

IPSWICH POST 1093



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

e-mail: vfwp1093@comcast.net

Commander: William Duke -- Adjutant: George Lewis – w1cnrlewis@comcast.net

OCTOBER, 2009 POST NEWSLETTER

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

On Sunday, September 20th, I attended our regular scheduled Veterans of Foreign Wars District 10 Commanders meeting held at Post 8349 in Methuen, Massachusetts. The purpose of this get together of all Post Commanders within the District (21 Posts) is to provide updates on VFW activities, programs and to find out what we are doing that is right and not right. It is also a time when Commanders can share a comradeship and pass onto each other insights into what each of our Posts are doing. Again, it was brought to our attention that we need to adhere to the procedures and By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or suffer the consequences. Three Posts have had their Charters revoked since the last meeting, two from Massachusetts and one from outside Massachusetts due to repeated non-compliance with these procedures and By-Laws. These Charters were revoked due to failure to obtain Bonds for their Quartermasters, failure to conduct and submit Quarterly Audit Reports and non payment of the Ten Dollar National dues/etc. National means business when it comes to compliance with the procedures and By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is no longer business as we used to do it. I also learned that there are a little over 60 Posts nation wide that do not have a building to meet in due to financial difficulties and must meet in the homes of the membership. Many other Posts are struggling to keep afloat. In retrospect, I feel our Post did the right thing with our arrangement with the YMCA. We have a beautiful place to meet, enjoy a first class Club and have no bills to speak of or facility to maintain. This allows our Post to remain on a sound financial footing. National is running a 8 million dollar deficit this year and our own Department of Massachusetts is also running a deficit this year. We also learned that Homeland Security has invoked the requirement that all VFW Posts, as well as ALL other non-profit organizations, must submit a annual Form 990, 992, etc even if the gross receipt amounts are less than \$25,000. In the past if gross receipts were less than \$25,000., no 990 form had to be submitted. This requirement was imposed by Homeland Security in order to help track funds being sent out of country by non-profit organizations. It was also disclosed at our District meeting that VFW membership nation wide and within our own Department is down considerably and has contributed to the deficits. We need to put more effort into recruiting.

I also wish to announce that we now have a new Senior Vice Commander, Comrade Bob Metz and a new Junior Vice Commander, Comrade Chad Freeman. Congratulations and welcome to your new duties and responsibilities. I look forward to working with Comrades Metz and Freeman.

At last we have our very own VFW Post 1093 space on Facebook thanks to our Comrade Rich Barbato. It is a site where we can put out our message to all veterans and non-veterans. It is another tool in our recruiting effort. Comrades Ed Marsh and Chad Freeman are also very active on Facebook not only for VFW activities but also for other veteran causes. I am also working on and trying to establish a computer Web Site for our Post and will pattern it after those Web Sites for Posts at Danvers, Methuen and Saugus. I would like to continue to include short articles in our Newsletter about members of our Post. If you would like to contribute a short essay or photos relative to your war time experience, places served, etc or any other information you would like to share with your Comrades, please send it to me by mail, email or contact me directly. Also, I am now working on identifying those of our membership who qualify for the 30 and 40 year service pin and certificate. I will also review again the 50 and 60 year awards, which were presented last year, to see if we have missed anyone. If we missed you, please let me know and the year you joined.

In conclusion, our Veterans Day celebration, Wednesday November 11, is fast approaching. The Commanders of all four Veterans Posts in Ipswich are meeting to put together the agenda for Veterans Day. What is known up front is that all participants will meet at the Ipswich War Memorial no later than 9:30AM and the program will commence no later than 9:45AM. At the conclusion of ceremonies there we will march to the VFW Memorial and Flag Pole located at our headquarters at the YMCA building on County Road. Transportation will be provided to those who cannot march. We invite all to attend and participate. It is our day and we should let all know how proud we are to have served.

Bill Duke
Commander

FROM THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER POST MEETING.

Commander Duke was unable to preside at the September post meeting due to health issues. Senior Vice Commander Bob Metz assumed the duties and conducted the meeting in the absence of the Commander. An application by John Beirne, currently serving in the Coast Guard and living in Ipswich, was unanimously voted in the affirmative and we welcome John into Post 1093 membership. Thank you notes were received from the families of Stephen Pickul and Julian Kaszuba for the Post participation in funeral services. A thank you letter was received from Kirsten Nich, our scholarship winner. Past Commander Dan Gallant will chair the committee arranging for post participation in the opening of the Topsfield Fair and the post will be providing a color guard. The Scholarship Committee reported that their first meeting will be held Sept. 28th. While there was preliminary discussion concerning the upcoming Ipswich Veterans Day parade it was agreed that formal planning would be scheduled for the October meeting. Comrade Chad Freeman was elected to the office of Junior Vice Commander to fill the office vacated as Bob Metz who by rule, advanced from Junior to Senior Vice Commander on the resignation of Rich Barbato due to his relocation. Commander Duke had requested that Comrade Jake Burrige restart and continue work on a Deceased Member Honor Roll that Jake had started to assemble and construct some years ago and Jake reported regarding his progress in completing the Honor Roll. There was a general appreciation of the effort involved and the difficulties facing Jake in completing the project but that this was a definitely a worthwhile effort. Following the presentation by Comrade Burrige it was left that he would discuss with Commander Duke how best to proceed with efforts to complete the Honor Roll.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: Are caps removed during the recitation prayers at a Post meeting, and if removed, is the cap placed over the heart?

Answer: The VFW Ritual provides that all members **will follow the action of the chaplain or presiding officer** relative to the removal of caps during prayers. If uncovered, the cap shall be placed on the extended closed fingers of the right hand in such a way that the Cross of Malta is exposed and held over the heart.

Question: What is the appropriate cap to wear at Post meetings.

Answer: The official VFW cap is the preferred headgear for meetings. However, ceremonial/awards caps with titles other than what would identify with a Post level office is acceptable.

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 comrade who has passed on.
Frederick A. Loughridge passed away Tuesday, September 1, 2009 at the age of 91 years

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 phone at 978-462-4053 or on the internet at subhurley@aol.com.

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION FOR VETERANS

There is considerable legislative activity these days regarding veterans affairs so it is important to keep up-to-date if you are particularly interested in a particular program or legislative activity generally. These web sites offer current, authoritative information: <http://veterans.senate.gov/>. and <http://veterans.house.gov/>.

WEB SITE FOR THE U. S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

By going directly to the senate site at <http://veterans.senate.gov/links.cfm> you will find a valuable directory to other links and helpful sources. For example check “*End of Life Issues*”: The service buddy with whom you spent so many memorable days is now laid to rest and you would like to locate the gravesite. You will be directed to a *U. S. Department of Veterans' Affairs* site at http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1 . where you can search for burial locations of veterans and their family members in VA National Cemeteries, state veterans cemeteries, various other military and Department of Interior cemeteries, and for veterans buried in private cemeteries when the grave is marked with a government grave marker. The Nationwide Gravesite Locator includes burial records from many sources. These sources provide varied data; some searches may contain less information than others. Information on veterans buried in private cemeteries was collected for the purpose of furnishing government grave markers, and we do not have information available for burials prior to 1997.



The U. S. Senate web site (<http://veterans.senate.gov/links.cfm>) when you click *Resources* lists various web sites that are full of information on a wide variety of topics guaranteed to be of interest to any veteran. As a newsletter reader you are encouraged to check out their web site for information of particular interest to you. A few examples:

Healthcare

Agent Orange - Depleted Uranium - National Institute of Medicine - Current Projects
National Institute of Medicine - Veterans Health - Readjustment Counseling Services

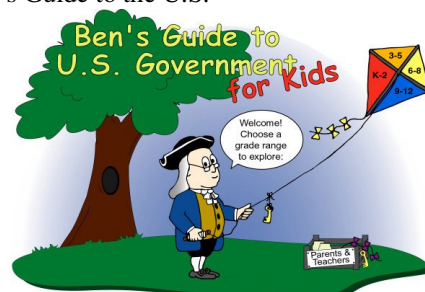
History

Library of Congress - Veterans' History Project - The history of taps
War Letters – PBS film of and information about saving war letters for history

ALSO OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IS THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE SITE AT
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/congress/senate/va/index.html>



where you will find on the left hand side of the page a reference to Ben's Guide to the U.S. Government. If you click on Ben's Guide you will see Ben (see below) and by clicking on the blue section of the kite you will find excellent teaching material. Ben's Guide serves as the educational component of *GPO Access* by providing learning tools for K-12 students, parents, and educators. The site provides age-specific explanations about how the Federal Government works, explains the use of the primary source materials available on *GPO Access*, and shows how the U.S. Government Printing Office fits into the Federal construct. This may be basic (and feel free to mention it to all parents and teachers) but it fits all ages. If you click on the blue section of the kite you will find (grades 9 – 12) access to the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and the Constitution. They are well worth re-reading. It makes you proud to wear your VFW uniform with your service ribbons. You might want to read our Constitution twice. If you would like a printed copy Comrade Ed Marsh had a few available.



MEMBERSHIP

Your post officers at work..... Recent visitors to Facebook who have befriended Comrade Rich Barbato (just promoted and transferred and thus forced to resign as post Sr. Vice) will have come upon the following: [Richard Barbato](#) (Boston, MA) wrote on September 14, 2009 at 5:22pm Something I have puzzled over for quite some time, and am open to any discussion as to **why younger veterans are not joining, and how we (VFW members) can relate to them the importance of joining, supporting and preserving their local veterans organizations.** Comrade Chad Freeman, just elected to the office of Jr. Vice Commander, responded: [Chad Freeman](#) (Boston, MA) wrote on September 15, 2009 at 4:02pm “ My guess is that many just don't think about it. I was approached first in Germany. A SFC, who was, I believe, Sr. Vice of his post, was standing at the door of the PX. He would talk to anyone who had a battle patch. On the civilian side, it is harder to spot. No battle patch to go by. I guess the best way to get some new blood is just spreading the word. I've already talked to Shaw's about doing a display or something in front of their store for Veteran's Gift, and I guess all they really need is store manager approval, and some advanced notice. So one could just set up an information display, and have information, and applications available. “

We were fortunate to have Comrade Bob Metz ready to move up into the office of Senior Vice Commander. Bob, with Chad Freeman will add younger vitality and we can expect them to continue the active leadership demonstrated by Rich Barbato. Your post has recently welcomed a number of other new and transferring members who are beginning to add their energy to our ranks. We should all consider our obligation to the future of our post and extend a warm welcome and the bond of comradeship to our newer members. Consider that the following ***post officers served in WWII:*** Chaplain Bill Hurley, Judge Advocate Ed Bryant, Post Surgeon Joe Parks, Asst. Adjutant Al Heigh and our 3 trustees Pete Nicholson, Jake Burrige and George Lewis. If we add our Korean vets to the list we include Bob Riddle and Buddy Bernard. A visitor who did not notice the vibrant youth of our Vice Commanders could reasonably think he was attending an old soldiers' home under the “command” of a young, still energetic Vietnam vet in Bill Duke who can still wear his USMC uniform.

A couple of our “senior citizen” members (long-time member Pete Nicholson and George Lewis) met at the doctor's office while waiting for a flue shot and had a fine discussion....the usual Army vs Navy thing....but it was particularly interesting, no, fascinating to listen to Pete tell about the “old days” when there used to be two pool tables on the first floor and what they used to keep in the Coke machine and the good times they had. I was reminded of this chance meeting while writing about membership. Maybe there are too many things that demand our attention these days so we can't find the time to attend post meetings but it is sad that because of missed opportunities we won't have those golden memories of “the good old day.” to share with old comrades while waiting for a flu shot. Has Pete told you about the time the corpsman who wanted to give him an second cholera shot?

Chad (above) makes reference to *Veteran's Gift*. This is a new organization and in their website they describe their organization as follows: “ **Welcome to the Veteran's Gift website.** We are an organization dedicated to helping the honorable veterans of our United States Armed Services. We aim to do this through scholarships, services, benefits, and information for our returned warriors. We are currently working hard to establish our nonprofit 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, which will hopefully be enacted by the end of 2009. Once established, (we) plan on enacting several plans and benefits to help out veterans. “ The web page is ‘signed’ -- Thank you for viewing our page, and please let your friends and family know about us. You just might be the key to getting a veteran the help that is needed.



Very Respectfully, **Chad W. Freeman, Founder of Veteran's Gift. For the web site:**
<http://www.veteransgift.org/>

The Story of the POW/MIA Flag

The flag’s design features a silhouette of a Prisoner of War against an unbroken white circle of hope. The young man who modeled for the silhouette is Newt Heisley’s son Jeff, who had just returned from Marine boot camp. Jeff had been very ill, and looked emaciated, the way Newt had seen POWs look in the Bataan Death March of WWII. The guard tower and barbed wire symbolize his prison. The words “You Are Not Forgotten,” emblazoned across the lower part of the flag, are the motto of the National League of Families of POW/MIA. Heisley said that when he was flying in the South Pacific in World War II, he thought about how awful it would be to be shot down, captured and then put into a desolate POW prison camp and forgotten by his fellow Americans. Thus “You Are Not Forgotten” became the League’s symbol for remembering our prisoners and missing troops.



***** **BE ALERT - A NEW SCAM** *****

The Department of Veterans Affairs has received reports that veterans are being contacted by a "Patient Care Group" that is claiming they are helping to administer the VA's prescription medicine program. The "Patient Care Group" is saying the VA recently changed its pharmacy billing procedures, therefore a personal credit card number is now required for prescription payments in advance of filling those prescriptions. This is a scam! Do not provide credit card information over the phone to anyone who claims they represent the VA! The VA has not changed their pharmacy procedures, and they do not call and ask veterans to disclose personal financial information over the phone. If you should receive such a call, do not give them any information. Tell them you are busy and try to get a name and callback number. Report that information to your local police.

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9/25/09 FROM VFW WASHINGTON WEEKLY NEWSFEED: Health Care Victory for Veterans: Key House leaders have agreed to offer an amendment that will put to rest any concerns that VA health care will change under the nation health care reform debate. VFW has been in talkswith House VA Committee Chairman Bob Filner (D-CA) and Ranking Member Steve Buyer (R-IN) on this important issue. The amendment being offered will ensure that veterans enrolled in VA are automatically deemed as having qualified health care coverage, and also allow veterans using VA health care to purchase other types of insurance through the health insurance exchanges. VFW will continue to monitor health care reform legislation in the House and Senate.



My VFW WebCOM Community
Supporting Veterans, Military Personnel and their Families

<http://my.vfwwebcom.org/>

Social Network for Members - If you have a computer check this out - It’s free, fun and just for vets.

USS MANCHESTER--War Home to our very own Comrade Sharky Markos



USS BRUSH--War Home to our very own Comrade Cliff Wentworth



USS FALL RIVER--War Home to our very own Comrade Jim Bodwell

