

# IPSWICH POST 1093 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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## JUNE, 2010 POST NEWSLETTER

### COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

This past Memorial Day I witnessed the largest crowd in a number of years attending and or participating in our annual Memorial Day parade. The number of participants included veterans from all four Town Veteran Organizations and others, police, fire, public officials, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownie Scouts, little Sea Scouts, High School Band and Chorus, Ms. Sweeny, who sang several songs, Masons, Rotary Club, Lady



Axillaries from the PLAV and AmVets, Patriot Riders motorcycle group, antique cars, vehicles for transporting of the handicapped furnished by Ipswich Ford, Cliff Wentworth, Jim Dort and others, and a sound truck provided by our VFW Al Heigh plus a military jeep provided by one of our patriotic town citizens. Mothers, wives of veterans and other ladies whose names I now do not recall also cooked up and served after parade refreshments and then assisted in the hall cleanup, our Buddy Bernard of the VFW who did a lot of work preparing the VFW memorial area with beautiful plantings and the hall and parade route setup through the YMCA parking lot. Our long time VFW Comrade Peter Nicholson was honored as our Parade Marshall and Harry Argeropoulos served as the Parade Sergeant-At-Arms coordinating the order of march and positioning of participants at five ceremony locations. The names of all who participated or assisted in this year's parade goes on and on and I apologize if I have missed anyone or group.

The Friday morning before the Memorial Day parade the Ipswich public schools hosted Memorial Day honors for all veterans of all wars and was coordinated by Jake Burrige. As usual, the programs as presented by these young people were outstanding and Ipswich should be very proud of these young men and women. That same Friday evening, veterans, citizens and Boy Scouts assembled at the Ipswich Cemeteries to place flags on the graves of all departed veterans. Again, as usual, the Cemetery employees did an outstanding job of preparing all cemeteries for this special occasion. The Sunday morning prior to Memorial Day the Greek Church of Ipswich invited all veterans to their special Memorial Day program.

I cannot describe the words to express my deepest and most sincere appreciation and thanks to all who participated. You all did one grand deed in the honoring of our departed. About three years ago the Commanders of all four Ipswich Veteran Organizations decided to meet on a regular basis each year to work together to plan, communicate and execute the Memorial and Veterans Day programs and to work as one toward providing appropriate honors at all veteran funerals. This Memorial Day, I believe, is a testament to the success of working together. In this thought I also want to remind you all that our Annual Corporation Meeting is the last Tuesday of June (the 29th) at 7:00PM at our Post Headquarters where we will provide an update of corporate business, finances and election of new members to the Board of Directors. I urge you all to attend.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for allowing me to serve as your Commander these past three years. It has been an honor and a privilege. I ask each of you to support your new incoming Commander with the same respect you have afforded me. I will always be available to the new Commander and Officers for any advice, support or assistance they may request. God bless you all.

Bill Duke, Commander



**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE - MAY 31, 2010**

Post officers for 2010-2011 will assume their stations at the June 10 meeting.

**Commander Bob Metz, Sr. Vice Commander Chad Freeman, Jr. Vice Commander Frank Lindquist  
 Quartermaster Bob Riddle, Chaplain Bill Hurley, Judge Advocate Bill Duke, Post Surgeon Joe Parks,  
 Trustees Jake Burridge/George Lewis/Pete Wilson, Officer of the Day Buddy Bernard,  
 Service Officer Chad Freeman, Adjutant George Lewis**

PHOTO BY ED MARSH

## FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MAY POST MEETING

Following the meeting being called to order by Commander Duke he then recessed the meeting in order to introduce Mr. Mark LaRoche the brother of deceased army veteran Raymond LaRoche for whom a memorial will be placed at the corner of Lafayette St and Wayne Ave. in Ipswich on July 31st, an event to which post members were invited to attend. It was voted that the post contribute to a memorial marker by making a donation of \$100. When the post meeting resumed under the Chaplain's report it was noted that member Frank "Bud" Dattillo had been admitted to the Lahey Clinic. It was noted that donations had been received in memory of Richard Weagle and Mike Surpitski. Also the Commander thanked Comrade Cliff Wentworth for donating items associated with the son of General Patton to the post. Committee Chair Jake Burrige reported that post scholarships of \$1,000 had been awarded to 4 Ipswich HS students following receipt of 31 applications. Each of the recipients was related to a post member. There was a round of applause by the attending members for the good work of the scholarship committee. The adjutant reported that this post was including all post member's community activities in the required semi-annual District report and that post members community activity and support efforts for the previous 6 month period was well in excess of 1,000 hours. Program and Events Committee Chair Chad Freeman reported that preparations were complete for the upcoming Vet's Memories event and donuts had been donated by Marty's and Dunkin Donuts. He noted that plans for the Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans Convention were also moving forward. **To avoid conflicting dates the date for the post's anniversary dinner was moved to October 24th.** Comrade Pete Wilson reported that he had participated with the Patriot Riders in a successful ride in Maine to raise funds for vets in need of assistance. Commander Duke spoke at length relative to the upcoming Memorial Day Parade noting that the VFW will lead the parade this year. He also noted that all vets are invited to an Ipswich School Memorial Day observance on May 28th and further noted that on May 28th veterans will assemble at Cowles Cemetery where, with the assistance of Boy Scouts coordinated by Comrade Larry McNeil, flags will be placed on veterans' graves. On Sunday morning May 29th there will be a morning service at the Greek Church hosting local veterans. Commander Duke presented Past Commander Dan Gallant who conducted the installation of the elected officers for 2010-2011 in due form.



The installation of post officers by Past Commander Dan Gallant

The Post Memories event was well attended and we were fortunate to have received many items for display. This photo shows a small area of the display but does not show any of the group of comrades and visitors who enjoyed refreshments while reminiscing and telling "war stories" while sitting at the provided "rest stops." One group of visitors continued on to Patton Park in Hamilton where an "old vet" claimed he drove one like as one of the "first into Rome." That argument still continues but one thing is sure, was a great day for memories.



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## 60 YEARS AGO



The Korean War began on 25 June 1950 and an armistice was signed on 27 July 1953.

Photo # NH 96378 U.S. Marines fighting in Seoul, Korea, Sept. 1950



In September of 1950, U.S. Marines engaged in fierce street fighting in the city of Seoul, Korea. The U.S. Naval Historical Center provides the following additional information about this picture: **Note M-1 rifles and Browning Automatic Rifles carried by the Marines, dead Koreans in the street, and M-4 "Sherman" tanks in the distance.**

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

Comrade Ed Marsh reports: You'll remember the ceremony in which many of our comrades participated in Boston a couple months ago for the Fallen Heroes Project. Since then I have presented a portrait to Mrs. Doyon, and Michael has agreed to draw another of Mark Larochelle in advance of the ceremony coming up at the end of July. You can learn more about the Fallen Heroes Project at [www.fallenheroesproject.org](http://www.fallenheroesproject.org) or on facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fallen-Heroes-Project/118574184238?ref=search&sid=1582268956.1233173083..1> ---- The Fallen Heroes display in the entry to post quarters represents the work of this program and is another example of the work of Commander Bill Duke who made and installed the display. The plaque displaying the names of long-time post members in the entryway is also Bill's work. Members will recall Jake Burrige's work in assembling names and material and the follow-up by Bill to complete the roster and send certificates to members testifying to their length of membership in our Post. Comrade Chad Freeman is working hard to make the arrangements for our Post 1093 65th Anniversary Gala now scheduled for October 24...note the change in the date. This will be an opportunity to gather with old comrades and celebrate the accomplishments of Post 1093. Reserve the date in your calendar now.

The recent Memories presentation at the post was an opportunity to show our premises to a number of visitors and they were all impressed at the facilities and services available to post members, particularly the second floor lounge with its TV, tapes, books, etc., etc., but there was always a good word for the light over the pool table. When you come to the Anniversary Dinner on 10/24 be sure to visit the second floor. The stairway has recently been renovated.

Comrade Pete Wilson was able to attend May's meeting after his recent hospitalization and recovery. Pete has been a big part of the post for many years and it was good to see him at a meeting. He has been a long-time Trustee but felt he would not be able to continue in that position. Fortunately newer members have volunteered to assume vacant posts and Comrade Frank Lindquist has assumed the post of Jr. Vice Commander. He joins Bob Metz and Chad Freeman as "younger" officers and will be bringing new ideas and vitality to the post. Bill Duke will continue to be on board as Judge Advocate and Bob Riddle as QM to keep an eye on our traditions and good works with Buddy Bernard available to keep order. If we run into trouble we fortunately continue to have the ministrations of Chaplain Bill Hurley available as needed. As Commander Bill Duke initiated the practice of having a collation following post meetings comrades have had an opportunity to become acquainted and enjoy the opportunity to spend time with old and new friends. Attendance at post meetings is increasing.

We should also thank our comrades who have been responding to the calls for funeral duty. Your post receives frequent requests for our participation (sometimes the call for volunteers for a firing party call for a quick response.) Please consider advising Commander Metz that you will participate in this important activity.

Comrade Rich Barbato organized a highly successful Iraq/Afghanistan convention event last year and the event will again be held this year. Sr. Vice Cmdr Chad Freeman is currently organizing the 2nd Annual OIF/OEF Convention which will be held July 24th. He would appreciate it if you would contact him and offer to help. Comrade Barbato reports he is as happy as one of his Ipswich Shellfish clams in a first-class mud flat in his current deployment. He continues to stay in close touch and remains a member of Post 1093.

For complete information regarding post activities be sure and visit our website at [www.vfwpost1093.com](http://www.vfwpost1093.com). This is a valuable resource and should be bookmarked for ready reference.

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

Readers may recall that in the April newsletter we included 10 photos of individuals who misrepresented a military history, falsely claiming service or personal recognition for meritorious action. The ten that were reported on were tried and convicted. Is this a common problem.....is there a reason why the VFW insists on post officers documenting their service? It appears that Dick Blumenthal (D)--Connecticut's Attorney General and Democratic nominee for Senate--has, at least a handful of times, claimed to have served "in" Vietnam. More accurately--and, in fact, the way Blumenthal himself usually describes it--he was a reservist who served *during* Vietnam, but never overseas. Google and you'll find that the AG isn't the only imaginative pol and the un-elected are also represented.

