 19:** VFW Meeting.
- **Oct 31:** Halloween.
- **Nov 11:** Veterans Day.
- **Nov 21:** Turkey Raffle and Dinner.

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We are open to the public!

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