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APRIL, 2010 POST NEWSLETTER

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

In the past twelve months we, the members of our Post, have had the sad but proud duty to assemble and pay a lasting tribute of respect to nineteen of our VFW Comrades as well as other veterans who have passed away. About two and one half years ago I approached the Commanders of the other three Veteran organizations in Ipswich with the idea of all four Posts participating in the Wake and Internment for all veterans regardless of which Post the deceased may have belonged to as well as veterans who do not belong to any veterans organization if so requested by the family. It has been my deep belief that all veterans deserve and have the right to be escorted to their final resting place with full military honors and respect. To date this has been a huge success in that it is normal now to see twenty to twenty five veterans assembled at each Wake and twelve to fifteen at the Internment. As Commander I have been told over and over again by the families of our deceased that these large numbers of veterans assembled to show their respect means more to them than words can describe. Our Post has a very dedicated and loyal group of Comrades who participate at every Wake and Internment in both good and bad weather conditions and I am sure they will continue to do so after I am gone. I am very proud of them and to them I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation.



At our regular scheduled Post meeting on the 8th of April we will be voting on a slate of nominations for Post Officers as presented at our March meeting. This slate is outlined elsewhere in this Newsletter. However, additional nominations will be accepted again from the floor and closed just prior to the actual election process on the 8th. I strongly urge all Comrades to attend, make a nomination if so inclined and vote. This is your Post and you have the right to determine your leadership.

In the next several weeks/months we will be preparing for and participating in events such as Memorial Day, Memories Night, the 2nd Iraq/Afgan Convention, 4th of July, Veterans Day, 65th Post Anniversary, State Convention, etc. Our Program and Events Chairman, Chad Freeman, will have his hands full coordinating these events so I ask as many of our Comrades as possible to please assist him. We need to put together programs, coordinate with other veteran organizations, advertise, work out the logistics, etc. Let him know you are there to help. We cannot ask two or three Comrades to carry the load for the entire Post.

In conclusion, we are about to see and experience new blossoms, greener grass, nice sunny days, fishing, picnics and family outings. Let us be grateful for this cycle of life and enjoy it to its fullest. May God bless us and our families.

Bill Duke, Commander

FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH POST MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Senior Vice Commander Bob Metz and was then recessed in order that Commander Duke could welcome members of the Patriot Riders who presented the commander with a plaque and photographs in appreciation for the donation by this post of colors to *Veterans Northeast Outreach Center, Inc.* in Haverhill through that organization. Following remarks by the commander as he accepted the award the meeting was called to order. In the absence of Chaplain Bill Hurley the commander noted that Comrade Pete Wilson was home recuperating and QM Riddle reported that Comrade Al Heigh was confined at Beverly Hospital but we can report that he is now home and recuperating. Commander Duke assumed the podium and requested the report of the Nominating Committee. The Commander then requested additional nominations from the floor. There being none nominations were closed. Comrade Ed Marsh spoke noting local newspaper publicity relating to our Voice of Democracy winner. Program and Events Chair Chad Freeman spoke noting that he had made a number of contacts relating to the Iraq/Afghanistan Vet's Convention and other events and that he was moving forward with plans for all events. There was a general discussion concerning the transfer of VFW members to this post following the loss of a charter by another post. It was noted that individual requests for a transfer to this post would, as on previous occasions, be considered in accordance with regulations.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2010 - 2011

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| COMMANDER | ROBERT K. METZ |
| SR. VICE COMMANDER - | CHAD W. FREEMAN |
| JR. VICE COMMANDER | BUDDY BERNARD |
| QUARTERMASTER | ROBERT C. RIDDLE |
| CHAPLAIN | WILLIAM J. HURLEY |
| JUDGE ADVOCATE | WILLIAM E. DUKE |
| POST SURGEON | JOSEPH W. PARKS |
| TRUSTEE 3 YEARS | PETER WILSON |
| Serving Trustees- | |
| Jake Burridge - Term expires 2011 | |
| George Lewis - Term expires 2012 | |

Nominating Committee: George Lewis
Al Heigh
David Comeau



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.

Richard E. Weagle *** Michael F. Surpitski, Sr.

COMMENTS, OLD TIMES AND A REVIEW

This month we will elect officers for the coming year based on nominations made in the March meeting. They will lead us and ask for our support. They will also be asking for support, your support, as we move into a new year of Post activities which will include a celebration of our 65th anniversary. ***What did our Post look like in the bygone days of yesteryear?*** For one thing they had an "Annual Post Open House" and on **February 16, 1987** this is what a member had to look forward to: *"The festivities will begin at 4:00 P.M. and everyone is invited. Especially invited are all new members who have joined this past year. They will be given a mass obligation. Our Voice of Democracy Winner, Trina Josephson will present her essay. There will be a dedication of new American and Post colors in memory of late comrade Roland L. Wile. All World War I Veterans are invited as well as the general public. There will be entertainment. The affair will be brought to a close with refreshments served by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Post."*



Next month I'll run through the Post calendar for 1980. That's 30 years ago (for you mathematically challenged). While donors to the VFW Jimmy Fund Day included such by-gone names as Strand Furniture, Pechilis Liquor, Woolworth's, Window Book Store and, of course, Borgatti's Sub Shop, a few of the of members who worked on the project will sound familiar: How about Buddy Bernard, Bob Riddle, Pete Nicholson ! (Where was Jake Burrige ??)

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You may have seen a ten-part series on HBO titled *The Pacific* which deals with the 1st Marine Division and WW II in the Pacific. Of the featured characters in this series only 3 survive today, One of the survivors, an 85 year old retired physician, Dr. Sidney Phillips, who fought in the Battle of Guadalcanal , was a consultant for the film. A Wall Street Journal reporter, Amy Chozice, asked Dr. Phillips, "How realistic is *The Pacific*?" which tries "to create a narrative of a soldiers' daily life in the Pacific Theater." He replied, "The truth is there's a lot of Hollywood in all these films, but I do feel this is one of the best I've seen yet. But you can't show the weeks of endless boredom in a movie. You can't show the agony of nowhere to take a fresh



water shower week after week after week. And you can't show standing in line for four hours for food twice a day and the line is 1,000 yards long reaching around the troop tents. They can't show lying all night in the rain with mosquitoes eating you at night or the endless, endless weeks of eating the same old canned rationed food every day. That's not possible to put in a movie so a movie is never realistic."

* * * *



So we all know a bit about what it was like in the past --the same but different-- but it isn't possible to see into the future. Right now that belongs to the recruits. What will some VFW scribe be writing about us and Post 1093 in the years ahead? Become part of our future. And in particular let's embrace today's new veterans and welcome them into our "band of brothers and sisters." We have much to offer them.

ACTIVE SERVICE

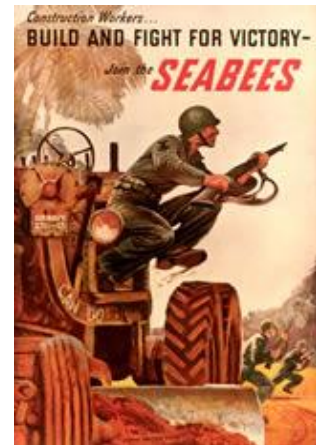
Your VFW Post and your comrades are active. Even though many of our members (current member count is 267) do not attend monthly post meetings the tradition of service is alive and well.



Comrades who have not attended a meeting in a while should be aware that their post continues as an active, contributing organization offering unique opportunities for community service, assistance and support for fellow veterans and a chance to join in fellowship with those who also served.

What has been happening at Post 1093? A couple of examples: Starting at the top Commander Bill Duke has brought your post into the computer age.

Recognizing that National is pushing for increased use of computer reporting as well as using the internet as a primary source of information for VFW members, he has been instrumental in installing a post computer system and using it to report and file post records. When we needed suitable furniture to house the new equipment he built it. He accomplished in addition to adding many other amenities in the second floor meeting room so it is an attractive, comfortable area in which to watch TV, read one of the available books, have a cup of coffee or whatever, play a little pool or just talk with old or new friends. The first floor lounge also has a new look. Manager (and OD) Buddy Bernard has (in the writer's unbiased opinion) updated equipment and made changes resulting in our having the absolute best spot in Ipswich to enjoy a brew with a buddy. When you stop in be sure to take a look at the trophies on the walls. Comrade Rich Barbato and others have provided items of great interest to veterans in particular of which add to an ambience unmatched anywhere else in town. Your volunteer, elected members on the Board of Directors have been generous, dedicated and helpful in their support of our club operation.



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all

Our post premises have also been available for other activities, some involving veterans . Past Commander Pete Wilson has joined the Patriot Riders motorcycle group and he and they have participated in a variety of vets-related activities involving our quarters. On December 2nd last year

for example, 25 members of that group met at the post and welcomed 6 new members. They regularly make Sunday morning visits to the *Veterans Northeast Outreach Center, Inc.* in Haverhill to provide the resident veterans there with "donuts, raffles and conversation." As a result of this relationship your post donated badly needed replacement full-size U.S., state and P.O.W. flags for display on the flagpoles at the entrance to the Center. Mr Ratka, Executive Director of the Center wrote to us saying, "It is always heartwarming when organizations such as yours believe in our mission....." Last month at our March meeting a delegation from the Patriot Riders attended to present the post with photographs of the donated flags flying in front of the Center, again noting the appreciation of the Center and its resident veterans for their new flags. **Attend Post meetings, sign up for Active Service.**

WHIRLWIND - A BOOK WORTH READING

Whirlwind - a new book by Barrett Tillman, tells the story (as told by the author) how B-29 "Superfortress" and 'lesser aircraft' ended the war in the Pacific where, according to the



author, "air power forced the capitulation of a desperate, tenacious enemy and thus rendered unnecessary the ghastly prospect of the bloodiest invasion in the sanguinary history of the human race." The author also credits the hard-won availability in late 1944 to three newly-captured Pacific islands in the Marianas.....Guam, Saipan and Tinian. On Tinian, an island not much larger than Manhattan (N.Y.) 15,000 workers laid six runways, 11 miles of taxiways and parking areas, and so many roads and buildings that the little island qualified as the largest aviation complex in the world. From here began the "gr eat Tokyo fire raid in March 1945 and the finishing blows as atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Final casualty figures given for the B-29's in the campaign are estimated as 94 of them were shot down over Japan with the loss of 1,034 pilots and crew. . We should also note that the author of Whirlwind quotes a Japanese admiral who thought, "the Americans could be defeated on the beaches with an 'acceptable' loss of three million to five million Japanese citizens", though he conceded that the toll might reach 20 million---nearly a third of the country's population."

The author does note, "To be surethe B-29's weren't alone in savaging Japan. Smaller Army bombers and hordes of Army, Navy and Marine fighter planes joined the assault....." And, of course, before the air force landed we first had to endure the hard-fought battles on land and sea to control the Pacific Islands and we noted Iwo Jima in last month's newsletter. Next month perhaps we can get something about our armed forces in Alaska from Jake Burr ridge.



Health Care Reform Update

The new national healthcare law will help many veterans who are ineligible for DOD or VA care, but missing in the legislation was language that would clearly protect all military Tricare and VA healthcare programs. Buried in the 2,400-page bill were four lines of text that only recognized Tricare for Life and veterans' healthcare programs under chapter 17, Title 38, as being accepted as minimum essential coverage under the new law. There was no mention of other Tricare programs or other Title 38 recipients - dependents, widows or children. The VFW for the past week has been working with Congress to fix the new law with clear language that recognizes all DOD and VA healthcare programs. Leading the efforts in Congress are House Armed Services Committee Chairman Ike Skelton (D-Mo.) and ranking member Buck McKeon (R-Calif.), House VA Committee ranking member Steve Buyer (R-Ind.), Senate VA Committee Chairman Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) and ranking member Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), and Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee Chairman Jim Webb (D-Va.). With Congress set to recess this weekend, it is imperative that we keep them to their promise to protect the integrity and viability of the hard earned healthcare systems our nation's veterans, military and their families deserve. We will continue to monitor the provisions offered to the new law. A VFW press release is at <http://www.vfw.org/index.cfm?fa=news.newsDtl&did=5422>.

Congress on Recess: Congress is on spring recess and will be home in their district offices for the next two weeks, they return to Washington April 12. Now is the best time to visit them and discuss the health care reform law as well as all of our legislative priority goals - let them know that you expect them to do the right thing by our veterans and service men and women.



General George A. Custer, Dakota Territory, 1874 Black Hills Expedition

House VA Committee Discusses VA of the Future

VA Secretary Eric Shinseki testified before the House VA Committee regarding structuring the VA for the 21st Century. Outlining his goals for the second largest federal agency, Shinseki noted that automating VA's disability claims process and medical services is critical. Committee Chairman Bob Filner (D-CA) expressed the concerns of the committee saying they are not looking for a piecemeal approach, but real reform in addressing all the needs of America's veterans. For complete coverage or to view the recorded webcast, go to House VA Committee website at <http://veterans.house.gov/>.

IF YOU AREN'T ENTITLED - DON'T WEAR IT, CLAIM IT OR FORGE IT.



Xavier Alvarez
Convicted for falsely
claiming to have received
the Medal of Honor



Theodore Bantis
Convicted for wearing
unauthorized military
awards



Michael Bramlett
Convicted for wearing a
uniform and decorations
without authorization



Reggie L. Buddle
Convicted for falsely
claiming to be a Marine
chaplain



David Budwah
Convicted for falsely
claiming combat tours
in Iraq and Afghanistan



Anthony A. Calderone
Convicted for falsely
claiming to have received
a Silver Star



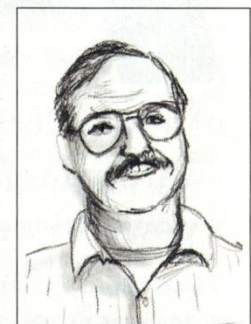
Timothy Allen DeBusk
Convicted for forging
a Purple Heart
certificate



Brian M. Dennehy
Convicted for falsely
claiming Vietnam
service



Raymond J. Gauthier
Convicted for wearing
unauthorized
medals



Michael D. Heit
Convicted for falsely
claiming to be
a POW