

IPSWICH POST 1093  **VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**

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JULY, 2009 POST NEWSLETTER

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

On June 13th the Post sponsored an event we called "Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans Convention. The purpose was to bring together as many Iraq-Afghanistan veterans that we could muster to welcome them home and to provide information that could help them in their transition back to civilian life. We had speakers and information relative to P.T.S.D, re-adjustment, veteran benefits, educational opportunities, job market opportunities, etc. and what veterans organizations could do for them. Lunch was an old fashion American cook-out with hot dogs, hamburgers, beans, salads, etc. It was also a time we all could interact together and get to know each other. The widow of General Patton, II also spoke to our honored guests and provided encouragement to all. She was very gracious and kind. Even though the turnout of new Iraq/Afghanistan veterans was not as large as we had hoped, it was a very good first step which we hope to build on in the months ahead. Many members of our Post also turned out to greet and welcome these new veterans as well as to set up the hall and grounds. I thank them all for the hard work and especially Rich Barbato, our Senior Vice Commander, and his crew for all their efforts and hard work in organizing this event. Marty's doughnuts donated dozens and dozens of doughnuts, the Ipswich Seafood Company provided food, grills, etc as well as many, many other local vendors donating what they could to make this event a success. I thank them all.

On August 9th, the Ipswich 375th Birthday parade will take place. Our Post has been asked to lead the 1st Division, representing the 16th century, in this parade. There will be antique cars, floats, fife & drum corps, etc. Our participation will consist of the VFW Commander and a honor guard consisting of our National Colors, Post Flag, Guards and as many of our Post Comrades as wish to ride or march. There will be four other divisions following us. The parade will start at the High School and terminate at the Town Hall. Comrades Ed Bryant and Dave Comeau are coordinating this program for the 375th Committee.

In the weeks ahead your Senior Vice Commander, Rich Barbato, will assume the office of Post Commander due to my absence. My absence is as a result of the shut-down of one of my organs and upcoming surgery on the 9th of July to correct this problem. It is anticipated that recovery will take a few weeks. I am confident that Rich will do an outstanding job and serve the Post well.

Bill Duke

CHANGE IN STARTING TIME OF MEETINGS TO 7:00 P.M.

Beginning with the July monthly Post meeting the meeting will start at 1900, 7:00 p.m. local time. This change will also apply to all regularly scheduled post meetings.

ITEMS FROM THE JUNE POST MEETING MINUTES

Commander Duke that life VFW member Frank Bayer has applied for transfer to Post 1093 and a new membership application was received from Ivan Muise both applications being referred to the Screening Committee. Commander Duke reported receipt of a letter of appreciation from Comrade Jack Poitier for the Post's participation in his brother's funeral. A letter of appreciation was also received from the Ipswich Youth Basketball League for our donation. A Memorial Day Proclamation received from the State will be placed on display. Items received from Comrade Joe Burns daughter were noted including old army manuals and a patch which will be displayed at the post quarters. The commander noted receipt of information concerning the planned Town of Ipswich 375th Anniversary Celebration parade to be held on August 9th. There will be 5 divisions in the parade and this post has been asked to lead Division 1 with the Post Commander Duke

commanding and with a color guard provided by this post. With regard to committees the Nomination, Screening, Scholarship, VOD and Boy Scout Committees had no action to report. The Funeral and Color Guard Committee reported participation in 5 funerals within a 2 week period. Jake Burridge reported for the Scholarship Committee that two Ipswich students had qualified for Best Attendance awards and on motion by Pete Wilson seconded by Bob Metz it was voted that \$100 be awarded to each of the two students. Jake Burridge also spoke concerning the academic scholarships awarded by the post to Ipswich students Colleen Josephson and Kristen Nick. The commander thanked all post members who had participated in the Memorial Day activities noting the outstanding participation by post members and the enthusiastic response by everyone at the ceremonies and on the parade route. The commander, Rich Barbado and Chad Freeman spoke concerning the upcoming Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans Convention to be held here on 13 June noting the planning and scheduling of events as well as providing lunch and refreshments. Commander Duke advised uniform patches were available. He noted that the newly elected officers would take their positions at the July meeting.

Under new business Buddy Benard reported that the post needed to replace the post supply of grave markers and ammunition. Commander Duke said that he would order these items. The Post annual flag burning was scheduled for Sunday, 14 June at 1800. **Commander Duke proposed that post meetings start at 1900 vice 1930 and it was noted that this would include all official meetings for the conduct of post business. Following discussion it was so moved and voted** on motion of Pete Wilson seconded by Chad Freeman. In accordance with VFW regulations the starting time of 1900 will become effective after 14 days and it was noted that this preempts the post by-laws. The commander also recommended that the post consider serving refreshments at post meetings. Following discussion it was the consensus that this recommendation be given further consideration at the July meeting. It was recommended by Screening Committee member Jake Burridge that membership be approved for Ivan Edward Muise and it was so moved by Dan Gallant and seconded by Joe Parks and voted in the affirmative. Bob Metz won the meeting raffle and **Jack Poirier** won the membership raffle but **was not present**. The meeting was closed in due form by Commander Duke and adjourned on motion by Pete Wilson seconded by Chad Freeman at 2055.

FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING
IPSWICH POST 1093 VFW INC. - BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ELECTION RESULTS - JUNE, 2009

PRESIDENT:	Buddy Bernard - Term expires 7/2010
VICE-PRESIDENT	Bill Duke - Post commander
TREASURER	Bob Riddle - Indefinite
CLERK	George Lewis - Term expires 7/2010
	Dan Gallant - Term expires 7/2010
Ted LeMieux - Term expires 7/2011	Cliff Wentworth - Term expires 7/2011
Jake Burridge - Term expires 7/2012	Bob Metz - Term expires 7/2012

President Buddy Bernard opened the meeting with a presentation by the office of accountant Jay Tsoutsouras reviewing financial results for the past year which reflected that the Post is on sound financial footing but that the lounge has been effected by the poor economy. Pres. Bernard reported that overall relationships with the YMCA had been adequate in the past year although maintenance was incomplete in some areas. A new ice machine had been purchased. While there had not been any major renovations a number of minor changes and cosmetic improvements had been made. President Bernard noted that an increase in bar prices consistent with the increased cost of operations would be reviewed by the incoming Board of Directors. He also proposed a change in the Corporate By-Laws to include a new position of Director-at-Large to fill in for any board member who would be absent from board meetings for an extended period of time. This proposal will be the subject of a proposed by-law change at the next annual meeting. The meeting adjourned following the election of directors.

IN CASE YOU HADN'T HEARD

Priority 8 Enrollment Update: VA changed enrollment eligibility rules on June 15 to make it easier for more veterans to enroll in VA's health care system. Under this new provision, they expect about 266,000 more veterans to enroll this year and possibly 500,000 in the next four years. VA relaxed income restrictions on enrollment for health benefits. While this new provision does not remove consideration of income, it does increase income thresholds. A web-based calculator is available for veterans to enter personal data at <http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/apps/enrollmentcalculator/>. Veterans may also contact VA's health resource center at 1-877-222-8387 or visit the VA health eligibility website at <http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/>

TAPS

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES - MAY THEY REST IN PEACE



O God, Father of us all, we offer this final earthly tribute to our beloved comrades who have passed on. The best wishes of the post members are extended to all comrades currently suffering from ill health or recuperating from injury. All comrades and their families are requested to advise Chaplain Bill Hurley regarding fallen or ill comrades or any comrade in need of assistance. He may be contacted by calling 978-462-4053 or on the web at subhurley@aol.com.

POST QUARTERS – AN UPDATE

If you haven't visited the post recently, and this includes too many of comrades, you will be surprised at the changes that have taken place to make our quarters more user friendly. Buddy Bernard has done a remarkable job making the bar into an attractive, comfortable place to enjoy your drink of choice. Smoking is not allowed inside but are accommodated outside the entrance to the building. A flat screen TV can be seen from any seat. The walls hold many new items of interest to veterans. Perhaps the greatest changes will be noted when you visit the upstairs lounge for post members and their guests. Here is the post computer but you will also find a TV with comfortable seating, a coffee maker, the pool table, photo albums of post members and events, a large number of books and an atmosphere perfect for meeting old friends and comrades. Unfortunately the stairs are steep but there is a hand rail and the effort is worth it.

BE AN ACTIVE, CONCERNED, SUPPORTIVE VFW MEMBER

Congress is on recess and is expected to return to Washington on July 7. Their very busy July agenda involves completing all 12 appropriations packages – including the VA/Military Construction and Defense bills. Other VFW legislative priorities that need final approval and votes include the Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act, Advanced Funding for VA Medical Care, and several bills that will expand benefits for veterans. Now is a great time to visit the district offices and urge your legislators to pass our priority goals. For a list of our goals and the bills we support, visit the VFW website and click on the Capitol Hill link at: <http://www.vfw.org/index.cfm?fa=caphill.home&tok=1>.



IRAQ/AFGHANISTAN VETERANS CONVENTION OPERATION WELCOME HOME - 13 June 2009

The first Post 1093 Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans Convention was a great First Effort. There were empty chairs, but those vets and post members who attended and those who helped with planning and set-up were unanimous in praising the event and left with worthwhile information and a T-shirt and were glad to have participated in an event full of that comradeship unique to veterans of foreign wars. Commander Duke supported the project 100% as did the post membership. Sr. Vice Commander Rich Barbato is to be commended for his initiative in originating, planning and arranging the convention and Jr. Vice Commander Chad Freeman for his support. Buddy Bernard did his usual fine job providing set-up, lunch and refreshments. Special thanks are due Chrissi Pappas of the Ipswich Shellfish Group for their generous support. Many other post members who provided assistance and support also deserve mention as well but space is limited. They know who they are and they deserve the thanks of the Post and the veterans who attended. Their help was and is appreciated. Ipswich Post 1093 will host a similar convention next year, building on the foundation put in place this year. In the meantime we hope to welcome more new members to an ever-more-vigorous VFW Post. Let's extend a welcoming hand to our new veterans, you know, every day in every way and that includes giving them an application and an invitation to join Post 1093.

Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War



With all of the current news relating to the aggressive actions by North Korea it is appropriate to go back 59 years and remember the Korean War and the veterans who served as a result of the North Korean Army invasion of the South on June 25, 1950. To access the official, public access web site for the United States of America's Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War go to:

<http://korea50.army.mil/welcome.shtml> which was the starting point for all public information regarding events during the **commemoration period which ran from**

June 25, 2000 through Nov 11, 2003. All the commemorative material is still on line and recalls a time of difficult and dedicated service. The ramifications of this service continue as on May 27, 2009, North Korea announced it was withdrawing from the armistice which ended the Korean War, citing what they claim as South Korea's violation of its terms. Although this has been portrayed as a provocation to war, it should be noted that although North Korea has nullified the armistice, South Korea did not even become a signatory member. This is also not the first time that North Korea has "withdrawn" from the armistice.

FISHER HOUSE

The Post has in the past donated to the Fisher House Foundation. What is it, where is it and why did we contribute! The **Fisher House Foundation** provides humanitarian support to members of the United States Armed Forces and their families by providing comfortable temporary lodging for families when a military member or dependent requires specialized or extended medical care. Fisher House facilities enabled families to stay together while a loved one is undergoing long-term treatment. The Boston Globe (July 3) columnist Adrian Walker wrote about Fisher House in an article titled, "Our Duty to Care." He notes that there is not a Fisher House in Boston although the Foundation has donated \$3 million for a house in West Roxbury that is scheduled to open next year although local donors will have to raise another \$3 million.

The Fisher House program was established by Zachary Fisher and his wife Elizabeth. The first "Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher House" was opened in Bethesda, Maryland at the National Naval Medical Center on 24 June 1990. President George H. W. Bush and Mrs. Barbara Bush opened the second Fisher House at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. To date, the program consists of 43 houses located near nine Veterans Affairs hospitals and 18 military installations across the country and at one United States military installation in Europe. From these locations, Fisher House serves more than 10,000 military families per year. The Fisher House program plans to build 16 more lodging facilities to complete its nationwide support network. Fisher Houses are given to the United States Government as gifts by the Fisher House Foundation. Each house is designed to provide eight to 21 family suites. The houses accommodate 16 to 42 family members. They feature a common kitchen, laundry facilities, spacious dining room, and a family style living room with a library. Toys are provided for the younger children. Fisher Houses are a temporary residence, not a treatment facility or counseling center. They are normally within walking distance of a military or Veterans Affairs hospital. Our contributions at work.....veterans helping veterans and their families.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION – AND THE OFFICIAL VFW ANSWERS

Question: Are there other perks with my VFW membership? ANSWER: There are a number of benefits to membership. VFW National would be happy to send you a Member Benefit brochure. (Free benefits include the No-Cost AD&D coverage, complimentary Honor Roll registry, hotel/motel and car rental discounts, access to VFW Veterans Service officers, etc. Voluntary benefits include various life, accident and health insurance options, VFW branded Internet service, cell phone plan, Dell computer packages, etc.).

QUESTION: Can a U.S. flag be flown at half-staff at the local level when a member of the Post is deceased? ANSWER: No. Only the President of the United States or Governor can request a U.S. flag to be half-staffed. It is suggested that the VFW organizational flag, if on a separate pole, be half-staffed.

QUESTION: Can a person nominate himself as candidate for an elective position? ANSWER: Yes. Demeter's Manual of Parliamentary Law provides that a member has the right to nominate himself

QUESTION: How may I get a copy of my DD214? ANSWER: To apply for a DD214 go to the The National Archives website at www.vetrececs.archives.gov.



American paratroopers, heavily armed, sit inside a military plane as they soar over the English Channel en route to the Normandy French coast for the Allied D-Day invasion of the German stronghold during World War II, June 6, 1944. (AP Photo)

Under heavy German machine gun fire, American infantrymen wade ashore off the ramp of a Coast Guard landing craft on June 8, 1944, during the invasion of the French coast of Normandy in World War II. (AP Photo)

