



COMMANDERS MESSAGE

Last year it was my honor to award 50 and 60 year continuous membership awards to fifty-two members of our Post. This year I just presented or mailed out thirty-seven 30 and 40 year continuous membership awards. I congratulate each and every one of you for your loyalty. Continuous membership awards are presented to those members who have, without any break in time or absence, maintained their membership in our Post or any other Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars through the payment of yearly dues or life



membership. This award is based upon membership only and is not related to attendance at Post meetings and activities. Of our 287 membership total, only about 20 to 25 members (9%) regularly attend our Post meetings and activities. This is understandable in that a large number of our members, myself included, are in their mid 70's and 80's, and are not able to be as active as they once were. Those 20 to 25 members who do regularly attend our Post meetings and activities are in fact very active with wakes, funerals, community activities, visiting of sick & shut-in's and 4th of July, Memorial Day and Veterans Day activities, etc. and I am very proud of them. We need and must recruit new, younger members as well initiate programs/activities that will entice some of our younger

non-active members to re-join us in our monthly meetings and activities. I invite you all to again attend our activities and meetings and I am sure you will be pleased with the changes over the past several years.

As you may or may not know, we are entering a period for the election or appointment of new Post Officers, Committees, etc. The Nomination Committee will present to the membership at our regular Post meeting on March 11th the names of those members who have expressed a desire to serve as an Officer of the Post. Additional nominations, if any, will also be accepted from the floor at this time. Nominations will then be closed. At our regular scheduled Post meeting of April 8th actual elections will be held and appointments made. Installation of new Officers will be accomplished prior to the convening of the Department Convention but they shall not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed. I encourage any and all who are interested in serving your Post to please let it be known.

In conclusion, I want to inform you that I will not be a candidate for re-election as your Commander. It has been a honor and privilege to serve as your Commander and to share in the trust and confidence you bestowed upon me. However, after three consecutive years as your Commander, I feel it is time to pass the torch to another. I have made no secret the fact that I want to see younger leadership defining the path of our Post. For experience

purposes, I have recently delegated to our young Senior and Junior Vice Commanders the responsibility of managing Post meetings, wakes, funerals, etc. and they will do so until election of new Post Officers in April. This is a new generation of veterans and we need leaders who have walked their walk and talk their talk if we are going to be successful in attracting these young veterans into our Comradeship. To this end, I have been grooming, over the past year, several of our young veterans to accept and run for positions of leadership within our Post and I am sure you will see their names presented as candidates for office in the very near future. I urge you to give them the opportunity to demonstrate what they can do for our Post.

Bill Duke
Commander

Post Scholarships

General Instructions

Students who wish to apply for the VFW Post 1093 Scholarship must submit a completed VFW application as well as a complete IHS General Scholarship Application (regardless of which high school the attend.) Documents should be submitted to IHS Guidance office for students at IHS. All others must submit their forms directly to VFW Post 1093 at the following address:

VFW Post 1093	OR	In person at Post Quarters
ATTN: Scholarship Committee		110 County Rd.
PO Box 281		Ipswich
Ipswich, MA 01938		

or scanned documents by email to scholarship@VFWPost1093.com

Application Details for Spring 2010

Applications must be received no later than 15 April. Applications received after April 15th will not be considered. Documents are available for download below:

[VFW Post 1093 Scholarship Description](#)

[VFW Post 1093 Scholarship Application](#)

IHS General Application (to be posted shortly----- Link to info is

<http://www.vfwpost1093.com/Scholarship.html>

VSOs - VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICERS. VSO's are appointed by mayors or the board of selectmen in towns to administer MA Chapter 115 benefits to veterans. They process applications for emergency assistance benefits that are paid to veterans and/or their dependents for periods of time when they may not be able to support themselves. They also administer benefits for burial expenses of veterans and their dependents who die without sufficient means to pay for funeral expenses. Eligible dependents of deceased veterans are provided with the same benefits as if the veteran were still living. See M.G.L. ch 115 and 108 CMR (Code of Massachusetts Regulations.



" Post Commander, Bill Duke, as a Marine Lt. and his team returning from a re-supply reconnaissance in support of the First Marine Division near Chulai, Vietnam in 1966."

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Reports are arriving from Comrades Bill Duke, Pete Wilson, Ed Marsh, Chad Freeman, Bill Pfaller and Ed Bryant pertaining to their community involvement which will be reported to District. It looks like we will again be shown to be a substantial positive force in the life of our community. It should also be recognized that our members work outside of just our local area. Pete Wilson, for example, travels with the Patriot Riders who have associated with the post and they have served vets interest outside of Ipswich. Bill Pfaller continues to conduct a monthly meeting at Brooksby Village in Peabody for the benefit of veterans who reside at that community. Ed Byant continues to work in surrounding communities on behalf of the service academies They carry the VFW message to assist different constituencies and do much to assist fellow veterans. If the Adjutant should have included your name above please remind him to do better in the future. If you have not reported your community activities with a VFW input then YOU are urged to do a better job of reporting in the future.

In our last report we were able to identify over 1,200 hours of community service. With the help of all comrades we can increase this to over 1,500 hours. We are counting on your support.

COMMANDER DUKE, THE BATTLE FOR IWO JIMA AND POST 1093

February 19, 1945 is the anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima. October is the 65th anniversary of Ipswich VFW Post 1093. I mention both because in its initial years, and beyond, our Post has been honored to have survivors of this battle as members. The Marines 5th Corps landed two divisions abreast on the southeast landing beaches of Iwo Jima, the 5th division landed on the left and the 4th division landed on the right with the 3rd division remaining in reserve. My Dad's brother was a machine gun section leader with the 1st battalion, 5th marines with the first wave of troops onto the island. As everyone knows the flag raising at Iwo Jima became Joe Rosenthal's Pulitzer Prize winning photograph of the battle. The surviving Marines and corpsman who raised that flag provided the basis for the most successful War Bond drive of the war. The battle lasted for 36 days and resulted in more than 26,000 American casualties, including 6,800 dead. Of the 20,000 Japanese defenders, only 1,083 survived. A total of twenty-seven Medals of Honor were awarded, many posthumously, to Marines and sailors which was the highest number awarded from any single operation during the war. My uncle never forgot the horrors of that battle. However, in spite of the Iwo Jima experience, he joined his home town Marine Corps Reserve Unit when he returned from the Pacific. When the Korean War started he, along with his home town unit were dispatched to Korea to join Chesty Puller at the Chosen Reservoir along with many more survivors from the Battle of Iwo Jima.. I know of at least two of our Post members who were also at the Reservoir, Edwin Surpitski and Nicholas George. Each year survivors of Iwo Jima hold a reunion at different locations. This year the Iwo Jima Association of America is hosting a 65th reunion in Arlington, Virginia and our Post will be hosting a banquet in Ipswich celebrating our 65th anniversary.



Bill Duke, Commander

The Associate Press reports that nearly a dozen veterans were able to make an anniversary trip to Iwo Jima but they needed the help of the Marine Corps to get there. The originally



scheduled flight was diverted to Haiti to assist in quake aid. Semper Fi. One of those attending the 65th anniversary of the landing was former Marine Corps commander 97 year old Richard Rothwell (photo at Mount Suribachi) who toured the island with Marine escorts pushing his wheelchair. Rothwell was commander of a Fourth Marines Division battalion when the invasion began. He is quoted as saying, "I was here for the entire mission, start to finish. I had people killed next to me

and around me and I was just very fortunate to make it out alive." The US flag was raised above Mount Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945, but fighting continued for more than a month. Nearly 28,000 troops were killed in "one of the war's most iconic battles." Though Iwo Jima

is now described as "a paradise" by Rothwell it is inhabited only by about 300 Japanese troops because it is believed to be covered with too much unexploded ordnance to be habitable. Post 1093 recently received from an anonymous donor a copy of the Iwo Jima Memorial which is located near Arlington cemetery, across the Potomac river from Washington, D.C

KNOWING THE BENEFITS OF BELONGING TO THE VFW IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP. BEING AWARE OF THESE BENEFITS, AS WELL AS OTHER VETERANS INFORMATION GATHERED FROM MANY SOURCES INCLUDING OTHER VETERANS, HAS NOW BEEN MADE EASIER (TUTORIALS INCLUDED).

STAYING IN TOUCH WITH THE NEW VFW

<http://www.vfw.org/index.cfm?fa=news.levelc&cid=3807&tok=1>
FROM THE VFW WEB SITE



Getting started is easy,
staying connected is even easier.

Keep up with today's
fast-paced world.

Learn how to connect online
with today's military and veterans.



Due to popular demand, the VFW has initiated several new means of communicating news and information, and sharing videos and pictures directly with you. Now, you have the option of receiving all the latest updates from VFW National Headquarters via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [MySpace](#), [TogetherWeServed](#) and the [VFW Blog](#).

Video sharing, social networking, and blogging websites are extremely important in today's fast paced world and make networking easy. It offers us the opportunity to make all of the great things our organization does for service members and veterans readily available to you, while we build relationships with innumerable military supporters along the way.

Unlike some new networking sites created specifically for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, VFW is encouraging veterans of all theatres to follow our updates, give us your feedback, and share some information of your own.

Want to follow the VFW social networks, but not sure how to get started? We've prepared some simple "getting started" guides(including video tutorials) for your convenience. Click one of the links below to get started!

[Twitter Guide & Video Tutorial](#)
[Facebook Guide & Video Tutorial](#) [MySpace Guide & Video Tutorial](#)
[YouTube Guide & Video Tutorial](#) [VFW Blog Guide](#)

WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS A LAWYER LEGAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE

If a veteran needs legal assistance/help with legal matters the Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin recommends contact with the Mass. Bar Association Boston Office at (617) 338-0500 or, in Essex County, Merrimack Legal Services in Lawrence at (978) 687-1177, either of which may offer sliding fee and pro bono services

NOTES FROM THE FEBRUARY POST MEETING

VOD Chair Bob Metz welcomed Danielle Doucette, an Ipswich High School senior, and her parents to the meeting where she was awarded a cash prize as winner of the VOD District competition. A request was received from VFW life member Thomas Kaszuba to join Post 1093. The transfer was voted. The meeting was recessed to permit Army Sgt. Austin representing the local Army recruiting center to speak to post members in order to introduce himself and discuss his mission and the intention of the local recruiting personnel to work with this post and the community generally. Chaplain Hurley advised that Comrade Nick Markos had died. A letter was received from the Director of Ipswich Caring thanking the Post for our recent contribution of \$500. Committee reports included a request by Comrade Pete Wilson to permit the Patriot Riders to conduct a course in a new method of doing CPR on March 20th in the post hall and permission was granted. Proposed prerequisites consistent with a January meeting review were voted in the affirmative and included by reference in these minutes (Note; see scholarship information printed separately in this newsletter and it is available on the post web site). Comrade Metz reporting for the VOD Committee advised that the student sponsored by the post had not advanced beyond winning the District competition. It was voted that the student Danielle Doucette be awarded \$250 and the participating teacher, Deborah Faust, be awarded \$100. Chad Freeman, Chair of the Program and Events Committee, spoke relative to the upcoming Iraq/Afghanistan Vets Convention and a possible Post Anniversary dinner. Under New Business post membership awards were presented to Comrades Ed Bryant for 30 years membership and Buddy Bernard for 40 years. Comrade Ed Marsh spoke suggesting members join a group March 5th at the Mass State House in Boston, MA for a ceremony featuring the presentation of a Joint Resolution of the Massachusetts House and Senate recognizing the wonderful work of Michael Reagan and the Fallen Heroes Portrait Project on behalf of Massachusetts' Fallen Heroes and their families. Post 1093 will provide an honor guard under the direction of Sr. Vice Commander Metz for the ceremony.

In late news Comrade Pete Nicholson, who was recently hospitalized, has now been moved to Caldwell where he is convalescing. We wish him a speedy and full recovery. At the Fallen Heroes Project Ceremony to be held at the State House 5 March 2010 Comrade Mike Doyon will be in attendance representing the Doyon family as the portrait artist Michael Reagan did in memory of his brother Paul is presented. Comrade Buddy Bernard has been vacationing but the lounge remains in good hands while QM Bob Riddle keeps his eye on things (what is wrong with that sentence?). Commander Duke, who will be conducting the March meeting, has initiated the practice of having a collation following post meetings and they have been enjoyable opportunities to get to know our fellow comrades better or catch up on what old friends have been doing. It is also good, for example, to see the "old timers" exchange stories with our newer comrades. Rich Barbato, who recently moved to a more southern state, is reportedly doing well in an executive position and continues to stay current with post activities. Rich is donating military items from his collection to the Post and many of his past donations can be seen on display in the lounge. Speaking of the lounge, Buddy Bernard continues to make improvements and if you haven't visited the lounge recently you should stop in for a visit. It's looking great. See you March 11th at 1900