

  
IPSWICH POST 1093 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
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<b>MAY, 2010 POST NEWSLETTER</b>
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**FROM THE COMMANDER**

We have had our annual election of Post Officers and I am very happy to welcome younger members into positions of leadership within our Post. I know they will bring new and fresh ideas with them and I encourage each and every one of us to support them in every way possible. Congratulations to all who were elected or re-elected.

As you all know it was my decision not to run for re-election as your Commander. This decision was based upon medical reasons and not because I grew tired of serving you or became disgruntled. The fact of the matter is that I enjoyed very much the challenges the Post presented. I tried to lead the Post to a more community orientated agenda and a stricter adherence to the VFW By-Laws and procedures in the conduct of Post business while at the same time providing a little fun and comradeship by instituting after meeting collations where we could eat, drink and engage in friendly chit chat. To this end, I hope I was successful. In any event, I had the full support and help of all our Comrades for which I am very thankful and appreciative. All our members and Officers worked very hard on behalf of our Post. However, there are some who go above and beyond what is expected and I offer a special thanks to them.

There are two upcoming events that I hope all our Comrades will attend and/or participate in. One is the Military Memories event on the 15th of May where we will have the opportunity to display our war and military memorabilia to the public and explain to the public attending what it is all about. Please, if you have not already done so, plan on participating and give the event chairman, Chad Freeman, a call or email so that he can reserve a table/space for you. Let's all make this a very special event for the Post. The second event is Memorial Day which we celebrate this year on Monday, May 31st. However, Memorial Day events start Friday morning, May 28th with the Schools honoring all veterans of all wars with specific programs at each of the schools. For those veterans who wish to attend, a school bus will pick them up at 7:30AM at the VFW parking lot and transport them to each of those schools providing honors to our veterans. Lunch will be served to the veterans at the conclusion of ceremonies at the Paul F Doyon Memorial School and then the school will bus the veterans back to the VFW parking lot. Wear your service or VFW uniform for this event. I attended last year and believe me the kids do a beautiful job of honoring our veterans. Jake Burridge is our contact for this event. We meet Friday evening, May 28th, at 6:00PM at the Cowles Cemetery to place flags on each veterans grave. There may also be a church service to honor veterans on Sunday but as of this writing it is not as yet set. Monday morning, May 31st at 9:30AM we assemble at the top of Town Hill and kick off the ceremonies and parade from there at 10:00AM and end the march and ceremonies at the VFW flag pole. Refreshments will be served in our hall upon conclusion of the parade and honors. Again, I urge all to attend/participate in these events.

Bill Duke, Commander

## POST OFFICERS - 2010 - 2011

Commander  
Senior Vice Commander  
Junior Vice Commander  
Quartermaster  
Chaplain  
Judge Advocate  
Post Surgeon  
Trustee - 3 years

Robert K. Metz  
Chad W. Freeman  
Francis Lindquist  
Robert C. Riddle  
William J. Hurley  
William E. Duke  
Joseph W. Parks  
Peter Wilson

Appointments:  
Chad W. Freeman, Service Officer  
chad.freeman1@googlemail.com  
George O. Lewis, Adjutant  
w1crlewis@comcast.net  
Photo: (L) Commander Robert Metz  
(R) Senior Vice Commander  
Chad Freeman



With new officers taking their stations in June they are sure to be asking for your help and support. Of course, asking comrades for their help, aid and assistance is a tradition within the services that has continued over the years in all VFW posts. For example, take our post, Post 1093. *Back in April, 1979* when the post commander was Stanley B. Colson, in their April newsletter we find the following: "The strength of the post continues to be in the willingness of its members to serve in positions of responsibility. If you are willing to serve contact the Commander, Joe Riley, Jake Burrigde or Frank Stewart." [If they were still among us the Adjutant feels that Stan, Joe and

Frank would still be standing tall with Jake, continuing to volunteer]. The requests for assistance must have been successful.

### **The following is copied from the November-December Post 1093 News Letter, 1979 edition.**

"DECEMBER 16 (1979) IS KIDS DAY AT THE VFW - December 16, (this is 1979 remember) is Kids Day at the VFW - from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. That's the day of the Annual Kids Christmas Party -- and that is a very big deal indeed. Sons and daughters (and grandsons and granddaughters) of Members, Boosters and Auxies are joyously welcome. There's cokes, candy, a gift from Santa; but mostly there's fun. Last year there was about 500 of us altogether. . . By the way -- we could use some help for this event. If you can spare a couple of hours that Sunday afternoon, contact Stan Colson. Or you could just show up ready to work; you'll be welcome." (our emphasis)

It is interesting to consider that some of the kids who attended this party may still reside locally and may even recall enjoying Christmas at the VFW. You wonder if many of them went on to serve in the armed forces. Times have changed (ain't that the truth) but the memories remain and your post still needs your help when the call goes out for volunteers.

While remembering the "old days" it should be noted that the Nov-Dec 1979 issue of the News Letter was able to announce "Ten years ago, we introduced the VFW News Letter in its present format -- to keep you informed about what's happening in your Post and who's helping to make it happen. The staff of the News Letter: Editor Frank Stewart; Writer, Hal Jacobson; Production, Themis Sotiropoulos." It makes you wonder who will be reading this in 2040. The tradition lives and we do have something to live up to. Following is the Post Calendar taken from the 1979 News Letter: " Post membership meetings, just one each in November and December on the second Thursday....Ipswich Police Ball, Friday, Nov. 2...Auctions, Monday, 11/5 and Tuesday, 11/13...Veterans Day Observances, Sunday 11/11...HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING...Annual Christmas Toy Dance, Saturday, 12/1 (Steve Daniels)...Annual Kids Christmas Party, Sunday 12/16...Annual Christmas Eve Friendship; Hour, Monday, 12/24...WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS...Annual VFW New Year's Eve Party, Monday 12/31 (Steve Daniels)...Ballroom Dancing every Saturday night with a live band through January 19.....Happy New Year."

Sure, those days were fun, but today we have computer games, Wii, keeping up with our Tweets, editing Facebook and updating our Blog, checking friends on MySpace not to mention editing those 85 digital photos we took last week as well as deleting the 196 e-mails we haven't read yet and watching YouTube (probably having too much fun texting) and then we forgot to bring our GPS and got lost trying to escape the WalMart traffic jam, etc., etc., etc. How can anyone find time to attend VFW meetings not to mention VFW functions like comrades funerals, flag day/Memorial Day, Veterans Day activities, recruiting activities and welcoming home those who have been serving overseas. What is really amazing is that Post 1093 members may actually contribute over 3000 hours of community service in 12 months. Hang in there.

## **A STORY ABOUT YESTERYEAR.....THIS WAS THEN.....**

After reading about and thinking about "the old days" it was natural to stop Jake Burrige at a Board Meeting and ask him for a few recollections about Post 1093 in the early days. For example, did they really have 500 attending a post Christmas Party? "That was nothing" said Jake, we used to have big name bands for our dances. We had Guy Lombardo 3 times, Woody Herman, the Tommy Dorsey Band, Lionel Hampton. You better believe it, it was big time. You know, For Christmas post members and the Ladies Auxiliary would give free gifts to the kids, we'd serve ice cream, Cokes and candy..... people would even come and take some candy for the kids left back home Yeh, maybe more than 500 came. It was crazy." And, he continued, in the mid 60's we used to run Fourth of July Field Days at Linebrook Field. The first year we ran it over 1,000 kids came to the event. We had races, a greased pig and a lot of other stuff for them and it was great. The next year 2,000 kids came to the event. Joe Sweeney helped a lot he remembered. It was hard to slow Jake down. He mentioned other Post affairs for the VFW Jimmy Day, and Post Open House affairs; Jake it seemed was just getting started when I had to slow him down. Jake, I said, how about participation, how about help. Jake remembered working with Buddy Bernard. Bob Riddle, Pete Nicholson, Eddie Courage, Gordon MacIntyre and Mike Singer on the Tenth Annual VFW Jimmy Day fundraiser which netted \$2,070 (those are 1979 dollars) but he did add that getting help when you needed it could be a problem then as now, even with some 500 Post members when we built and moved into our present (and now shared) building. After agreeing that it was still a major problem to find members who were willing to work and willing to lead I asked Jake about 1093's early beginnings. As Jake recalls it we first called the Ipswich Memorial Building home. Next stop was to the corner of Union and Market

Streets in Ipswich where we replaced a laundry and sported a bar tended by 3 WWI vets who Jake remembers as working for free. Next stop was on Topsfield Rd. where the Knights of Columbus are located today. This was busy spot with 3 floors for various uses and a busy bar. Things were so good that Jake recalls ABC Mulholland said we should buy some 22 acres where we are now located and we did. Subsequently William Rust, a local builder, built our post quarters here on County Road where we continue to this day. Yet change continued when on December 31, 1999 the Ipswich Family YMCA dedicated part of our refurbished structure to their use on December 18, 1998 to the music of The Orville Giddings Band.

As we reminisce and grow nostalgic it becomes clear that time takes its toll and much of our history will have been lost unless we preserve it. Sure, there are bits and pieces here and there but it would be a worthwhile project to preserve the individual stories that make up the fabric of our VFW post. Who were we, what did we do and where did we do it! Jake Burrige was a big part of our history but there are others still with us and we need to get all their stories before it is too late. Jake has said he will provide an oral history. We need more volunteers. If you are a part of our Post's history will you help? George Lewis, Post Adjutant

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY POST 1093**

This year we celebrate your post's 65th birthday and we think we have something to celebrate. Sr. Vice Commander Chad Freeman is in charge of our celebration and will need the help and assistance of all post members. In particular Chad could use a few more volunteers to assist with the planning. This is an affair where "older" members, even if we haven't seen them for a while, could help a lot. We want to remember the old days, honor those who have been long-time comrades in our post, to gather together so we can join again in the VFW comradeship that has been such a large part of our first 65 years and join in a toast to Ipswich Post 1093 Veterans of Foreign Wars for 65 great, wonderful years. If you can help Chad in any way please write, phone or email Chad. You will be glad you did. It should also be noted that Chad is continuing to serve as the Post Service Officer, anxious and willing to help a comrade in need of assistance. PLEASE GIVE HIM YOUR SUPPORT.

### **FROM THE APRIL MEETING MINUTES, etc, etc.**

Aside from the usual and routine the pertinent items from the April meeting centered on elections (noted elsewhere) and the Memorial Day events as described in the Commander's message. This is a year when the VFW leads the parade. Public participation on the sidelines is expected to be enthusiastic and as we visit the various town memorials let us lead in tribute to our fallen comrades. Following the election of officers Frank Lindquist was welcomed aboard as he enters the ranks of those who serve. Also elected were Bob Riddle as Quartermaster and Bill Hurley as Chaplain, both of whom continue to serve the post with distinction. Real old timers will recall that Bob Riddle first served Post 1093 in 1959 as number 33, a 190 lb. tackle on the Post Football team. Following the meeting post members gathered for pizza while present members were thanked for their service and the incoming officers congratulated. On a personal note, as Adjutant I have been privileged to work with Commander Bill Duke for the past 3 years. He has been a leader and a friend. His contributions to Post 1093 are impressive and can be found in all areas. I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve with him during his terms as Commander. Comrade Bob Metz assumes office as Commander in June with a busy schedule. He needs, deserves and expects your support. Hope to see you at our Anniversary Dinner.

**Just received: Comrade Ed Marsh reports: The Massachusetts Bar Association offers free legal advice for veterans and families of veterans, who have legal questions involving access to benefits, family issues, employment concerns, landlord/tenant matters, and other legal issues.**

If you are a veteran call 617-338-0610 from 5:30-7:30 on April 29 to speak to the Mass. Bar Association.



## **Military Memories Night**

**Come and hear the tales of veteran heroes, or tell your own!**

**See military memorabilia from battles fought**

**DATE: Saturday, May 15, 2010 (Armed Forces Day)**

**TIME: 12PM - 5PM**

**PLACE: VFW Post 1093, 110 County Rd., Ipswich, MA**

**Free event, open to the public.**

**For more information or to reserve a display table, contact:  
militarymemoriesnight@gmail.com**

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Comrades Rich Barbato and Buddy Bernard set up a similar event last year for the residents of Brooksby Village in Peabody. It was an outstanding exhibit of items from WWI to Afghanistan and proved to be well attended and highly popular with the

residents.....there was actually a line of old GIs waiting to fondle an M1 again. Let's all pitch in and help Chad Freeman by getting items for display and helping with set-up.

## VIETNAM THE WAR, REMEMBRANCE, REVIVAL

*WAR, REMEMBRANCE, REVIVAL* was the headline in the April 2nd issue of the Wall Street Journal where reporter Peter R. Kann wrote an article along with accompanying book reviews of Bill Hayton's *Vietnam: Rising Dragon* and Phillip Jennings *THE POLITICALLY INCORRECT GUIDE TO THE VIETNAM WAR*. It seems that *Vietnam: Rising Dragon* is more of "the same old same old" as the reviewer notes that in the book, to use his words, the plight of hundreds of thousands of former Army of South Vietnam soldiers who were hauled off to brutal re-education camps, "rate(d) less attention ....than the fate of brown bears and other wildlife." On the other hand, Philip Jennings writes, "No war in American history is in greater need of a politically incorrect---another word for honest---treatment than the Vietnam War." To quote further from the book, Mr. Jennings, a pilot who flew in Vietnam, writes, "The U.S. had largely won the war by 1973 and merely needed to fulfill its commitments to provide air support and other limited aid to its ally" and concludes, "the argument that Vietnam was an unwinnable war was not true, but the Democrats in Congress decided to make it so." There are, however, signs of a happier ending as Peter Kann writes, "What Mr. Jennings touches on, but might have emphasized more, is that with hindsight we can view Vietnam as but one battle in a larger war for the future of East and Southeast Asia. If that battle was lost, the wider war has been won...." and he goes on to note: "The arc of peaceful, prosperous, capitalist and largely democratic countries" from "Japan and Korea in the north to Indonesia in the south. *The values that we stood for, and that Mr. Jennings and his compatriots fought for, have emerged victorious.*"



In a pertinent personal note, reporter Peter Kann relates his personal involvement during the Communist Tet offensive of early 1968, which, he reports, was a military "disaster" for the Communists but was presented by the media as a major setback for the U.S. He writes, "I was a reporter in Vietnam during the battle and was among many who did not initially understand its significance. Yet within a year or so I was driving along Vietnam's mostly safe and secure roads and sleeping in newly pacified villages. **The war indeed was being won.**"

(citation from *Karnow, Stanley (1991). Vietnam: A history*: "In response to the anti-war movement, the U.S. Congress passed the Case-Church Amendment to prohibit U.S. military intervention in Vietnam in June 1973 and reduced aid to South Vietnam in August 1974" ..... The press reports that nations will remember the end of the Vietnam War to be observed on April 30, 2010 in Hanoi with memorials and other events reportedly planned in the U.S.)

