



VFW News

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Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

Post 5040 hosts Veterans Day ceremony at Post home

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

VFW Post 5040 provided a nice ceremony for Veterans Day, which took place in the parking lot outside the VFW hall. New for this year were permanent loudspeakers which were installed outside the VFW and at the corner of the front office. Installation was done by Charlie Mathey and Don Sword. Sid Sherwin donated money from his father's memorial donations back to the Post to buy the speaker equipment. The new speakers made it easier to hear those speaking at the podium.

Although the turn out was somewhat lower than in previous years, it was a time to publicly acknowledge what this day was about and why we were gathered there outside the Post. VFW Commander Mike Lackey presided over the ceremony.

Giving the opening prayer was VFW Chaplain Pete Lockinger. The Voice of Democracy winner from our Post, Chris Banville, was then asked to read a transcript of his winning entry. Following this, one of the three winners of the Patriot's Pen from our Post, Dana Emery, then read her winning entry. Last of the students to be reading was Graham Ellinghausen who read the poem "It Has Always Been the Soldier", author unknown.

Woodstock Mayor, Brian Sager, was invited to speak this year. Prior to the ceremony beginning, Mayor Sager mingled with the crowd and shook hands with many of the veterans that were gathered there. Mayor Sager gave a heartfelt speech of what this day was about, saying he was "humbled and honored to be standing here today, in memory and gratitude [of the veterans]".

"We celebrate today of the service of those who selflessly sacrificed," Sager went on to say. He made mention of those in our community that have served and most recently the return of D Co. 1-178 here in Woodstock. "...and we remember with certainty members of D Co. that did



VFW Post 5040 rifle squad fires three volleys at the closing of this years Veterans Day ceremony. Firing the rifles (left to right) are Harold Irwin, Bill Lyford, Bob Gibson, Charlie Mathey, John Sorenson. At the end of the line is bugler Bob Schroeder. Behind the squad was firing line leader Ron Nehls and flag bearers Sid Sherwin and Marv Monson. (Matt Klos photo.)

not return", remembering the members of D Co. that were killed while serving. He also made mention of the tragic event that took place at Ft. Hood last week.

Mayor Sager emphasized the point that Veterans Day is truly a "celebration of service provided by so few individuals", that we should honor those currently and past who have served our country proudly.

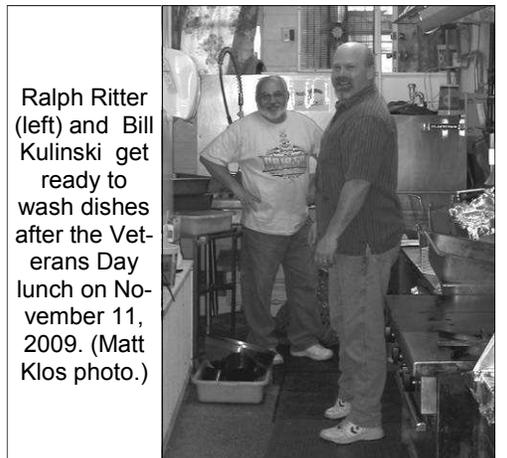
"It is a reminder to each of us as we see the flag or individuals that have served in the armed forces...that we too should follow the sacrifices made by these men and women".

Following the Mayor's speech, the VFW Chaplain gave the closing prayer. The rifle squad then fired off three rounds and taps was played by bugler Bob Schroeder.

After the ceremony, as is a tradition of our VFW, everyone was invited back into the VFW for lunch. For about the price of a normal lunch at any other restaurant, lunch included bread and butter, a salad, ham, boiled potatoes, and green beans in a light tomato sauce. Dessert was a variety

of pies donated by Auxiliary members.

Servers this year was Pat Ritter and Pat Auvenshine, our cook. For a nice touch, the meal was served on glass serving plates instead of the disposable plates we sometimes use at large events. Ralph Ritter said to Pat Auvenshine, "If you serve the meal on the glass plates, I'll wash them for you." And that's what he did with the help of Bill Kulinski.



Ralph Ritter (left) and Bill Kulinski get ready to wash dishes after the Veterans Day lunch on November 11, 2009. (Matt Klos photo.)



Ladies Auxiliary Report

By Nyda Fogarty, President 2009-2010

Our Auxiliary Christmas party and dinner will be held on Thursday, December 3 at 6:00 pm. It will be a potluck except the Auxiliary will furnish the meat. Please bring a dish to pass, a grab bag gift of \$5.00 - \$7.00 in value and some wrapped white elephants for bingo prizes.

The charter will be draped for our two departed members Pat Gaylord and Lois Freund.

If your dues are paid up to date for this year and you are present at the Christmas party, you will be eligible for our drawing of three free dues for the year.

The Veterans Day ceremony and dinner was very nice on November 11. If you haven't yet paid your dues please do so before December 31. For those of you who sent in their dues and also sent in a donation for the Auxiliary, we want to thank you and we greatly appreciate it. I also want to thank any of the ladies who donated pies for the Veterans Day dinner. We were a little short but we made it work out and I know Pat Auvenshine appreciated it.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

One more to thank for coating the parking lot:

Russ Freeman

(Russ was chairing this event and I forgot to list him with the others last month. Sorry Russ!)



Flags from families of veterans are flown at Hearthstone Village. Woodstock Christian Life Services (WCLS) prepares to retire the flag of Patti Nelson. Her husband Russ served during World War II. A new flag at Hearthstone Village at Illinois Route 47 and Christian Way is that of former resident Paul Kaspar, who died in June. Ceremony took place November 11, 2009. Participants in the ceremony include (from left): Norine Lussnig and Mary Ellen Matzelle, daughters of Paul Kaspar; Patti Nelson and Dick Hattan, WCLS director of development. (Don Peasley photo.)

These are men and women veterans who live or work at Woodstock Christian Life Services and were honored at Veterans Day ceremony November 11, 2009. From left, front: Norma Tokars, Army Nurses Corps; Hazel Powell, Navy; Lt. Ross Heard, Army; Clarence Magerl, Army; Elinor Mercier Mason, Army Nurses Corps. 1945-48; and Homer Woods, Army. Back: Roy Erickson and Bob Peterson, Army; Joe Agnello, USAF; Dick Hattan, Army; and Cpt. Kirk McComb, Royal Canadian Air Force. (Don Peasley photo.)



Harold Irwin represented VFW Post 5040 at the "Freedom Salute Ceremony" held at the Woodstock Armory by the returning infantry unit, Delta Company, 1/178 Infantry on November 8, 2009.

Delta Company returned at the end of July after a year long tour in Afghanistan. As a thank you for our support, VFW Post 5040 was presented with an engraved marble plaque, painted with company insignia, name, and campaign. A traditional Afghanistan hat and a US flag flown in Afghanistan was also given as mementoes.

The certificate reads, "Operation Enduring Freedom, Presented to VFW Post 5040. So that all shall know, on the 12th Day of February 2009, this American flag was flown over FOB Mehtar Lam, Afghanistan, in the face of the enemy, in honor of your dedication, commitment, and noble support to those who proudly serve in the Armed Forces of the United States during the Global War on Terrorism. This reflects greatly on you and your valorous patriotism as an American. "Cold Steel" Signed, 1SG Andrew K. Fowles (First Sergeant) and CPT Jerry A. Dickson (Commander), D Company, 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry. (Matt Klos photo.)



✠ Chaplains report ✠

By Pete Lockinger

Sick List

- Fred Noble - Pneumonia

VFW Post 5040 Commander Mike Lackey (right at microphone) opens the Veterans Day Ceremony at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, 2009. Recognized attendees (left to right) are Woodstock Mayor Brian Sager, VFW 5040 Ladies Auxiliary President Nyda Fogarty, and VFW 5040 Chaplain Pete Lockinger. (Matt Klos photo.)

Voice of Democracy 2009 Post 5040 winning recorded essay

By Matt Klos

One of the featured speakers at the Veterans Day ceremony at VFW Post 5040 was this year's Voice of Democracy winner, Christopher Banville. Christopher is a Senior at Woodstock High School.

The Voice of Democracy program is the VFW's premier scholarship program. Students in grades 9-12 compete for more than \$2.5 million in scholarship money. This year's theme was: "Does America Still Have Heroes?"

Christopher was invited to read his recorded essay at our Veterans Day ceremony. Below is the transcript.

Does America Still Have Heroes?

Does America still have heroes? Bob Dylan once said, "I think of a hero as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with their freedom." But what is the definition of a hero? According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, a hero is defined as a man or woman who has distinguished courage or ability. Knowing this definition, many might answer no. I, on the other hand, would answer with a resounding yes. Every one who has stepped up to defend, protect, or aid this nation and its people is a hero. No medal of honor is necessary.

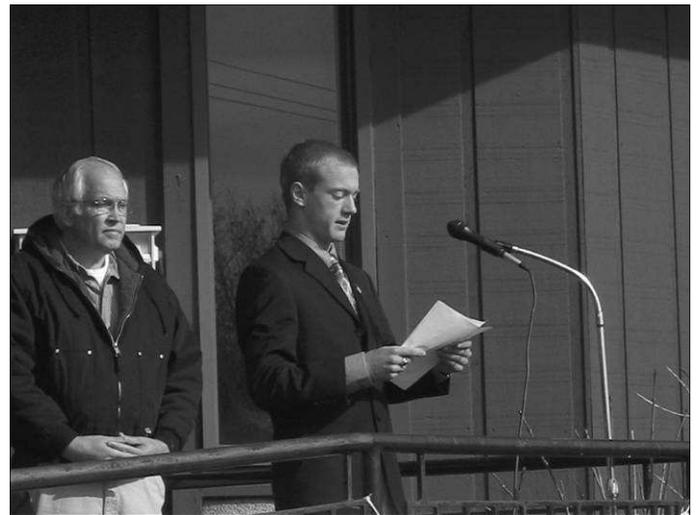
Veterans of the military are heroes. The sacrifices they made for this country protected democracy and the lives that so many Americans take for granted. Those who died gave the greatest gift they could give, and those who survived risked their lives and sacrificed their time for these same interests. Those that are still members of the military are heroes. They know

that by their service others might live a better life.

Members of the military are not the only American heroes. Many men and women protect the American people as police officers and firefighters. Both careers involve courage that I confess I don't believe I have. These men and women defy natural instinct by entering situations that cause a human's body to scream for it to flee. They fight instinct unselfishly in order to save people

they don't know. People they will never see again. They save people whose lives have no effect on their own, whether that person lives or dies, their lives wouldn't change. And still, these men and women endeavor to give these victims another chance at life by risking their own. The firefighters and police cannot always succeed in their missions, yet just by their effort, they are by my definition and Merriam-Webster's, heroes regardless if they manage to save a life or not.

Mothers and fathers are heroes. Raising children takes tremendous courage. It is an immense responsibility and no books on parenthood could prepare parents for what they will undertake. Parents thirst for the success of their children no matter what the cost is to them. Especially in hard economic times like these parents make so many sacrifices to make sure that their children have enough to eat, have warm enough clothes for the winter, and have supplies for school. It doesn't matter if the parent has to work an extra job on the side



Christopher Banville reads his 2009 Voice of Democracy winning entry for Post 5040 at the Veterans Day Ceremony. (Matt Klos photo.)

or work weekends. Their precious children are the focal point of their lives.

This brings us back to the question what is a hero? The answer may be different to all of us. It has to do with our perception of the word. Yes a veteran is a hero. Yes a firefighter is a hero. Yes a mother is a hero. But the list doesn't end there. If a four-year-old boy looks at his teenage brother as a hero, the brother is a hero. A high school football player giving a high five to an elementary player on a Friday night can be a hero. A person can never truly grasp how little things in life like a high five, or spending time with a little brother can be heroic. We never know whom our actions will affect, and whose lives we can make a little better. America does still have heroes. They are everywhere we look, whether we know it or not. They are our military, our parents, our emergency personnel, our friends, and our neighbors. We too can be heroes. I challenge you now to become a hero in someone's life.



Dana Emery, one of three 2009 Patriot's Pen winners from VFW Post 5040, reads her essay at the Veterans Day ceremony. Seated is Ladies Auxiliary President, Nyda Fogarty, and standing is VFW Post Chaplain Pete Lockinger. (Matt Klos photo.)

Patriot's Pen 2009 Post 5040 winning written essay

By Matt Klos

Along with the Voice of Democracy winner from our Post reading his winning essay, one of the three winners of the Patriot's Pen essay contest also was invited to read their essay at the Post 5040 Veterans Day ceremony.

Dana Emery, seventh grader from Northwood Middle School, read her entry for the Patriot's Pen. The theme for this years contest was "When is the Right Time to Honor Our Military Heroes?"

The Patriot's Pen program is a scholarship program open to students in grades 6-8. Savings bonds are given as prizes for

the top winning entries which vary from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Entries must be 300-400 words in length.

Below is the transcript that Dana read. (For those of you that are counting, there are 392 words in her essay.)

When is the Right Time to Honor Our Military Heroes?

About a month ago I went to a homeless shelter in for U.S. veterans with my mom. I wasn't sure what to expect when I arrived. I was a little scared to walk in. To my surprise everyone in the shelter was nice and welcoming. In the shelter there are veterans from the Korea, Vietnam, and Gulf Wars. All of the homeless heroes were proud to have served their country. This experience made me open up my eyes to being respectful of all of our nation's veterans each and every day. Veterans Day is a special day of remembrance and hope; but we need to remember veterans the other 364 days of the year.

The main way to honor our military heroes is celebrating them on Veterans Day. One way to do this is by participating in annual Veterans Day assemblies. Veterans come from near and far to cele-

brate this holiday at gatherings with us. I have participated in the amazing celebration at my school.. I saw many people touched by the speeches and songs, that it moved me. When walking out of the gym I didn't see one person unsatisfied from the assembly.

Veterans Day shouldn't be the only day that you honor our nation's military heroes. Whenever you see a veteran at a parade, at a party, the VFW hall, or staying at a homeless shelter you should shake their hand and thank them for all they have done for our country. One simple ten-second handshake will remind a veteran that we appreciate them. Honor our military heroes by visiting them; relatives, veterans' hospitals, even neighbors. People enjoy talking, especially veterans; these people went overseas knowing that they may not be able to come back at all. Some were drafted so they had no choice but to go to war, but they all helped to keep this country of ours free and safe.

Wherever these veterans are now, they helped make this country what it is today. Veterans are overseas for days, weeks, months, and years, seeing things we cannot begin to imagine. They carry those good and bad experiences with them every day.

Veterans Day is a special day of remembrance and hope. It is the one-day where we can honor each and every veteran together. Let's make sure to remember them all the other 364 days as well.



Serving up the traditional ham lunch at VFW Post 5040 on Veterans Day are Pat Auvenshine (left) and Pat Ritter. (Matt Klos photo.)

Graham Ellinghausen, pictured with Woodstock Mayor Brian Sager, read "It has always been the soldier" (author unknown), at the Post 5040 Veterans Day Ceremony. Graham attends Creekside School (Woodstock) and is in the 8th grade. Working on an independent study program with Mayor Sager, Graham was invited to read the poem which coincided with his study program. The bench they stand in front of was painted by Woodstock High School students from teacher Herb Kruse's art class. The bench was first displayed on Memorial Day and then toured different locations around Woodstock. For Veterans Day, it made its final stop at the VFW and will be placed inside VFW Post 5040. (Matt Klos photo.)

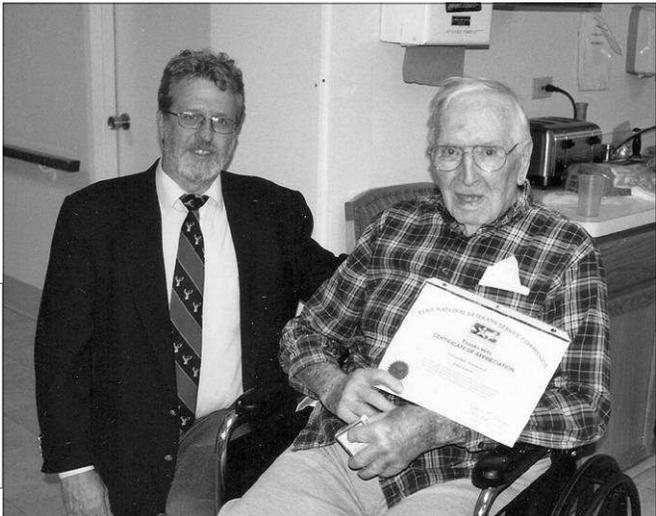




A new American flag and POW/MIA flag fly outside VFW Post 5040 on Veterans Day 2009. (Matt Klos photo.)

Attendees at the VFW Post 5040 Veterans Day ceremony were invited back into the Post for the traditional ham lunch that is served. Attendance was a bit lower than previous years, but many Post members, veterans, and family members turned out to honor all veterans on Veterans Day. (Matt Klos photo.)

Continuing a long-standing tradition, Woodstock Elks Lodge honored over 300 McHenry County veterans in November by presenting certificates of appreciation at a dozen nursing homes in McHenry County. David Stack, Woodstock Elk officer, makes this presentation at Hearthstone Manor to Paul Gavin, B29 mechanic during World War II. (Don Peasley photo.)



Woodstock Elks Lodge during November honored over 300 veterans in area nursing homes with the presentation of a certificate of appreciation for their military service. David Stack, Woodstock Elks officer (left), is with William Milbrantz, Army veteran and Lorraine Wenderski, Woodstock Christian Life Services activity assistant. In presenting the certificate, Stack said, "You have my simple but heartfelt thanks for your service." Other Elks officials making presentations during the month included Lester Bacon, Jim Ballotti, Don Lockhart and Bob Dixon. (Don Peasley photo.)

Civil War statue marks 100 year anniversary by seeking repair funds

By Don Peasley
VFW News Editor 1955-2002

Woodstock remembered the 330 men who died in the Civil War when they gathered at the base of the statue in the Woodstock Square on Tuesday, November 3, 2009.

That date marked the 100th anniversary of placing of the statue on November 3, 1909. The occasion marked the start of fundraising to finance restoration of the monument such as repairing the broken anchor, replacing concrete and fencing and securing the statue atop the monument.

Chad Miller, Commander of the Woodstock Infantry Association, is leading fundraising activities and has placed collection cans at several businesses in Woodstock. The goal is to raise \$10,000 in donations to make the repairs.

Sager told the gathering at the 100th anniversary that the monument is a symbol. "We use it on the letterhead. A newspaper in Woodstock was called the Sentinel. The monument is a symbol of a community both vigilant and devoted to make sure we watch over the best interests of all who live here.

"This monument represents the spirit of Woodstock. We are routinely committed to identify and support good causes, and we work to improve the quality of life here in Woodstock," Sager said.

In 2000 the community raised funds to place four marble slabs at the base of the monument with the names of the 330 county residents who died during the Civil War.

Jim Zoia and his son, Tony, will restore the monument to its original luster. Jim Zoia's grandfather Antonio Zoia was responsible for the placement of the monument 100 years ago. His grandson and great-grandson continue the Zoia Monument Company in Woodstock.

At the close of the ceremony, Mayor Sager recognized the nation's deep involvement in military battles around the world. He asked the audience to "remember those who continue to serve in lands faraway and in harm's way." He closed the ceremony with a moment of silence and prayer.

VFW Post 5040 elects new Jr. Vice Commander and Assistant Quartermaster

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

At the November VFW meeting, VFW Post 5040 elected a new Jr. Vice Commander, Ed Chambers. Ed will be replacing Dan Regna who was elected to the position in April of this year. It was recommended that Jr. Vice Commander Dan Regna be replaced due to other commitments and time conflicts Dan had.

The appointment of Mark Freund to Assistant Quartermaster was also made at the November meeting. Current Quartermaster, Fred Noble, has been sick with Pneumonia and it was recommended that an assistant Quartermaster be elected to help with the duties of the Quartermaster while Fred recuperates.

Thank you both, Ed and Mark, for stepping up to fill the positions in your Post.



Participants in the 100-year anniversary of the Civil War statue in the Woodstock Square gather at the base of the monument. Fundraising to make improvements is underway. From left: Woodstock Mayor Brian Sager, Nancy Fike, McHenry County Historical Society executive director; Tony Zoia, Chad Miller, fund drive chairman for the Woodstock Infantry Association; and Jim Zoia. Jim Zoia's grandfather and Tony's great-grandfather Antonio placed the monument in the Square November 3, 1909. (Don Peasley photo.)

VFW Holiday 8-Ball Tournament

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Northwood Middle School honors Veterans Day

By Don Peasley

Students at Northwood Middle School joined a keynote speaker and a member of the National Guard in tributes to veterans during a November 10 program calling attention to "Our Time for National Pride." The theme recognizes Veterans Day, and Colton Howell, sixth grade student, led the students' tribute by asserting, "The main way to honor our military heroes is to celebrate them on Veterans Day."

Staff Sergeant David Wienke discussed completing a tour of duty in Afghanistan with the National Guard and said the American flag is a symbol of pride and our freedom. He said one tradition is to fly a flag in a combat zone and bring it home as a symbol of gratitude for the sacrifices made and support given while on active duty.

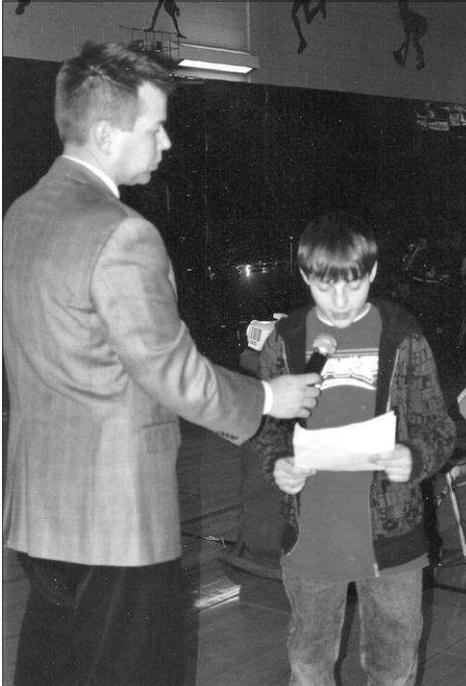
In presenting a flag to NWMS principal Jake Wakitsch, he said, "This flag on July 4, 2009 flew high above Camp Phoenix at the edge of Kabul in central Afghanistan."

"This flag was flown specifically for NWMS to serve as a reminder of those who have served and continue to serve."

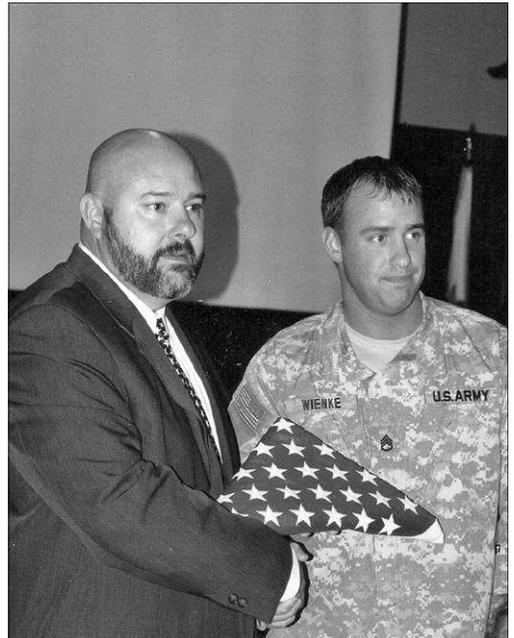
Wienke recalled he attended NWMS and Olson School before going to Woodstock High School. Wienke held his five-year-old daughter while offering his appreciation to the veterans attending. His wife Carrie is the careers exploration teacher at NWMS and served as chairman of the Veterans Day ceremony.

Nancy Phillips, daughter of a World War II veteran and wife of a retired Air Force F-15 pilot, was keynote speaker. She has two sons in the Marines and said it is her privilege to join NWMS faculty and students in honoring America's veterans.

"Veterans truly are our national pride," she asserted. "They choose to serve, protect and sacrifice for our country. We give honor, respect and gratitude on a day set aside for this purpose, each November 11."



Colton Howell, NWMS sixth grade student, presents students' tribute to veterans during the NWMS ceremony honoring veterans on November 10. Jason Eggert, assistant principal, is assisting Howell with his tribute. (Don Peasley photo.)



Staff Sergeant David Wienke presents Northwood Middle School principal Jake Wakitsch with a flag that flew in Afghanistan during his military service, beginning in September 2008 with the Illinois National Guard. (Don Peasley photo.)



Mrs. Nancy Phillips, daughter of a World War II veteran and mother of two active duty Marines, expresses her appreciation to honor veterans with her tribute during Northwood Middle School's program November 10. She reminded students as a nation we set aside one day - November 11 - "to give honor, respect and gratitude to all veterans, those with us today and those who have given the ultimate sacrifice." (Don Peasley photo.)



Three students were recognized during the Northwood Middle School (NWMS) Veterans Day assembly for their essays. Each was presented with an American flag. From left: Jake Wakitsch, NWMS principal; Alison Aydin, seventh grade; Madeleine Emmons, sixth grade; and Ashley Bartlett, eighth grade. (Don Peasley photo.)

Annual turkey raffle and dinner - November 21, 2009 By Matt Klos

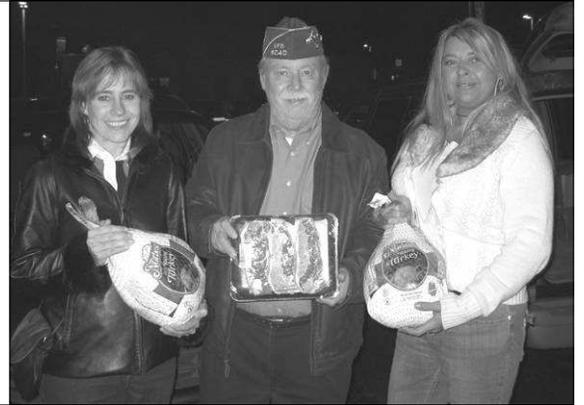
Our biggest fund raiser of the year, the annual turkey raffle brings in a lot of people to the Post including first time and seasonal visitors. Just like preparing your turkey dinner at home and entertaining guests, the Post dinner involves a host of volunteers to make everything run smoothly for the many that come for dinner. The final numbers aren't in, but I thought that this years attendance was down from previous years. However, the food was good, the mood jolly, and the raffle tickets were flying. Several smaller raffles for meat and turkeys were played during dinner. I even heard of several people that were really lucky this year, winning one or two prizes of meat or turkey.

Thanks to the many volunteers this year for helping to setup, serve and take down as well as those selling raffle tickets during the night. Also thanks to all our membership for supporting your Post again this year with your donations through the tickets that were sent through the mail. A big thank you to Pat Auvenshine (and all those that helped her) for the food preparation. Cooking for such a large "family" takes a lot coordination and prep time, but you did a great job this year.

The winners of the main cash prizes this year are as follows. Congratulations:

- 1st Prize, \$150⁰⁰, Paul Chamberlin**
- 2nd Prize, \$100⁰⁰, Ron Benoy**
- 3rd Prize, \$50⁰⁰, Donald Meuller**

Receiving her winning raffle prize of meat and turkey is Cammy Wilke of Union (right). Pictured with Cammy is her friend Brenda Courtney of Marengo. VFW Past Commander Mike David (middle) was in charge of handing out the turkey prizes that were raffled off. (Matt Klos photo.)



Helping to serve up the many dinners in the kitchen are Mandy Chonos (left with plate) and Pat Auvenshine (middle). (Matt Klos photo.)



Sue Fleming and Pat Ritter dole out the meat raffle tickets to be sold during the Turkey Raffle dinner. (Matt Klos photo.)



Brian Ritter, emcee for the Turkey Raffle dinner, spins the paddle wheel for a winner. Raffle prizes included cuts of meat and turkeys. (Matt Klos photo.)



At the annual Turkey Raffle dinner on November 21, 2009, a continuous crowd kept the bar tenders busy serving drinks to customers. (Matt Klos photo.)



Turkey dinner plates are delivered to patrons at the Turkey Raffle dinner on November 21, 2009. The Woodstock Little League provided many volunteers to deliver the food and bus tables. (Matt Klos photo.)



Lisa Lang (left) and Jeanne Kulinski greeted Turkey Raffle dinner patrons at the door of the VFW. Lisa and Jeanne sold dinner tickets throughout the night. (Matt Klos photo.)



Patrons wait patiently for the next paddle wheel ticket set to be sold to see if they won a prize. (Matt Klos photo.)

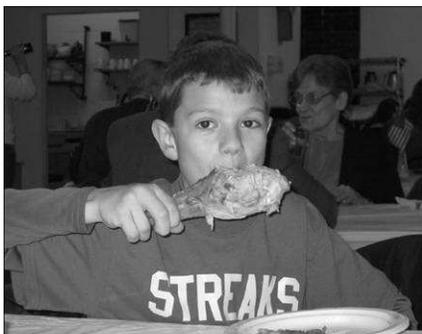


John Presisto of the Woodstock Little League prepares to deliver cranberry sauces. (Matt Klos photo.)



A winning table. VFW member Carl Glawe (left) won one turkey and his son-in-law, Jack Goeddeke with wife Kathy (right) won three turkeys. (Matt Klos photo.)

Hot plates of turkey dinner come out of the kitchen for delivery to tables. (Matt Klos photo.)



Ryan Baier takes a dinner break with a turkey leg after clearing tables and delivering water and coffee to patrons. (Matt Klos photo.)



From left is Arnie Doerfert, Charlotte Doerfert, Delores Glawe, Chuck Wiedemann, John Hart and Dick Glawe enjoying some time together and watching raffle stubs for winning numbers to come up to see if they won a turkey. (Matt Klos photo.)

The Woodstock Little League volunteered their time again this year to clear tables, deliver food, and adults sold raffle tickets. Front row is Gavin Scott, Grant Lalla, John Presisto, Ben Chonos, Clode Presisto, Scott Baier, Sam Ring, and Mike Chonos. Middle row is Andi Shine, Anita Barger, Gary Lalla, Mandy Chonos, Matthew Chonos, Darrin Chonos, Dwayne Raney, Tammy Baier, and Jacob Cramer. Back row is Mary Scott, Augie Scott, John Barger, Langdon Scott, John Link, Robin Shine, Scott Baier, Sarah Baier, Jenny Baier, Patty Link, and Troy Barger. Thanks for doing a great job again, team! (Matt Klos photo.)



Halloween fun turns the tables on Oktoberfest queen from New Glarus

By Matt Klos with contributions from Ralph Ritter

Sometimes things can get a bit wacky at the VFW. While I don't get down to the VFW that often, on meeting nights I try to catch up on news from the previous month. I hear stories and people relate information and I gather as much as I can. On Halloween I was out trick-or-treating with my own kids so I missed some of the dressed up patrons at the VFW. Several people kept asking me, "Did you see the pictures from Halloween?" I had no idea what they were talking about. Finally, I was delivered the story and the pictures to go with it.

As the story goes, Ralph and Pat Ritter, Bill and Jeanne Kulinski, and Lisa and Scott Lang rented a house in New Glarus, Wisconsin for Oktoberfest. It was a late night of celebration and Bill and Scott wouldn't let Jeanne go to bed. At 11 pm, in retaliation for their persistent bugging, Jeanne joined the rest of the group for a few more libations uptown - in her pajamas!

That's what lead to these silly photos on October 31. Jeanne dressed up as the New Glarus Oktoberfest Queen for Halloween (in pj's). Unbeknownst to Jeanne, several people heard the story of what happened and donned blond wigs (matching Jeanne's blond hair) and were "Jeanne" for the night. What made this even more silly was that the blond wig wearers didn't know that Jeanne was dressing as the New Glarus Queen. Needless to say, a good laugh was had by all.

See, we really do have a fun time at the VFW sometimes.



The "Jeannes" and the Jeanne on Halloween. Front, the "real" Jeanne Kulinski, middle row is Sue Flemming, Pat Ritter, and Lisa Lang. Back row is Mike Lackey, Ralph Ritter, and Scott Lang.



Kelly "the pumpkin" Gorham (right) with Mason "the frog". Mason is the grandson of Scott Lang.



Will the real Jeanne please step forward? Is it (from left), Ralph "Jeanne" Ritter, Scott "Jeanne" Lang, or Mike "Jeanne" Lackey or none of the above?



Kelly "the pumpkin" Gorham (left) and LouAnn singing Karaoke on Halloween night at the VFW.



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Welcome new member
 Post 5040 welcomes Lawrence Gordon as a new member of our Post. Lawrence is a Deputy for the McHenry County Sheriff. He returned September 27, 2009 from Afghanistan, serving in the Illinois Army National Guard. Prior to serving in the Guard, Lawrence was an active duty soldier for seven years and did tours in Iraq as well. Welcome aboard, Lawrence!

Marine Corps League
 McHenry County Detachment 1009
 Meets every 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:30 PM
 P.O. Box 311 Woodstock, IL 60098 Woodstock VFW Post 5040 240 N. Throop St.

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WOODSTOCK AMERICAN LEGION
 Meets Second Monday of Each Month
 (Except December) at the VFW at 7:30 P.M.

December 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
29 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	30	1 Woodstock Jaycees Board Meeting 7:30pm	2	3 VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7pm	4 VFW Fish Fry 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm	5 Saturday Raffle 4 pm
6	7 Memorial Day Committee 7 pm Little League 7 pm Girls Softball 7 pm VFW Board Meeting 6:30 pm <i>National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</i>	8 <i>War Declared on Japan (1941)</i>	9 Cub Scouts - 7 pm	10 <i>Human Rights Day</i>	11 VFW Fish Fry 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm <i>Germany and Italy Declared War on U.S.</i>	12 Holiday 8-Ball Tournament 1 pm, Sign up at Post Saturday Raffle 4 pm <i>First Day of Hanukkah</i>
13	14 VFW Officers Meeting 7 pm American Legion Post 412 7:30 pm	15 <i>Bill of Rights Day</i>	16 Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:00 pm	17 Marines 7:30 pm Marines Auxiliary 7:30 pm	18 VFW Fish Fry 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm	19 Saturday Raffle 4 pm
20	21 VFW Meeting 6:30 pm - Dinner (VFW Members Only) 7:00 pm - Floor mtg. Deadline for January 2010 VFW News items <i>Winter Begins</i>	22 Woodstock Jaycees General Mtg. 7:30pm	23	24	25 Merry Christmas!  <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 Saturday Raffle 4 pm <i>Kwanzaa</i>
27	28	29	30	31 <i>Official End of WWII (1946)</i>	1 Happy New Year 2010! 	2 Saturday Raffle 4 pm

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



With the end of the year rapidly closing in, it is hard for me to take in that, yes, this year is almost over. Where has the time gone and what have we done this year? We all have felt the effects of the economic implosion that has gripped our country and have weathered the aftershocks throughout the year. It's been a tough one, this year. Tough as it is for some, I'm thankful for what I have been given and the family that surrounds me.

We have read in local news the stories of returning soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan, enjoying the homecoming with friends and family. We also read with heavy hearts those that come back to grieving families that did not have the homecoming they thought they would. We ask the question of why? How much more? Will these conflicts end? What about peace on earth, good will toward men?

Maybe someday...maybe someday. But for today, we are soldiers, we are veterans, having served and continuing to serve to protect the freedoms from the evils that exist solely to terrorize and do not value human life. It is a heavy price we pay which sometimes we overlook in our daily lives.

Times may be hard this season, but remember our men and women overseas who do not have the option to be home. Think of them as you give thanks and celebrate this season. They will appreciate it.

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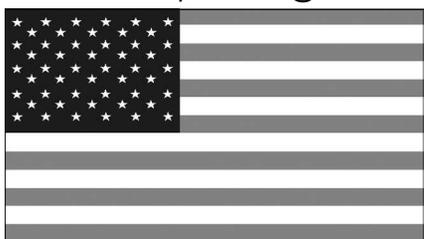
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VFW Post 5040 Post Officers 2009 - 2010

Commander	Mike Lackey	(815)-353-5287
Senior Vice Commander	Ed Lumpp	(630)-460-8812
Junior Vice Commander	Ed Chambers	(815)-703-9000
Quartermaster	Fred Noble	(815)-338-5655
Asst. Quartermaster	Mark Freund	(815)-338-5261
Chaplain	Pete Lockinger	(815)-338-6449
Service Officer	Mike Iwanicki	(815)-334-4229
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	Larry Dhom	(815)-338-4134
2 Year Trustee	Brian Ritter	(815)-276-4802
3 Year Trustee	Arnie Doerfert	(815)-385-2923

Board of Directors 2009 - 2010

President	Bud Porter	(815)-338-4781
Vice President	LaVern Emericson	- NA -
Treasurer	Fred Noble	(815)-338-5655
Secretary	Don Sword	(815)-338-0068
Director	Russ Freeman	(815)-338-3414
Director	Mike David	(815)-338-5341
Director	Bob Gibson	(815)-338-4142
Director	Charley Mathey	(815)-338-5374
Director	Mike Lackey	(815)-353-5287
Club Manager	Pat Auvenshine	(815)-338-5224

Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 5040 Post Officers 2009 - 2010

President	Nyda Fogarty	(815)-338-1759
Senior Vice President	-- TBA --	-- TBA --
Junior Vice	Viola Brown	(815)-338-1446
Secretary	Christine Gehrke	(815)-338-3533
Treasurer	Michelle Patnaude	- NA -
Chaplain	Karen Wells	(815)-338-4821
Patriotic Instructor	-- TBA --	-- TBA --
Guard	Rose Mary Hellstern	(815)-338-0653
Conductress	Christine Gehrke	(815)-338-3533
1 Year Trustee	Geraldine Salyers	(815)-206-3910
2 Year Trustee	Jessica Rathbone	- NA -
3 Year Trustee	Barbara Gehrke	(815)-338-1546

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

This month's issue:

- **Veterans Day in Woodstock.**
- **November 21 Turkey Raffle dinner fundraiser pictures.**
- **New Jr. Vice Commander & temp Quartermaster elected.**
- **VOD and Patriot's Pen winning transcripts for you to read.**
- **And much more inside...**

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Upcoming Events:

- **Every Friday, Lightning Raffle and Fish Fry.**
- **Dec 3: Auxiliary Meeting.**
- **Dec 12: 8-Ball Tournament.**
- **Dec 21: VFW Meeting.**
- **Dec 25: Christmas Day (Post Closed Today).**
- **Jan 1: Happy New Year 2010!**