

CHECKPOINT

NEWS FROM VFW'S FRONT LINES

Filling a Need at Landstuhl

Germany Posts Comfort Wounded Bound for Home

PHOTO BY ROBERT WIDENER



Air Force Master Sgt. Don Stucker helps Army Capt. Rob Beat, a reservist with the 412th Civil Affairs Battalion, fill his plate in October during a "Guard Night" at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. George Gilgore, commander of Post 10614 in Kaiserslautern, Germany (at right) has been helping chaplain's assistants like Stucker tend to the wounded as they move through the medical facility.

TWO VFW POSTS IN GERMANY are making life a little easier for wounded GIs as they transition back to the States from Middle East war zones. Post 10614 in Kaiserslautern and Post 27 in Wiesbaden offer much-appreciated services for wounded troops evacuated to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany.

Located in southwest Germany near Mannheim, Landstuhl is the largest overseas U.S. military hospital and the primary medical facility for troops wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. As such, it attracts VFW members in the area eager to ease the loneliness and anxiety often faced by wounded troops.

For example, George Gilgore, commander of Post 10614, located some seven miles east of Landstuhl, has assisted military chaplains based at the medical center's Wounded Warrior Ministry since 2007. Using funds provided by VFW's Military Assistance Program (MAP), Gilgore sponsors the weekly Guard Night for 40 to 60 patients.

"Guard Night gives these wounded service members easy access to a meal," said Gilgore, a Vietnam War veteran. "Otherwise, they would have to cover a quarter-mile to the mess hall."

Gilgore gives money to the chaplains to shop at Landstuhl's commissary. They buy sandwiches, chips, soft drinks and cookies, which they provide for the wounded troops.

Post 10614's history of service at Landstuhl includes distributing phone cards and visiting patient wards. In 2004, it presented a \$25,000 MAP donation to the chaplain's fund at nearby Ramstein Air Base, where wounded troops arrive from the war zones.

CLOTHING AND GEAR FOR THE WOUNDED

Post 27 in Wiesbaden, some 50 miles north of Kaiserslautern, also serves Landstuhl. Post Commander Tim Penzien and Post Surgeon Jim Mann are working on a project that distributes clothes to wounded troops. Many arrive at the facility dressed only in hospital gowns, their gear left behind or destroyed.

"Our goal is to provide each wounded service member with a bag that contains a full set of sweats, underwear, t-shirts, socks and toiletries," said Penzien, an Iraq War veteran. "This will give them a change of clothes that is comfortable."

In December 2009, Post 27 used a \$10,000 VFW Unmet Needs grant to purchase 250 pairs of shoes for

"If it was me lying in a bed, I would like to know that there is someone out there thinking about me since I'm so far away from my family."

—Jim Mann, surgeon, Post 27 in Weisbaden, Germany



"Guard Night gives these wounded service members easy access to a meal. Otherwise, they would have to cover a quarter-mile to the mess hall."

—George Gilgore, commander, Post 10614 in Kaiserslautern, Germany

the Wounded Warrior Ministry's Chaplain's Closet.

Working with Penzien and Mann is Scott Case, surgeon for VFW Department of Europe's District 1. Case works with the various military services liaison officers to prepare for incoming wounded. Their plan is to supply each liaison officer with at least 10 bags of clothes and supplies.

"They can consolidate bag items as they go along and when they get low on one size, we can replenish that supply," Case said.

Mann, a Vietnam vet, also wants to involve brand-name clothing manufacturers for donations. He says it's a worthwhile cause for troops dealing with severe wounds in a strange surrounding.

"If it was me lying in a bed, I would like to know that there is someone out there thinking about me since I'm so far away from my family."

Editor's note: This article is based on excerpts of a larger story written by VFW magazine Art Director Robert Widener, who traveled to Germany in October 2010. Widener's full story will appear in the February 2011 issue of VFW magazine.

WHAT'S INSIDE CHECKPOINT

Extra! Extra!, Page 2

- VA issues warning to veterans
- Donate your birthday to VFW Foundation
- VFW Legislative Conference schedule of events

Post Service Officer Profiled, Page 3

A veteran of the 1987 attack on the *USS Stark* stays attuned of VA developments and dutifully serves his Post members.

\$32,000 Raised for VA Buses, Page 4

After two years of work, VFW's Department of Nebraska gives state VA residents more transportation options.

New Skins for High School Drummers, Page 5

A Michigan Post donates \$10,000 for band equipment and continues as a major supporter of the program.

World War II Post Leaders Honored, Page 6

Here's the latest list of WWII vets who remain active in official roles at their Posts.

North Carolina Post Putts for Dough, Page 7

A Post in the Tarheel State uses its love of golf to raise money for wounded Marines and ALS research.

Photos from the War Zones, Page 7

Send us photos of VFW members serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. You can earn your Post recognition and a free *Checkpoint* subscription.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

VA WARNING TO VETERANS

Veterans should be on the lookout for a company acting as though it is part of VA.

According to Kevin Secor, veterans service organization liaison with VA, an organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is trying to get personal information from veterans. While VAS appears to want to provide veterans with VA benefit information, it is actually nothing more than a ruse for obtaining personal information. VAS is in no way affiliated with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

DONATE YOUR BIRTHDAY TO VFW FOUNDATION

The VFW Foundation is working hard to stay abreast of current donating trends online. Individuals are encouraged to visit www.causes.com/VFWFoundation/birthdays to "donate" birthdays to the Foundation's Return the Favor campaign. Essentially, individuals electronically ask their friends and family to donate to the Foundation

on their behalf rather than sending a gift.

That donation will provide a free call home for someone serving overseas or help with emergency financial assistance to troops' families.



BECOME A 'FRIEND OF FREEDOM' TODAY

VFW encourages all members to visit www.vfw.org and sign up to become a Friend of Freedom. There is no cost to join and you can opt out of the e-mails at any time.

Friends of Freedom members receive periodic e-mails with inspiring stories from VFW Posts around the country, as well as legislative updates important to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE IS IN MARCH

This year's Legislative Conference is March 6-8, at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City, Va. Here is an abbreviated agenda of what is to take place at the conference:

Sunday, March 6

- Committee meetings
- Senior vice commanders, adjutants and quartermasters meeting
- National Council of Administration meeting
- Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners

Monday, March 7

- Opening session
- Legislative committee to Capitol Hill
- Senior vice commanders workshop
- VFW Commander-in-Chief to meet with Department commanders

Tuesday, March 8

- VFW Commander-in-Chief's testimony on Capitol Hill
- Legislative reception

For more information on the conference or hotel information, please call Diane Putthoff, Mary Anne Vassholz or Vanessa Kane at **(816) 756-3390**.

NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS CONTEST DRAWS NEAR

By now, all Department adjutants should have received a packet detailing VFW's 2011 National Publications Contest. To find out how your Post can enter at the Department level for consideration in the national contest, contact your Department headquarters.

CHECKPOINT WANTS TO HELP YOU

The *Checkpoint* staff is always striving to come up with new ways to better assist Post leaders. With that in mind, we'd like to hear from you. What can we do to help you in your role at the Post? What type of articles would you like to see in this publication?

Please mail or e-mail a letter to us letting us know what you have in mind: **Checkpoint Ideas, 406 W. 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111** or jblankenship@vfw.org.

Allen "Gunner" Kent, Adjutant General

Political Action Committee Shut Down

VFW MEMBERS voiced their displeasure last fall following release of the VFW Political Action Committee's list of congressional endorsements for the 2010 election. Our members overwhelmingly stated that they do not want a political action committee (PAC) dabbling in electoral politics in their collective name.

The reaction was so loud and clear that it prompted Commander-in-Chief Richard Eubank to act swiftly.

First, he withdrew all PAC appointments effective Oct. 15, 2010, which effectively shut down PAC operations. Second, he secured a vote of "no confidence" in the PAC from the National Council of Administration, VFW's governing board.

Most important, the Chief will propose amending VFW bylaws to formally dissolve the PAC at the 112th National Convention in August 2011 in San Antonio. This will provide the opportunity for registered delegates to express their opinions publicly and decide the PAC's fate.

Technically, the PAC is a separate entity from

VFW, but that distinction is lost in public perception. No one—member and politician alike—distinguishes between the PAC and VFW. Chief Eubank sensed that the extreme negative publicity arising from the PAC endorsements could have permanently harmed VFW's reputation.

Members made their views plain. They expect VFW's Washington Office to be involved in the legislative process, influencing proposed laws that will benefit veterans. But they did not want VFW representatives suggesting how they should vote at the ballots.

Our members noted that issues other than those related to VA benefits have a bearing on their choice of candidates, and many expressed their resentment at seeing candidates—who do not represent the sum of all their personal values—endorsed in the name of their organization.

Members, through their delegates elected to represent them at this year's convention, will make the final decision on the PAC's fate in San Antonio.



Larry Maher, Quartermaster General

Getting 'Online' with the New Website

IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY, I would encourage you to visit our newly redesigned website at www.vfw.org. Aside from a new, more aesthetically pleasing design and user-friendly format, the new site features a "members only" section called "My VFW," which allows VFW members to access tools and VFW business documents with ease.

By simply logging in, members can quickly view the Online Leadership Reference Guide, Commanders and Quartermasters Manuals, recent resolutions, bylaw amendments, and much more.

Once you have successfully logged in, the "My VFW" section also will act as a portal to the new Online Membership System (OMS), formerly known as eMembership, where members and Post quartermasters can manage their membership accounts online.

If you don't have an online account, you can create one at any time by clicking "Login" in the upper right-hand section of the website and then click on "Create an Account."

If you are a first-time visitor or simply require assistance with navigating the OMS site, check out

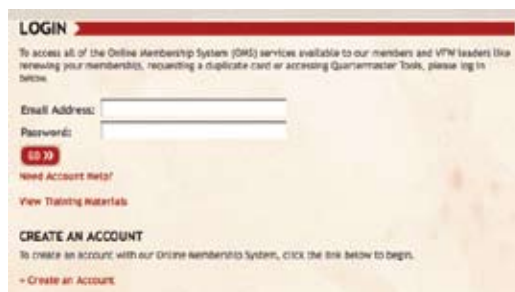
the link to "View Training Materials." It is located just above the "Create an Account" and can be very useful when utilizing the OMS functions.

The OMS allows you to enter new member applications, renewals and address changes, as well as convert to life membership, request a duplicate card, report deceased members, transfer members, and purchase a Legacy Life Membership electronically. All of these tasks, and much more, can be done simply and easily through OMS.

I encourage you to visit the new Online Membership System and as you become more proficient and comfortable with using it, I am sure you will be surprised with the many benefits you will enjoy being online.

As with any major change, the implementation of OMS was not without some frustrations, but the change was necessary and the benefits will be significant.

Take the first steps to get going. Should you require assistance along the way, you can always contact VFW's helpline at 1-800-963-3180, or send us an e-mail at oms@vfw.org.



CHECKPOINT

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Navy Vet of 1987 *USS Stark* Attack Keeps Post Members Updated

LONG BEFORE KARL VON BUEREN of Doylestown, Pa., thought about enlisting in the Navy, he knew all about VFW. He worked with members at different jobs he had. It was one of those men who would years later recruit Von Bueren, this month's Outstanding Service Officer.

In 1982, Von Bueren enlisted in the Navy Reserve. He was a civilian machinery repairman, which is why he thought the Navy was a good fit for him personally. He added that his father is a Navy man, so that contributed to his decision as well.

"I love it," he said. "I'm still drilling after 28 years."



While some mistake Von Bueren for a Persian Gulf War vet, he actually earned his eligibility in 1987 while serving aboard the *USS Conyngham* off-shore in the northern part of the Persian Gulf.

Part of his four-ship battle group was the *USS Stark*. On May 17, 1987, the *Stark* was hit by two missiles fired from an Iraqi Mirage F1 plane.

The first missile to hit the *Stark* didn't detonate, but spewed blazing rocket fuel in its path. The second left a 10-by-13-foot hole and exploded in the crew quarters, killing 37 sailors and wounding another 21.

It was the largest loss of lives due to hostile causes aboard a U.S. Navy ship since World War II.

"Not many people know about the *Stark*," Von Bueren says, "but a lot of people were killed that day."

He went on board as a "damage control guy" to help sustain the spread of the fire.

Incidentally, to this day it is still not known whether or not the F1 pilot acted under orders from the Iraqi leadership.

'AN OUTSTANDING MEMBER'

In 2002, Von Bueren was talking with co-worker Earl Quarter, then-quartermaster for the Department of New Jersey. Quarter asked him about his military service.

"Once I told him when and where I had served, he insisted I bring in my DD-214," Von Bueren said. "When he saw that I had earned the Navy Expeditionary Medal, he knew I was eligible."

The father of two signed up as a life member. A few years later in 2006, he found himself in the role of service officer for Post 175 in Doylestown.

"He is an outstanding member and assists us greatly in our effort to give back to the community and honor our veterans," said Matt Fisher, Post commander. "He can always be counted on for briefing the members with all updated information each month."

Indeed, Von Bueren has embraced his role. He said he scours VFW magazine and the organization's website, as well as any e-alerts he has received since the previous meeting. From that information he generates a report to the members.

"Typically I give a lengthy report at most meetings," said Von Bueren, a locksmith with the U.S. government. "It's always such a good feeling to steer members in the right direction."

He said that most veterans honestly don't know where to start if they require assistance with a claim or even if they have questions about the VA system.

"This is my job," he said. "I can get them going and get them directed to the right people."

Von Bueren was last activated after the Sept. 11, 2001, Islamic terrorist attacks. He was called up late 2001 to fill stateside military police positions, spending 13 months at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.



Von Bueren, standing, assists in pointing his fellow Post members in the right direction when it comes to assistance with VA claims.

"It's always such a good feeling to steer members in the right direction."

—Karl Von Bueren
Post 175 service officer



PHOTOS COURTESY KARL VON BUEREN

Post 175 Service Officer Karl Von Bueren stands with his son, Steven, after the Memorial Day parade in Doylestown, Pa., in 2010. Von Bueren is in his 28th year in the Navy Reserve.

Post 175 in Doylestown, Pa., was chartered in 1934 and today has 144 members.

WANTED

OUTSTANDING SERVICE OFFICERS

We would like to hear about the hard work your Post and Department service officers are doing. If you would like to see them receive some much-deserved recognition, send us a brief note explaining why.

Please send information to:

Checkpoint

Attn: Outstanding Service Officers

**406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111**

Phone: (816) 968-1171

E-mail: tdyhouse@vfw.org

Swing Dance at Old Naval Air Station Honors WWII Veterans

THE ISLAND OF GROSSE ILE, MICH., was really swinging last September when it, along with Post 7310, hosted the 2010 Veterans Gala: A Salute to the Greatest Generation.

This all started with an idea of a “little” swing dance for the B-26 Marauder Historical Society, which had decided to have its reunion on the island, home to the former Grosse Ile Naval Air Station.

Ed Ochen, a former WWII B-26 pilot, told his daughter, Judy Diehl, the group would be coming to town. She thought a dance at the air station, now the municipal airport, would be fun for the guys. Her husband, Kerry, agreed to chair the event, which soon took on a life of its own.

More than 300 volunteers stepped forward to make the “swing dance” an all-out gala, with a special tribute to the Marauders.

“If these aging heroes hadn’t come into town,” Judy said, “this newly created event probably wouldn’t have happened.”

Kerry, a member of Post 8118 Men’s Auxiliary in Venice, Fla.,—where his father-in-law, Ochen, is a member—says the event was put together with a “zero budget.” He noted that Judy, who refuses any credit for the event, would ask people for donations when she was out doing her daily errands and shopping.

That resulted in the discount department store Kmart donating hot dogs and buns and even volunteering their employees to come out and cook so that veterans didn’t have to.

Another retailer, Target, donated money for decorations and 18 employees volunteered to help in the preparation of the hangar.

“Once we told Post 7310 about this, they were wholeheartedly on board,” Kerry said. “VFW really played a big role. They were in charge of the food and beverages and even obtained the proper liquor licenses for the event.”

Other groups such as the Boy Scouts also



PHOTO COURTESY POST 7310

Kerry Diehl, Ed Ochen and Post 7310 Commander Dale Abbuhl visit at the 2010 Veterans Gala: A Salute to the Greatest Generation in September on Gross Isle, Mich. The event was co-hosted by Post 7310 and Diehl, a member of Post 8118 Men’s Auxiliary, chaired the event. Ochen, a WWII vet, is a member of Post 8110 in Venice, Fla.

participated. Cheering and waving flags, they greeted the B-26 Marauders as their buses crossed the bridge onto the island. A plane circled the sky with the banner, “Welcome Veterans to Grosse Ile.”

The Ford Yacht Club hosted a small gathering that included the Mood Swing Trio. Inside the hangar people were dressed in all types of ‘40s attire.

Outside were an original WWII searchlight, classic cars, and two red and white striped guard sheds built by Riverview Boy Scouts.

The Scouts also crafted mock anti-aircraft guns and mortars. Inside the hangar, displays included an array of Yankee Air Museum and privately owned WWII vintage aircraft.

Including volunteers, there were about 1,000 people in attendance. “It seemed like the entire community turned out for this,” Kerry said. “There was such great enthusiasm. It still gives me goose bumps.”

Plans for the second annual gala are well underway. The Sept. 17 event will salute Korean War-era veterans. A special tribute to all veterans having served at Grosse Ile Naval Air Station also will take place.

Anyone who served there and wishes to attend or has memorabilia they would like to donate is encouraged to contact kfinch@grosseileairport.com or Derek Thiel, airport manager, at dthiel@grosseileairport.com.

“It seemed like the entire community turned out for this.”
 —Kerry Diehl, Post 8118 Men’s Auxiliary member and event chair

‘Outstanding Work’

Nebraska VFW Fundraising Project Amasses \$32,000 for VA Buses



PHOTO COURTESY DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

Members of the Department of Nebraska VFW gathered at the governor’s mansion in Omaha in October to present five handicapped-accessible buses to the state. VFW spearheaded a drive to raise \$32,000 to help with the purchase of the buses. The state’s four veterans homes received the buses.

LAST OCTOBER, VFW Department of Nebraska officials paid a visit to the governor’s mansion in Omaha to make a delivery. Five handicapped-accessible buses were donated to the state’s four veterans homes.

During a two-year drive, VFW, which spearheaded the project, raised \$32,000, while other veterans organizations in the “Cornhusker State” amassed \$14,000. The state of Nebraska provided \$176,500 in grants for a total of \$222,500 to purchase the buses.

According to John Liebsack, Nebraska’s adjutant/quartermaster, each bus has a wheelchair lift and will accommodate four wheelchairs and six passengers.

“These buses will enable veterans to get to necessary medical appointments,” he said. “They will no longer have to schedule rides according to availability of transportation. It also will allow the vets to be involved in community events and will enable them to shop.”

Liebsack said that 100% of money raised is used for the bus purchases.

One bus each was donated to Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home in Bellevue, Norfolk Veterans Home in Norfolk and Western Nebraska Veterans Home in Scottsbluff. Two were given to the Grand Island Veterans Home in Grand Island.

During the presentation ceremony, Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman praised VFW for its generosity.

“Our veterans groups do a lot to support our military personnel and our veterans,” he said. “This is a great example of their outstanding work.”

Michigan Post Donates \$10,000 to High School Drumline



PHOTOS BY BARBARA FOLAND/CORUNNA HIGH SCHOOL

The seven members of Corunna High School's 2010-11 drumline marched with new bass drums, snare drums and tenor drums. VFW Post 4005 in Corunna, Mich., donated \$10,000 to replace the previous 20-year-old equipment.

DRUMMERS AT CORUNNA HIGH SCHOOL in Michigan marched with new equipment for the 2010-11 school year thanks to a \$10,000 donation from Post 4005 in Corunna. The gift allowed the school to purchase four snare drums, four bass drums, two tenor drums (quads), drum stands and harnesses.

Russ Kregger, senior vice commander, said his Post has had a great relationship with Corunna Public Schools for many years.

"That's what service organizations are supposed to be for," Kregger told *The (Owosso, Mich.) Argus-Press News*. "It is to try to do everything we can to help the community around us. We do hundreds of things that involve money and manpower. This donation came with a little bit of request, and I was so happy that we could get that done."

Post members stay involved with the band all year long by presenting colors at home football games, granting a VFW Bandsman of the Year award to a senior each spring, and helping pay for an annual band trip.

"I just think it's incredible to get that kind of support," then-Principal Kelly Smith told *The Argus-Press News*. "The VFW has really been a cheerleader for Corunna and the band program, and I just really appreciate it."

Steve Shaw, band director at the time, said he was surprised when he learned of the donation in May 2010.

"They asked if there was anything that the band was needing," Shaw said. "And so I mentioned the

"The VFW has really been a cheerleader for Corunna and the band program."

—Kelly Smith, former principal

need for the new drums—thinking they could contribute toward the drums, not really thinking they could contribute the whole \$10,000."

The new drums have been used at football games, pep assemblies and parades, among other events, and Shaw said he hoped they will last 20 to 25 years. He estimated the band's last set of drums were more than 20 years old and were beginning to show their age.

"We appreciate VFW's support here in Corunna,"

he told *The Argus-Press News*.

The Corunna band gives back to VFW by performing at Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades, funerals and commander's dinners. Many band students also help out with VFW's fish fries, and trumpeters play "Taps" at VFW funerals.

Corunna High School includes some 817 students. This year's band is comprised of 65 members, with seven in the drumline.



Post 4005 presented its donation at the high school band's May 2010 concert. The Post gave an annual Bandsman of the Year award the same night.

2011 Schedule

Operation Uplink Supports Troops with Free Call Days

Veterans of Foreign Wars is proud to provide two Free Call Days home each month. Free Call Days are connected through Morale, Welfare and Recreation's (MWR) Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) Internet Cafes.

For benefits available to you and your family, e-mail VFW National Military Services at NationalMilitaryServices@vfw.org.



Free Call Days. No Card. No Cost.

2011 Scheduled Free Call Days

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| January 1 (New Year's) | January 16 |
| February 14 (Valentine's Day) | February 27 |
| March 13 | March 27 |
| April 10 | April 24 (Easter) |
| May 8 (Mother's Day) | May 29 (Memorial Day) |
| June 5 | June 19 (Father's Day) |
| July 4 (Independence Day) | July 24 |
| August 7 | August 28 |
| September 4 (Labor Day) | September 29 (VFW Day) |
| October 9 | October 23 |
| November 11 (Veterans Day) | November 24 (Thanksgiving) |
| December 11 | December 25 (Christmas) |

World War II Veterans Leading VFW Posts from Coast to Coast

THE CHECKPOINT STAFF EXTENDS A HEARTY "THANK YOU" to all our World War II Post leaders, members and veterans. And we want to recognize those who still devote time and energy to VFW causes.

Listed below are 120 WWII veterans who serve VFW Posts in official capacities. *Checkpoint* has recognized a total of 828 such Post leaders since the March/April 2009 issue.

We have received an unexpectedly large number of names, so please be patient if you are waiting to see your submission printed. Names published to date are those received through approximately the end of September 2010. The backlog is significant, but not insurmountable. We will continue to feature this section in subsequent issues until every WWII Post leader whose name is submitted is recognized.

If you would like to recognize a WWII veteran who *currently* serves your Post, please send us his or her name, official Post position and your Post's location. Send information to:

Checkpoint
Attn: WWII Leaders
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
E-mail: tdyhouse@vfw.org



Name	Position	Post/Location
Marvin Aldridge	Commander	Post 4472, Baxley, Ga.
Lance Andrews	Commander	Post 10213, Lincoln, R.I.
Jerry Anton	Officer of the Day	Post 6699, Paramus, N.J.
Philip Atwood	Chaplain	Post 928, Folsom, Pa.
Norm Bachman	Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 6597, Rochester, N.Y.
Bill Banister	Adjutant	Post 7191, Mundelein, Ill.
Dominick Barbera	Guard	Post 6699, Paramus, N.J.
Thomas F. Baublitz	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 1525, Clayton, Calif.
Lester Beecroft	Service Officer	Post 4015, Newberg, Ore.
Henry Bellini	Commander	Post 1437, Springdale, Pa.
Stephen Berberian	Quartermaster	Post 10416, East Hanover, N.J.
Carl Bettner	Quartermaster	Post 6597, Rochester, N.Y.
Edward Blake	Quartermaster	Post 4173, Salem, Ore.
Elroy Bloomberg	Chaplain	Post 4173, Salem, Ore.
Fred Borda	Trustee	Post 928, Folsom, Pa.
John Borowski	Chaplain	Post 6391, Port Allegany, Pa.
Robert Boye	Chaplain	Post 5260, Springville, N.Y.
Bill Brown	Officer of the Day	Post 9593, Stuyvesant Falls, N.Y.
Thomas H. Bullard	Trustee	Post 9726, Pierson, Fla.
Ray Callanan	Bingo Chrmn.	Post 5896, Farmington, Mo.
Harold L. Carlisle	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 9726, Pierson, Fla.
Lyle Christen	Commander	Post 8416, Pecatonica, Ill.
Joseph Cifelli	Asst. House Chrmn.	Post 6394, Syosset, N.Y.
Stanley L. Clark	Quartermaster	Post 2798, Pinole, Calif.
Warren S. Clower	Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 3521, Vienna, Ohio
Felix J. Coca	Quartermaster	Post 2951, Santa Fe, N.M.
Calvin Cognevich	Chaplain	Post 8720, Abita Springs, La.
Donald Crabtree	Judge Advocate	Post 9451, Oldtown, Md.
Cornelius De Mink	Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 1527, Portage, Mich.
Henry Deist	Surgeon	Post 8720, Abita Springs, La.
Walter Dewey	Trustee	Post 9449, Randolph, Vt.
Jack Donahue	Guard	Post 1437, Springdale, Pa.
Bill Douglas	Chaplain	Post 9528, Okeechobee, Fla.
Don Evans	Quartermaster	Post 9728, Cottonwood Falls, Kan.
Richard Fatla	Trustee	Post 7444, Armstrong Creek, Wis.
Alfred Foust	Comm. Serv. Chrmn.	Post 4273, Sandy, Ore.
Manny Glickman	Surgeon	Post 6617, Elkins Park, Pa.
John A. Goodworth	Service Officer	Post 3521, Vienna, Ohio
John Governale	Trustee	Post 7191, Mundelein, Ill.
Mahlon G. Hanson	Advocate	Post 1525, Clayton, Calif.
Alex Helchowski	Commander	Post 6409, Rossford, Ohio
Paul Hixon	Officer of the Day	Post 1437, Springdale, Pa.
Lado Hlavac	Officer of the Day	Post 6382, Hallettsville, Texas
Dick Hodshon	Trustee	Post 6259, Berkeley Heights, N.J.
George E. Houtz	Chaplain	Post 3521, Vienna, Ohio
Robert Hunter	Officer of the Day	Post 8164, Tewksbury, Mass.
Warren N. Jackson	Commander	Post 3791, Flint, Mich.
Allen Jameson	Service Officer	Post 928, Folsom, Pa.
Ted F. Janicki	Surgeon	Post 8494, Merrillan, Wis.
Robert Jenkin	Surgeon	Post 1525, Clayton, Calif.
Lester E. Johnston	Service Officer	Post 9726, Pierson, Fla.
Paul Katusha	Service Officer	Post 2629, Aurora, Ohio
James P. Kelly, Sr.	Commander	Post 4927, Centereach, N.Y.
Donald Knight	Trustee	Post 9449, Randolph, Vt.
Axel Korsmoe	Trustee	Post 217, Minneapolis, Minn.
Robert J. Kraemer	Adjutant	Post 5344, Adams, N.Y.

Name	Position	Post/Location
Stanley Krolicki	Chaplain	Post 10519, Greendale, Wis.
Dr. Joseph E. Kupka	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 3521, Vienna, Ohio
Don Kupper	Honor Guard	Post 6391, Port Allegany, Pa.
James Lamb	Asst. Serv. Officer	Post 10519, Greendale, Wis.
Jack Law	Surgeon	Post 9528, Okeechobee, Fla.
James Le Blanc	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 8720, Abita Springs, La.
Richard Leinen	Chaplain	Post 6597, Rochester, N.Y.
Harry W. Loveland	Judge Advocate	Post 3521, Vienna, Ohio
Edward Lozowski	Chaplain	Post 6259, Berkeley Heights, N.J.
Bernard Lubowitz	Chaplain	Post 6617, Elkins Park, Pa.
Frank Majeski	Trustee	Post 7444, Armstrong Creek, Wis.
Joseph Maugeri	Commander	Post 876, River Edge, N.J.
James McDonough	Chief of Staff	Post 10087, Beverly Hills, Fla.
Francis Michels	Trustee	Post 8494, Merrillan, Wis.
Albert Moomjy	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 10416, East Hanover, N.J.
John Morton	Trustee	Post 928, Folsom, Pa.
Kenneth Morton	Trustee	Post 2206, Lake City, Fla.
Richard Morton	Trustee	Post 2206, Lake City, Fla.
Marshall Myers	Trustee	Post 6699, Paramus, N.J.
Carl E. North	Membership Chrmn.	Post 9726, Pierson, Fla.
Frank A. Northup	Dist. 4 Chaplain	Post 982, Remsen, N.Y.
Edward H. Oldis	Commander	Post 2838, Westmont, Ill.
Tobias Ortiz	Honor Guard	Post 2951, Santa Fe, N.M.
Adrian Pacheco	Trustee	Post 1525, Clayton, Calif.
Lyle Panno	Chaplain	Post 2237, Oskaloosa, Iowa
Frank Parzatka	Trustee	Post 7444, Armstrong Creek, Wis.
Emil Paukoucek	Service Officer	Post 1437, Springdale, Pa.
Eugene Peruski	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 5740, Ruth, Mich.
Duane Peterson	Adjutant	Post 1525, Clayton, Calif.
Gordon Pettingell	Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 9449, Randolph, Vt.
Lawrence J. Phelan	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 2473, Clearwater, Fla.
Richard C. Prewett	Quartermaster	Post 8932, Corpus Christi, Texas
George Reitter	Adjutant	Post 6597, Rochester, N.Y.
Henry E. Rey	Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 434, Glen Burnie, Md.
John Rhatigan	Publicity Chrmn.	Post 6699, Paramus, N.J.
James Robinson	Commander	Post 3583, Mehoopany, Pa.
Stanley W. Rolfe	Quartermaster	Post 1527, Portage, Mich.
Isidro Saiz	Honor Guard	Post 2951, Santa Fe, N.M.
Louis Salzer	Judge Advocate	Post 8720, Abita Springs, La.
Phillip Schlageter	Chaplain	Post 6382, Hallettsville, Texas
Everett Secor	Chaplain	Post 9593, Stuyvesant Falls, N.Y.
William Seidler	Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 6699, Paramus, N.J.
Harold L. Short	Commander	Post 9030, Yorba Linda, Calif.
Joyce Shoulders	Guard	Post 5896, Farmington, Mo.
Harry Shryock	Chaplain	Post 9451, Oldtown, Md.
Cleon Smith	Surgeon	Post 3521, Vienna, Ohio
Don South	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 9528, Okeechobee, Fla.
Sol Stark	VOD Chrmn.	Post 6617, Elkins Park, Pa.
Victor Sternadel	Surgeon	Post 6382, Hallettsville, Texas
John Strama	Adjutant	Post 1437, Springdale, Pa.
Harold Susalla	Quartermaster	Post 5740, Ruth, Mich.
Joe Teliha	Trustee	Post 6259, Berkeley Heights, N.J.
James Thone	Commander	Post 10859, Bakersfield, Calif.
Robert C. Timko	Guard	Post 3521, Vienna, Ohio
Yasuo Tsuchiyama	Quartermaster	Post 7191, Mundelein, Ill.
John J. Urban	Commander	Post 2242, Paragould, Ark.
Sol Volen	Hospital Chrmn.	Post 6617, Elkins Park, Pa.
Buzz Wagner	Chaplain	Post 2629, Aurora, Ohio
Ray B. Waters	Adjutant	Post 8494, Merrillan, Wis.
Edgar Williams	Trustee	Post 1525, Clayton, Calif.
Harvey Williams	Trustee	Post 6382, Hallettsville, Texas
Bob Zielke	Chaplain	Post 7191, Mundelein, Ill.
Stan Ziemianski	Quartermaster	Post 6409, Rossford, Ohio
Haig Zotian	Commander	Post 10416, East Hanover, N.J.

North Carolina Post Hosts Two Annual Golf Tournaments for Charity

LOCATED IN GOLF-CENTRIC North Carolina, Post 7288 in Calabash hosts not one but two annual golf tournaments to raise money for charitable causes. The Post of some 421 members teed up for both amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and wounded Marines in 2010.



Tommy Roehm

Post member Tommy Roehm earned the nickname “Two Feathers” while golfing. After looking for golf balls he hit into the woods, he would emerge with a couple bird feathers he found stuck in his hat. Roehm, a Vietnam veteran of the 2nd Bn. (Airmobile), 501st Inf. Regt., 101st Abn. Div., died in April 2008 from ALS.

His Post continues the golf tournament he founded, now in its fifth year, with a goal to raise \$2,000 annually. The Tommy “Two Feathers” Par Three tournament benefits the search for a cure for ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. (The ALS Association estimates some 30,000 Americans have the disease at any given time.)

According to Post member Frank Richardson, last year’s tournament on Sept. 25 was a “fun event” that met its monetary goal. The Post donated proceeds to the Wilmington, N.C., office of the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The national organization conducts ALS research.

An additional fundraiser, Post 7288’s annual golf tournament, has in the past supported causes such as helping wounded troops and their families readjust to life back home. The 2010 tournament on Nov. 15 raised \$3,000 for Wounded Warrior Battalion East at Camp Lejeune, N.C., which assists Marines returning from battlefield injuries, as well as their families.

“Our Post opted to forward the donations to a state-based program that offers the same assistance as the national one but keeps it local,” Richardson said. “Plus, they told us when we called that they had a \$2,500 bill they couldn’t pay right away, and our donation covered it.”

Richardson said the effort was especially meaningful to three Purple Heart recipients who participated in the tournament. Rich Murray served with the Marines in Korea and Vietnam. Jim Milstead served in the Navy and was wounded in action in Vietnam. And Army veteran Ray Ketcham also was wounded while serving in Vietnam.

Ketcham, who chaired the tournament, says being able to donate to Wounded Warrior Battalion East is important because “it’s an effort by a VFW Post in the state producing funds that go to help a cause based in the same state.”



PHOTOS COURTESY FRANK RICHARDSON

Post 7288 Senior Vice Commander Ray Ketcham and Men’s Auxiliary President Tony Nye measure a tee shot for possible prizes. A total of 76 golfers participated in the Tommy “Two Feathers” Par Three tournament.



Tom McCormack, commander of Post 7288 in Calabash, N.C., presents a \$2,000 check to Christine Bender of the Wilmington chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association at a Post meeting on Oct. 5, 2010. Made in the name of late Post member Tommy Roehm, the donation was earmarked for ALS research.

“It’s an effort by a VFW Post in the state producing funds that go to help a cause based in the same state.”

—Ray Ketcham, tournament chair

Publicize Your Post and Active-Duty Members

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406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
E-mail: tdyhouse@vfw.org



Posts with the Most VFW POSTS OF 1,000 MEMBERS OR MORE AS OF DEC. 14, 2010

Rank	Post No.	Location	Members
1	1114	Evansville, IN	2,383
2	1503	Dale City, VA	1,991
3	9972	Sierra Vista, AZ	1,782
4	6506	Rosedale, MD	1,695
5	8862	Vicenza, Italy	1,670
6	2485	Angeles City, Philippines	1,554
7	4372	Odessa, TX	1,551
7	4647	North Highlands, CA	1,551
9	392	Virginia Beach, VA	1,536
10	27	Wiesbaden, Germany	1,513
11	628	Sioux Falls, SD	1,505
12	1146	St Clair Shores, MI	1,385
13	972	Terre Haute, IN	1,378
13	1296	Bloomington, MN	1,378
15	9785	Eagle River, AK	1,370
16	63	Boise, ID	1,342
17	7234	Ocean View, DE	1,341
18	6873	Abilene, TX	1,338
19	5958	Titusville, PA	1,322
20	2503	Omaha, NE	1,298
21	7330	Oakville, CT	1,283
22	10097	Fort Myers Beach, FL	1,267
23	1599	Chambersburg, PA	1,233
24	2111	Chula Vista, CA	1,230
25	7686	Alamogordo, NM	1,217
26	8951	West York, PA	1,199
27	1273	Rapid City, SD	1,174
28	4809	Norfolk, VA	1,173
29	1326	Bismarck, ND	1,168
30	788	Cedar Rapids, IA	1,159
31	1512	Lemon Grove, CA	1,155
32	1308	Alton, IL	1,139
33	401	Albuquerque, NM	1,129
34	10436	Kitzingen, Germany	1,121
35	10047	North Las Vegas, NV	1,119
36	10420	Murrells Inlet, SC	1,097
37	1079	Elyria, OH	1,096
38	9534	Mannheim, Germany	1,094
39	549	Tucson, AZ	1,074
40	969	Tacoma, WA	1,071
41	5555	Richfield, MN	1,070
42	379	Yakima, WA	1,051
43	1170	Middletown, KY	1,027
44	3282	Port Orange, FL	1,025
45	10692	Grafenwoehr, Germany	1,022

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Age: 31

Eligibility:

Operation Iraqi Freedom

Cost to pay annually over the course of her membership* \$1,540
Cost to be a VFW Life Member \$410

How much she saves \$1,130

Cost to be a life member in other vet organizations up to **\$1,343**

* Based on remaining a member through age 75



Age: 63

Eligibility:

Vietnam War

Cost to continue to pay annually over the course of his membership* \$420
Cost to be a VFW Life Member \$290

How much he saves \$130

Cost to be a life member in other vet organizations up to **\$839**

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