



VFW News

Visit us online at www.vfw5040.org

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

Spirit fund driving hard for donations

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

Call it what you want: A call for help from our membership, a charitable donation campaign, money drive, etc. It's a request for our membership to help out your local VFW financially.

But what does it mean? If you think hard of what the VFW has meant to you, either recently or many years ago, I bet you can come up with some good points about the organization and memories of good times gone by.

From my own perspective, here is what I think of when the word SPIRIT is mentioned:

S Service to our country, our state, our community, our VFW Post 5040. Service members sacrificed lives, gave up immediate plans for the future, and fought to protect the freedom that our country was founded on. Whether by draft or volunteering to serve, we take pride in the fact that we helped to preserve the freedom that each one of us experiences everyday.

P People. They're our membership. Without them we don't have a VFW organization. They're grandparents, fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers. You all count. We count on you to help out the VFW.

I Investment in our building. Places to assemble and meet you'd think would be readily available in a community. Some smaller non-profit organizations don't have the luxury of a building to call "home". VFW Post 5040 is lucky to have such a fine building for our use to hold meetings, rent out, and socialize in. There are many organizations that call VFW Post 5040 home too. Just look at the calendar on any given month. The American Legion, Marine Corps League, Chamber of Commerce, Little League, Boy Scouts, etc. also meet here. Making an investment in our building helps to ensure that others in our community can use our building at a fair price (many times for little or no expense) and in return they may help us out by volunteering at some of the activities we hold (e.g. Woodstock Little League helping out at the November Turkey Dinner).

R Revitalize. Years ago the VFW was the place to be, the club to be in. It was a club to socialize at with people you had a common interest with. Today it is not so much "the place". With the advent of the computers, internet, cell phones, and other technology, people can communicate in many ways. They don't have to physically go somewhere to make a connection with others. However, there are times when with all the technology we have, physically being present with people and "disconnecting" from the digital world fills a void. The VFW can be that place. We can still make it a place to call "home" if you help.

I Initiative from each of us to do a small part. Be it a monetary donation, volunteering your time for a few hours, etc. This can be hard for many people. The questions asked may be "Why should I get involved?", "Someone else will do it, won't they?", etc. If you don't want to get physically involved, that's fine, and every member can respect that. Support us in other ways if you cannot physically get down to the Post to help out. Donations are always welcome.

T Teamwork. One sole person does not a VFW make. Two is better but lacks in diversity. Many together make a cohesive unit of diverse minds that can contribute to make an organization run well. We need yours. With this new year of elected officers, several Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have taken the step forward to lead the Post this year. The Post Director line-up is also changing. Give them time to make changes as they see fit. They want to make the Post succeed just as much as you do. They plan for changes that will hopefully bring some life into the Post. Let's support them and support 5040 together as a team.

Elected VFW Board Members for 2010-2011

VFW Post 5040 has elected to its Board of Directors the following individuals to serve during the next year:

- President: **John Widmayer**
- Vice President: **Ed Chambers**
- Treasurer: **Mark Freund**
- Secretary: **Mike Lackey**
- Director: **John Hanson**
- Director: **Lawrence Gordon**
- Director: **Brian Ritter**
- Director: **Russ Freeman**
- Director: **Bob Gibson**

Count me in to help with the "Spirit Fund". I want to donate to keep my VFW home operating for the next generation of members.

I'm sending in my donation of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail back to: VFW Post 5040
Spirit Fund
240 Throop St.
Woodstock, IL 60098

✠ Chaplains Report ✠

By Pete Lockinger, Chaplain

Charter Draped:

- Nicholas Stemper (May 17 meeting)
- Jesse Berry (June 21 meeting)



Ladies Auxiliary Report

By Nyda Fogarty,
President 2009-2010

Congratulations to the elected officers for the 2010-2011 year:

- President: **Nyda Fogarty**
- Sr. Vice President: **Chris Gehrke**
- Jr. Vice President: **Viola Brown**
- Secretary: **Jessica Rathbone**
- Treasurer: **Michelle Patnaude**
- Chaplain: **Karen Wells**
- Patriotic Instructor: **Barbara Gehrke**
- Guard: **Geraldine Salyers**
- Conductress: **Marie Salyers**
- 3 year Trustee: **Geraldine Salyers**
- 2 year Trustee: **Barb Gehrke**
- 1 year Trustee: **Chris Gehrke**

NICL LABORATORIES

NICL Laboratories has rented the office space in the building in front of VFW Post 5040 at 242 Throop Street. NICL Laboratories is a full service clinical laboratory offering services to physicians, hospitals, long-term care facilities and the general public. We are committed to provide accurate, reliable, convenient and cost effective laboratory services.

We would like to invite members of VFW Post 5040 and their friends and family to see the difference in laboratory services that NICL Laboratories can offer you. We offer fast and convenient service with no long registration procedures or waiting. Just bring in the laboratory order from your physician and your insurance information and our skilled phlebotomists will have you on your way in minutes. Results will then be sent to your physician upon completion, within 24 hours for routine laboratory tests. Home services are available at a nominal fee. We are also a collection site for Quest Diagnostics® and LabOne®. Call us at 815-338-6596 with any questions or stop by and say hello.

Past Post Commander Stemper dies

By Don Peasley

Nicholas Stemper, 90, who served in the Army during World War II as a rifleman in all phases of Infantry weapons and tactics, died May 2 at his home. During active duty he served as a Squad Leader in the South Pacific for 24 months and earned the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Nick, who was born in Romania in October 1919, came to the United States when he was 11. He grew up in Chicago and married Loretta Pankratz November 16, 1946. Loretta died in December 2009. After military service he began a 40-year career at Union Special in Huntley.

Stemper became active in the Woodstock VFW in the 1950s and was a Life Member. He served as Senior Vice Commander for a year before his election as Post Commander in 1959. He was quite active the Fourth of July Festival in the early 1950s and headed the membership committee before being elected an officer. He was manager and coach in the Woodstock Little League when his son Patrick played with three Little League teams. The father-son relationship continued in the Teen-er League when Patrick advanced to the 15-16-year-old League.

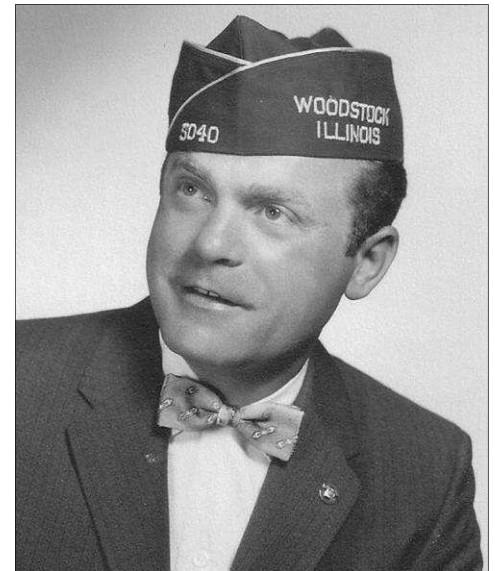
Patrick remembers his father's involvement in the VFW. He recalls most of all the family going to the VFW for Friday night fish fries. Asked how he will remember his father, he said, "I'll remember him as an outstanding rock." It is a good description because it fits his nickname 'Rocky.'

Survivors include his son Patrick; two daughters Lizbeth (Dr. Kenneth) Albrecht, and Linda (Donald) Fruland; and eight grandchildren.

Illinois VFW Purple Heart Veterans: get your \$200.00 grant

Department of Illinois web site

Veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan or other "hot spots" in the Middle East and have received a Purple Heart can receive a one-time grant of \$200.00. To apply for this grant, you must fill out a grant form, attach a copy of your VFW Membership Card and your Purple Heart Certificate. If you are not currently a member of the VFW and reside in the



Thank you note regarding Nick Stemper

Gentlemen,

This is but a short note to say thank you to the members of the Honor Guard of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post Number 5040, for their presence and services at the funeral mass of Nicholas J. Stemper on May 8, 2010.

Rocky Stemper was my wife Michelle's grandfather, and as I'm quite sure you're aware, a fine, fine man. His death, even at age 90, was a shock to us all.

The presence of the fine members of the Honor Guard added a large amount of solemnity to Rocky's funeral, something that he surely would have appreciated. I could go on and on about how much those moments meant to Rocky's family, but instead, I will simply say Thank You. Thank you so very much.

With great appreciation I am sincerely yours,

Dan Brunsvoold

State of Illinois, please complete the bottom portion of the request form and we will mail a Membership Application to you.

This grant is made possible from donations of VFW Posts, District, Ladies Auxiliary Members and proceeds from our special "Purple Heart" Raffle as well as other interested parties.

Website information:

www.vfwil.org/PostServices.asp

Look for the words "Special Benefit" on the page to download a PDF file that can be filled out and mailed in.

Saturday, June 26th 9AM – 4PM

3rd

Remember Our Heroes

CAR SHOW



**Woodstock VFW
Post 5040
240 Throop St.**



FOOD

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BEER TENT

RAFFLES

Come join us in honoring our Veterans on Saturday, June 26th. Car registration starts at 8 am. Trophies to be awarded. Categories to be determined based on entries. There will be raffles, food, music and fun! Proceeds will benefit the Woodstock VFW Post 5040.

Special Raffle Prize
American Flag flown
over Afghanistan
during Operation
Enduring Freedom!



For registration information

Please call: Bill or Jeanne
at 815-338-5040
Please leave a message.
**More room for more
cars in 2010**

Judging 9:30 am-1:30 pm
Trophies awarded at 2:30 pm

Free Raffles every ½ hr
Prize raffle 3:00 pm
50/50 Raffle 3:30 pm



Flyers and graphics courtesy of Fat Guy Graphics
fatguygraphics@ameritech.net



Music courtesy of Nitrous Audio
815-529-0543 • nitrousaudio@yahoo.com

Memorial Day 2010

By Don Peasley
VFW News Editor 1955-2002

Three World War II veterans - longtime members of the Woodstock VFW Post 5040 - were honored as parade marshals on Memorial Day as the Woodstock community remembered those men and women who have served in the nation's armed forces.

The occasion was May 31, a morning thunderstorm did not lessen the solemnity of this annual observance.

Commenting on the selection of this year's parade marshals, Alan Belcher, master of ceremony and a Vietnam War veteran said, "We would like to pay a special thanks to those who fought in World War II. Our servicemen and women fought and died to preserve our freedom and help save the world from tyranny. A grateful nation honors and salutes you who have served."

Belcher asserted the three men recognized have honored their fallen comrades by serving their country and communities through the lives.

The three: Harold Irwin enlisted in the Army in December 1939. He served in the crew that kept the B-26 and B-27's fighting the Japanese. He was discharged in late 1945.

Robert Gibson enlisted in the U.S. Navy in May 1942 and after training was sent to patrol the Aleutian Islands. He was discharged in 1945. Gibson was recalled to active duty in 1951 and served aboard a destroyer during the Korean War.

Jim Hodges entered the service in September 1943. He was trained as a medical technician and served in Belgium until he was wounded. He received a Purple Heart in 1945 and discharged in April 1946. He stayed in the Army Reserves and was recalled to active duty during the Korean War.

Belcher told the overflow crowd at the Woodstock Opera House, "Memorial Day is first and foremost about remembrance. It is also about family, and it is about hope. We honor each of our returning wounded, their families and the families of the fallen."

Following the address by Major General Dennis Celletti, Commander of the Illinois Army National Guard, Moose Lodge Governor Randy Tipps presented a U.S. flag to city councilman Mike Turner. This continues a long-standing tradition of the Moose giving a flag to be flown in the Woodstock City Square.

John Sorensen, 1992 Commander of the Woodstock VFW, listed names of eight men from the local National Guard unit who have died in military service since 2001.

The eight: Private First Class Collier Barkus, killed in action July 8, 2004; Lance Corporal Jonathan Collins, killed in action August 8, 2004; Specialist Fourth Class Keith Nurnberg, killed in action, September 5, 2007; Sergeant Robert

Weinger, killed in action, March 15, 2009; Sergeant Christopher Abeyta, killed in action March 15, 2009; Specialist Norman Cain III, killed in action March 15, 2009; Specialist Lukasz Saczek, died May 10, 2009; and Sergeant Jason McLeod, killed in action November 23, 2009.

Dwayne Raney, Past VFW and Legion Commander, gave both the invocation and the closing prayer.

Continuing a longstanding tradition, a dinner featuring ham and chicken was served at the VFW prepared by Pat Auvenshine and her staff.

Despite moving the Memorial Day observance from the Square to the Opera House many of the traditions continued. Nyda Fogarty, Auxiliary president, read General Logan's orders establishing Memorial Day in an 1868 directive.

Other program features included Jessica Babcock, Olson student, American's Creed. Kaitlyn Klein, Columbia College student, sang the National Anthem and Hannah Morgan, Rock County Christian School, sang "Bring Him Home."



Welcome new members: Patrick Degeorge and Jason Moody

Patrick Degeorge (left), is currently still in the U.S. Army. His job specialties include Cavalry Scout and Man Portable Air Defense System. Patrick has been serving for about 12 years in the Illinois Army National Guard. From February 2004 to March 2005, Patrick served in Iraq; from November 2008 to August 2009 he served in Afghanistan.

Jason Moody (right) was in the U.S. Air Force for four years and three months, last stationed at Scott AFB in Southern Illinois. His job specialty was Motor Transport Operator. From April to June of 2003, Jason was in Kirkuk, Iraq, moving cargo on and off base. From November 2005 to June 2006, Jason was stationed at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, attached to the 70th MTD Medium Truck Detachment driving convoys.

Welcome to the Post, guys! Post 5040 is glad to have you as new members of our Post.
(Matt Klos Photo)

Attention newly elected Officers for 2010-2011

The installation ceremony for VFW Post 5040 Officers will be conducted on **June 19, Saturday, 1:00 pm**. This is the day before Father's Day.

We are also trying to see if the Ladies Auxiliary will want to join in on the installation as well.

Even if you are not an officer, you are more than welcome to attend the proceedings and short ceremony that occurs at installation.



Alan Belcher, master of ceremony for Woodstock's Memorial Day observance at the Woodstock Opera House, recognizes this year's parade marshals saying it was appropriate to pay special thanks to those who fought in World War II. Harold Irwin, Robert Gibson and Jim Hodges all saw action in World War II. Hodges and Gibson also served in the Korean War. Nyda Fogarty (center of photo), Auxiliary president, opened the program by reading General Logan's orders establishing the Memorial Day observance in 1868. (Don Peasley Photo)



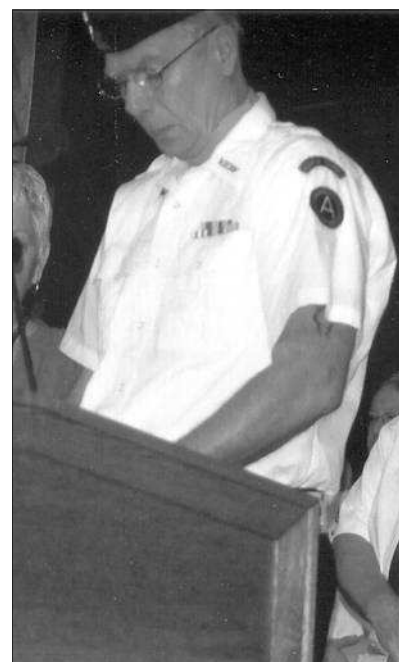
Hannah Morgan sings "Bring Him Home" to conclude Woodstock's Memorial Day observance. (Don Peasley Photo)



Three World War II veterans were honored as parade marshals for Woodstock's 2010 Memorial Day observance. From left: Harold Irwin (Army), Jim Hodges (Army) and Robert Gibson (Navy). Hodges and Gibson also served in the Korean War. (Don Peasley Photo)



Members of the Rifle Squad pose outside the Opera House following the program. Bad weather cancelled both the ceremony in the Square and the parade to the cemeteries on W. Jackson Street. From left: Fred Noble, Arnie Doerfert, Ron Nehls, Dick Glawe, Bob Gibson, Chuck Mathey, Bill Lyford, Jerry Riley and Bob Schroeder, bugler. (Don Peasley Photo)



John Sorensen, 1992 Commander of the Woodstock VFW, read the names of eight soldiers who died in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2004. (Don Peasley Photo)

Woodstock Little League 2010

By Don Peasley

Woodstock VFW participates as an active sponsor for the 57th year as a Woodstock Little League continues its current season at Merryman Fields, Bates and Emricson parks.

This year's season with photos of all 24 teams is featured in the current issue of Play Ball! a yearbook produced for the Little League by Don Peasley and Marybeth Vogrinc.

Don started Play Ball! in 1962 at a time when the VFW was one of the five primary sponsors of this youth baseball program for both girls and boys ages 7 to 12. Players now are ages 7-15 with the addition of the Teen-er League.

This year's opening pitch ceremony featured family members of Mike Palmquist, who died December 27. Palmquist served on the board and also managed a team. He was instrumental in the successful Las Vegas Night fundraising conducted for several years. Palmquist's first acquaintance with Little League was as a player in 1960.

Darrin Chonos, president, welcoming players to the program cited improvements for the 2010 season. League volunteers constructed a storage garage at Merryman Fields Park.

Said Chonos, "Little League provides a great atmosphere for all children in a structured organization. They receive coaching not only in baseball but in life lessons."

This year Little League has 34 teams with 405 players. New this year is the 50/70 pilot program. The program is named 50/70 because it is 50 feet from the pitching mound to home plate and uses 70-foot base pads.

Through the years the VFW has provided its facilities for Little League board meetings and player draft without any charge. Little League shows its appreciation by helping serve the annual turkey dinner in November.

Poppy Day Results

Top poppy earners for 2010:

- 1) Don Sword
- 2) Russ Freeman
- 3) Bob Gibson

As of May meeting, about \$4,500 raised.
Great job to everyone that helped out!

Active duty, National Guard, and Reserve members:

Free Museum Admission 5/31-9/6

Blue Star Museums is a partnership among Blue Star Families, the National Endowment for the Arts, and more than 750 museums in all 50 states to offer free admission to military personnel and their families from Memorial Day, May 31, 2010, through Labor Day, September 6, 2010.

The free admission program is available to any bearer of a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), a DD Form 1173 ID card, or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card, which includes active duty military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard), National Guard and Reserve members and up to five immediate family members.

Take some time to explore as many museums as possible this summer. Find the participating museums nearest you by going to the website:

www.nea.gov/national/bluestarmuseums/index.php

Woodstock VFW News takes 1st place in VFW National Publications Contest

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

Congratulations to Post 5040! Our Post was the winner of the 2010 National Publication Contest. This is our third win for first place in the last four years!

The rules for the Publication Contest were changed slightly this year. Last year for Post categories, the categories were sectioned off as Large Post: 750 or more members, Medium Post: 250-749 members, Small Post: 249 members or less. This year the Post categories were sectioned off as Large Post: 300 or more members, Medium Post: 200-299 members, and Small Post: 199 or fewer members. VFW Post 5040 fell into the Large Post this year, as we have about 400 members in our Post.

When I saw the numbers change this year, I was very curious as to why there was a change in the categorization. I contacted Barb Wilson, editor of the *Illinois VFW Department News*, and asked her

about the entries this year. Illinois has 349 Posts in the state. Entries this year tell a different story. According to Barb, there were three small, four medium, and nine large Posts that entered the contest this year. When I asked Barb for a possible reason why so few entries, she responded, "Not sure if posts/districts are cutting back, but I do know that both posts and districts put out newsletters but don't necessarily enter the contest."

So that might explain some of the low numbers. Winners of each state category move up to the national level. Since the re-categorization changed at the national level (which in turn determines what each department will use), I contacted National to find out why the change.

I contacted Kelly Von Lunen, *VFW Publications Contest* organizer, and asked how many entries were entered for the different Post levels. You would think it would be 50 for each category, one from each state. However, the numbers were 19 small, 19 medium, and 22 large. When I asked about the reason for the re-categorization, Kelly wrote, "In evaluating last year's contest entries, I saw that the number of entries in each size category were not evenly distributed. So I pulled up Post membership reports and restructured the sizes so that each would have an equal number of eligible Posts. For the 2010 contest, I can say that this worked quite well."

From the numbers entered this year, each category was pretty evenly distributed overall.

In the spirit of competition, I enjoyed competing with the larger posts this year. Knowing that the "large" category was 300 or more members, there really wasn't an upwards limit on large Posts. If you weren't "small" or "medium", you fell into the "everything else" category. How big were the second and third place winners behind us? Second place winner, *Bugle Newsletter* (Post 2111, California) by Editor Russ Eseltine has over 1,410 members and the Third place winner, *Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 131* (Post 131, Nebraska) by Editor Wilbur Bechtolt has over 1,050 members.

For another year, we get bragging rights as the top Post publication.

Congratulations to all the Post winners that entered this year and the editors and volunteers behind the publications. You did a fine job in making it to your respective levels at the District and National placements. Keep the papers going and good luck next year.

National Guard unveils monument tribute to fallen soldiers

By Don Peasley

A monument honoring three Woodstock National Guard Armory members has been erected at the National Guard armory on U.S. Route 14. A ceremony unveiling this tribute to the three Delta Company, 178th Infantry soldiers killed in action March 15, 2009 took place Memorial Day. The three men honored with this permanent display include Sergeant Robert Weinger, Round Lake; Sergeant Christopher Abeyta, Midlothian; and Specialist Norman Cain III, Freeport.

Delta member Specialist Jason Litchford, Rockford, designed the 6-foot by 5-foot stone monument in the shape of an arrow. Faces of the soldiers are etched on inlaid marble slabs. Litchford held silent auctions and raffles to finance the tribute.

During the ceremony, families were presented an 8 x 10 marble plaque.

Pavers around the monument will be installed in the future to include names of other soldiers, including Specialist Lukasz Sazcek, Lake-in-the-Hills, who died May 10, 2009 from non-combat injuries.

A prominent feature of this beautiful monument includes this tribute written by Specialist Litchford:

"Be it known that American heroes have walked proudly through this Armory you are about to enter. In this, you briefly walk the same path as those who have fallen. Here the brave are memorialized so as to never be forgotten.

"The rough rock represents the rugged terrain that winds its way through the mountains of Afghanistan, the destination of life paths courageously chosen and followed with the intrepidity of the American soldier.

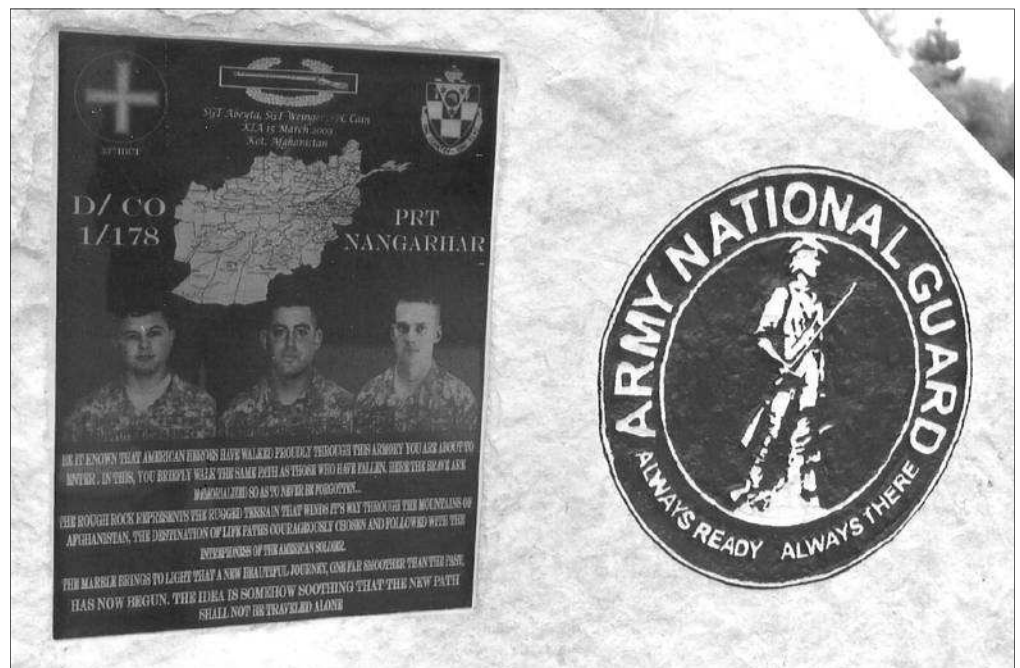
"The marble brings to light that a new beautiful journey, one far smoother than the past, has now begun. The idea is somehow soothing that the new path shall not be traveled alone."

**Need a copy of your DD214
or discharge papers?**

Visit the website:

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evetrecs/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html)

Use this system to create a customized order form to request information from your, or your relative's, military personnel records.



This is a close up view of the inlaid marble slabs on the monument outside the entrance to the Woodstock National Guard unit on U.S. Route 14 at Woodstock. The memorial pays tribute to three National Guard members from Delta Company, 178th Infantry who were killed March 15, 2009. (Don Peasley Photo)



This monument is at the entrance to the National Guard headquarters on U.S. Route 14 in Woodstock. The memorial includes inlaid marble slabs providing information about the three men from Delta Company, 178th Infantry killed in Afghanistan March 15, 2009. (Don Peasley Photo)

Guns and Hoses charity hockey game leaves birds in the cold

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

The match up between the Wauconda Axmen and the McHenry County Falcons ended in a 4-9 loss for the Falcons on Saturday, June 5. However, it was a well played game by both teams. Aside from the hockey that was played, it was a night to remember and honor those who paid the ultimate price for peace.

Three local reserve unit soldiers who died in Afghanistan March 15, 2009 were honored with Falcon's jerseys given to the families whose numbers would be "retired" by the Falcon's hockey team. Family members and representatives of the departed soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry, were on hand to perform a "puck drop" in memory of each soldier. Sergeant Robert Weinger, Round Lake Beach, Sergeant Christopher Abeyta, Midlothian, and Specialist Norman Cain III, Mount Morris were honored.

Also involved in the charity game were Boy Scouts of Crystal Lake Troop #132 who presented the colors before the game, bagpipes played by Dave Johnston of Chicalba Bagpiping, and the National Anthem sung by the singing group of Steve Barnum, Mike Emrich, Terree Emerich, Gwynne Johnston, Mark Sundberg, and Peter Swenson.

A silent auction was held in the lobby of Crystal Lake Ice House during the game featuring items from over 30 partner-businesses were auctioned off to raise money for the charity event.

After the hockey game, many of the players, attendees, and family members returned to VFW Post 5040 for the charity dinner. Proceeds from the hockey game and dinner buffet will benefit the Woodstock VFW Relief Fund for the families of fallen soldiers of the Woodstock Armory.

Thanks to the McHenry County Falcons for donating your time and your skating abilities to a very worthy and charitable cause. Also thank you to the many businesses and people that made this event possible.



Boy Scouts from Troop #132 post the colors prior to the beginning of the game. (Matt Klos Photo)



Photo left, above and above right show family members and representatives of the three fallen soldiers during ceremonial "puck drops" for each soldier honored. (Matt Klos Photo)



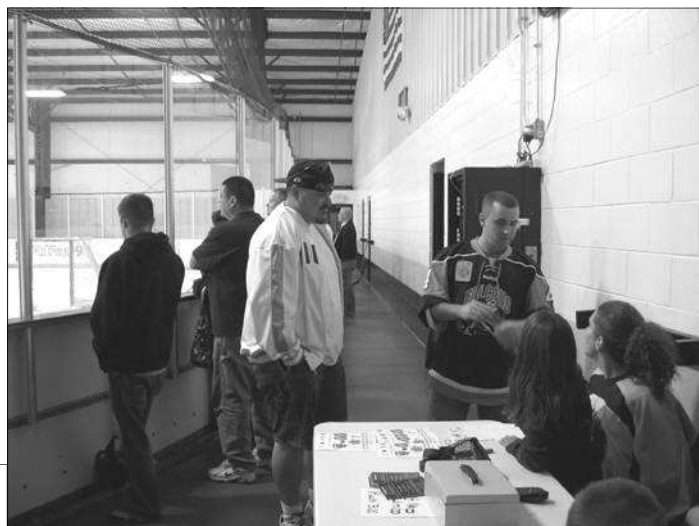
The singing group leaves the ice after the singing of the National Anthem. (Matt Klos Photo)

Face off! Let the game begin! (Matt Klos Photo)





The crowd of supporters for both teams, The Wauconda Axmen and the McHenry County Falcons, watch the game. (Matt Klos Photo)



Lawrence Gordon, VFW member in Falcons jersey (right), checks on how things are going at the ticket table. (Matt Klos Photo)

Falcons try for shots on the Axmen goal. (Matt Klos Photo)




Falcons players seen on the bench after a great game of hockey for a charitable cause. (Matt Klos Photo)



Challenge coin given out to the players and volunteers, in memory of SGT Christopher Abeyta, SSgt. Timothy Bowles, SPC Norman L Cain III, and SGT Robert Weinger. (Matt Klos Photo)

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

Ok, so what's going on you are probably asking yourself? The *VFW News* has been a monthly publication for...well...always, hasn't it? Yes, it has. Until this month. I am writing this paragraph at 11:00 pm on June 6, trying to finish up the newsletter. Everything else in the newsletter is placed and written. I do have to cut down the pictures before I send this to the printer, so another hour or two and I will really be done with this issue.

Yes, it was with some regret that I had to put two months together. Several reasons came up that kind of pushed me in this direction. The first reason is that even if I had this done a week or so ago, the Post Office still won't get it to you any sooner. Look at last month. At the Post meeting on May 17, the newsletter was still NOT delivered into homes. My wife dropped it off at the Post Office on May 5. The reason? Well, the bulk mail operator at Woodstock tried his best to explain that there was little he could do. The Post Of-

fice, in general, has cut back on staff as well as how mail is handled. From Woodstock, our newsletter goes to another processing facility. Our newsletter is also sent out in a class of mail that is pretty cheap. It's Standard Class mail, which means we get put in with some of the junk mail (e.g. flyers, advertisements, etc.). There are lots of businesses that are looking for the cheapest way to send mail and the Standard Class is the way to go. This has its drawbacks in that there is so much standard mail, sometimes it cannot be helped that mail sits. It doesn't have the priority that First Class does. There is nothing we can really do other than to put on a stamp and mail out the newsletter to everyone. Then you'd get it a whole lot faster. But this doesn't do us any good either because mailing out 500 plus newsletters at \$0.44 each would cost a lot of money each month, something that is not in our budget to do.

The second reason is that I just got behind in getting the newsletter out. Over the weekend of May 21-23, I had gone camping. Each year my brothers and I take our kids (wives stay home) and we head to somewhere for the weekend, tent camping. That weekend was gone. The following weekend, which was Memorial Day weekend, I had a little food poisoning that held me back from going to any Memorial Day events, VFW or family related. Finally, the first weekend in June came and I managed to get this together.

The third reason is, I have to admit, I've lost some interest in putting the newsletter together. Don't get me wrong, the publica-

tion is wonderful for the Post. It's needed to get information out to the membership. But at different times of the year, there has been so little news that it makes me ask the question, "Do we really need a newsletter this month of xxx?". It's hard to come up with something for every column in the newsletter. When I look at other Post newsletters and see contributions from each officer in the Post, it makes me wish that our Post was able to do that too. How long has it been since you've seen one of your Post Officers write a column more than once in any given year?

I'm at a cross roads right now of trying to figure things out with the whole mailing and publication timing. In about two to three weeks you should be receiving this newsletter, just in time for July. I figure that if at the end of June or beginning of July, I should have the August / September issue in place, ready to send out. Will this go back to being a monthly newsletter for the August issue? I'm not sure. With our Post financial state right now, going bimonthly might be a smart financial move. We don't have a lot of "news" going on every month, so it might make sense.

Maybe I'll also try for some new content in the next few months. I've seen other Posts do this, publish their meeting minutes publicly in their newsletter that goes out to the membership. Since I will be taking on the role Adjutant (e.g. meeting minutes recorder), this might make for interesting reading for our membership, no?

June 2010

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	2 Cub Scouts - 7:00 pm	3 VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 pm	4 <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	5 Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
6	7 Memorial Day Committee 7:00 pm Little League 7:00 pm Girls Softball 7:00 pm	8 Woodstock Jaycees Board Meeting 7:30pm	9	10 VFW Board Meeting 7:00 pm	11 <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	12 Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
13	14 VFW Officers Meeting 7:00 pm American Legion Post 412 7:30 pm	15	16 Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:00 pm	17 Marines 7:30 pm Marines Auxiliary 7:30 pm	18 <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	19 VFW Officer Install 1:00 pm Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
20	21 VFW Meeting 6:30 pm - Dinner (VFW Members Only) 7:00 pm - Floor mtg.	22 Woodstock Jaycees General Mtg. 7:30pm	23	24 VFW Board Meeting 7:00 pm	25 <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	26 VFW Car Show Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
Department of Illinois State Convention June 24-27, 2010						
27	28	29	30 Deadline for "Next Issue" 2010 VFW News items	June 6: D-Day Allied Invasion of Europe (1944) June 14: U.S. Army Founded (1775); Flag Day June 20: Father's Day June 21: Summer Begins June 22: Pledge of Allegiance Recognized by Congress (1942) G.I. Bill Signed Into Law (1944) June 25: Korean War Began (1950) June 30: G.I. Bill for the 21st Century Signed Into Law (2008)		

July 2010

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
July 2: U.S. Army Air Corps Established (1926) July 4: Independence Day!!!!!!! July 27: Korean War Ended (1953) National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day July 28: World War I Began (1914)				1 VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 pm	2 <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	3 Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
4  Independence Day	5 Memorial Day Committee 7:00 pm Little League 7:00 pm Girls Softball 7:00 pm	6 Woodstock Jaycees Board Meeting 7:30pm	7 Cub Scouts - 7:00 pm	8 VFW Board Meeting 7:00 pm	9 <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	10 Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
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25	26	27	28	29	30 <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	31 Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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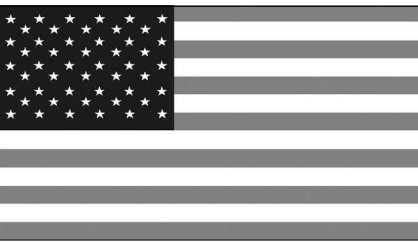
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Post Website and Email:

website: www.vfw5040.org

email: vfwpost5040@att.net



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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	Mark Freund	(815)-530-1025
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 Emricson	- NA -
Treasurer	Mark Freund	(815)-530-1025
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	Jeanne Kulinski	- NA -

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 months issue:

- **It's a double issue!**
- **SPIRIT fund: we need your help and support.**
- **Memorial Day and Hockey Game pics.**
- **And a couple of more things of interest inside...**

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Upcoming Events:

- **Every Friday, Lightning Raffle and Fish Fry.**
- **June 19: VFW Officers and Ladies Auxiliary Installation Day.**
- **June 26: VFW Car Show.**
- **July 4: Independence Day.**