



NOVEMBER, 2009 POST NEWSLETTER

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I am continually amazed at the ever changing tools of war and the manner in which we fight our enemies as each generation passes onto the next. Today we have rifles carried by our everyday foot soldier that can do everything from taking down a enemy combatant to destroying tanks, fortified positions, planes, etc. Today we direct fire to targets not with map coordinates but with GPS devices. We also talk with each other while advancing on the enemy not by hand and arm signals but by wireless interconnected phone systems fixed within the helmet. In support of our foot soldiers we have a vast array of very sophisticated weapons, aircraft and ships capable of destroying vast numbers of personnel, equipment and terrain. These are weapons that seem right out of the Buck Rogers comic book. However, there is one fact that remains constant with each passing generation. This is the fact that when it gets down to the last ten meters, it is the foot soldier with blood, sweat, fear and bayonet that must root out the enemy and destroy him. In this respect, it is the same for today's soldiers as it has been for those of us during WWII, Korea and VietNam. The worst type of warfare is urban and today's soldiers deserve all our respect as they engage the enemy in this type of environment and near impossible situations. So I say to each and everyone, reach out to our young returning hero's and let them know we understand and are here to guide, comfort and help them. They have been through hell, as most of us have, and need us, as we need them.

Bill Duke, Commander

FROM THE OCTOBER MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Commander William Duke at 1900 with 17 members attending. There were no new applications. New member John Beirne will be sent a letter welcoming him to the Post. A new member at the meeting, Ivan Muise was welcomed by the membership. A letter of resignation received from Judge Advocate Ed Bryant was accepted by Commander Duke "with regrets" Receipt of information concerning the Wreaths Across America project was reviewed. Under Old Business Commander Duke distributed a comprehensive packet of information regarding the Veterans Day Activities and Parade to take place Wednesday, November 11. Comrade Burrige spoke relative to a no-charge catered lunch to be provided by the Hart House for all veterans and their auxiliaries on November 11. The Commander noted that the First Church in Ipswich would also provide a breakfast on the Sunday prior to Veterans Day and requested a count of veterans planning to attend. Jake Burrige spoke relative to the completion of a deceased members memorial board that he had previously worked on noting what was needed for completion. Post members were asked to contact either Bill Duke or Buddy Bernard if they would be willing to assist in completing the memorial. Commander Duke noting that he had previously provided

refreshments for a collation following several post meetings inquired whether the post members wished to make this a regular event. It was noted that many members had spoken in favor of continuing to have a collation and it was voted that the Post provide a collation following post meetings and Commander Duke volunteered to secure the refreshments.

Under New Business Comrade LeMieux advised that the Wreath Across America caravan on the way to Arlington Cemetery would be passing through Ipswich on Pearl Harbor Day, 12/7, on the way to deposit a wreath at Gen. Patton's memorial tank in Hamilton. Members applauded Comrade Buddy Bernard's report that he had permitted use of the post quarters for an event associated with a veteran's funeral and he advised that a donation had been made following the event. Comrade Pete Wilson advised that the Patriot Riders would be hosting a cook-out for post members on October 18th to show appreciation for post permission for use of the post quarters for their meetings. Commander Duke reported that we now have a VFW Post 1093 site on Facebook and he is working on a dedicated Post 1093 web site noting in particular use of the Facebook site as a recruiting tool. The Commander reported that he had attended a District Meeting on Sept. 20th particularly noting that Life Membership fees have been lowered, the VFW National has an \$8 million deficit and particularly that National has "pulled" charters for repeated non-compliance with by-laws. Commander Duke also addressed the members noting several events which have been suggested as Post activities and which he would like to see scheduled and implemented. The Commander identified a Post 1093 65th Anniversary celebration, a repeat Veterans Memory Night, a veterans cook-out and a repeat Iraq/Afghanistan Convention and designated Junior Vice Commander Chad Freeman as Chair of a committee to be selected by him to schedule and arrange these events. Comrade Al Heigh advised that he had a post sound system that would be adequate for outside events but noted that it did not include a CD player and suggested that this would be a worthwhile addition if any member had one available for donation..

Under Good of the Order Comrade John Amirault reported a large donation of used golf balls to Operation Troop Support. Comrade LeMieux advised that on behalf of the War Memorial Committee post members were being asked to attend a meeting at the war memorial on 10/14. The purpose of this gathering is to physically outline the boundaries of the War Memorial property with veterans so that we can get a photograph of the veterans and boundaries to be used in our push to have the property designated as a war memorial site forever when we go to Town Meeting in April.

NOTE: The abbreviated report covering the October Post meeting covers only those items that were felt to be of general interest. Comrades attending post meetings can expect to be involved in a much wider range of activities having to do with post operation and what we accomplish as a post. As reported in the Community Service Report below we are an active group and all members are urged to attend post meetings. Particularly at the November meeting there will be an election to elect a Judge Advocate who will replace retiring Comrade Ed Bryant who has been such a stalwart in this office for many years, contributing his time and talents to the post.

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 has passed on.

Lawrence O. Adams, Frederick A. Loughridge Charles G. Le Blanc

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 COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

The post is required to submit semi-annual reports to the Department of Massachusetts providing information pertaining to post activities involving the community. Not only does the report provide Department with an indication of the health of the post but the information provides data necessary for the V.F.W. to maintain its status as a non-profit organization. We have now reported for the period May 1 to October 31. Based on reports submitted by individual post members and a review of general post activities we were able to report the following totals: Activities devoted to Americanism by 28 members, 560 hours; devoted to community service by 20 members, 351 hours; related to the safety in the community by 5 members 60 hours; and related to youth activities by 5 members, 295 hours. Total service by all members for this reporting period is 1,266 hours of service to our community by post members over the past six months. Obviously some members participated in events in several different categories. Several members stand out as substantially committed to particular areas such as youth activities. For the previous 6 month period covering November 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009 the post was able to report a total of 1,000 hours of community service covering all categories.

The Adjutant would like to thank those comrades who have provided information relative to their ongoing community activities. It is possible to observe public activity but many of our comrades perform community service without reporting their individual activities. It would be helpful if all comrades would report their involvement in community activities. Any form of report is acceptable.

VETERANS DAY ACTIVITIES – NOVEMBER 11

Any comrade who has not yet made plans to attend a Veterans Day ceremony will hopefully consider joining Post 1093 comrades and participate in the Ipswich activities. Events will commence at 10:30 a.m. and comrades are urged to assemble at the Ipswich War Memorial.

You should wear your VFW cap and jacket if possible (or your uniform if you still have one that fits) but the important thing is to participate. As usual there will be a ceremony at the Town War Memorial and at the VFW Flagpole Memorial with refreshments to follow. If you have a friend who is a veteran but not a member of the VFW please ask them to join you.

A Veterans Day observance associated with Post 1093 will also take place at Brooksby Village in Peabody. Comrade Bill Pfaller heads a veterans group at Brooksby which he organized several years ago. This group is sponsoring an appropriate service honoring veterans which will be held in the campus chapel on November 11. Commander Duke and other comrades have generously provided support for this service which will be attended by many WW II and Korean veterans who are unable to travel to off-campus Veterans Day events.

THANK YOU !!!!

We note with thanks that the First Church of Ipswich hosted a breakfast at on Sunday, November 8th for all veterans as a way of saying thank you to service men and women. As Commander Duke noted in his email confirming the invitation: The Church went to a lot of time and effort to make this breakfast special for us..... See you there.

Thanks also are due the Hart House who will sponsor a lunch for all Ipswich veterans on 11/11 at 1:00 p.m.. Applebee's Restaurants also are noteworthy since they announced; "to all our veterans and active duty military we at Applebee's would like to show our sincere gratitude for your honorable service—with a free entrée on Veterans Day." You simply had to show proof of military service.

HOMELAND SECURITY -- AN UPDATE

VFW HOSTS DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Richard DeNoyer and representatives from nine other veterans' organizations met with Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano in the VFW Washington Office yesterday to discuss veterans employment and other key issues. Veterans currently comprise a quarter of DHS' 220,000 workforce, and the secretary reiterated the department's goal to hire 50,000 more by 2012. She also discussed increasing contracting opportunities for veteran-owned small businesses. When asked for her Top 3 concerns, she said radicals inside our borders who are intent on causing harm and damage; cybersecurity attacks that would deny essential services that range from air traffic control to traffic lights; and the need for more legal tools, as it applies to illegal immigration. The secretary said safety and security is a shared responsibility, so she is committed to reaching out to veterans groups through Citizen Corps and the Red Cross to ensure the nation has a first response capability for natural disasters. The meeting was a follow-up to a recent DHS initiative to create a Veterans Outreach Steering Committee. .

SNIPER SCHOOL

Regular readers will recall seeing a photo of a signed photo we received from top Marine Corps sniper Sgt. Chuck Mawhinney (103 confirmed kills, 216 probable) via Comrade Rich Barbato and the impressive biography that comes with the photo. Snipers made the news again under the headline *Where Snipers Meet to Compete* in the 11/5/09 issue of the Wall Street Journal. In the WSJ article they describe in part the ninth annual U.S. Army



International Sniper Competition. In the competition were thirty-one 2-man teams made up of Rangers, Marines, National Guardsman and sharpshooters from the U.K. Sniper Wing, Connecticut State Police and the FBI's Los Angeles SWAT team. The purpose of the competition is "to bring teams together to share battlefield lessons learned, provide training initiatives and ideas, and to compete tactically; and technically. It's also, of course, about bragging rights as they compete" to identify the best two-man sniper teams in the world." The shooter and a spotter compete over 7 days testing their skills in a variety of challenging conditions shooting at targets at a distance of 1,000 yards as they remain undetected. Who finished first? A couple of sharpshooters from the Marine Corps finished first, followed by the snipers from Fort Knox, two Army Special Forces snipers and a team from the 82nd Airborne. It should be noted that teams from Fort Benning, home of the Army Sniper School, have won the past two years. The writer of the WSJ article, Mark Yost, must have been a Marine for he finishes his article by noting, "It shouldn't be a surprise that a team of Marines came out on top. After all, the Marine Corps is the only service that considers everyone—including cooks, accountants and even the commandant—to be rifleman. And that's what this competition is all about."

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT - THE DEFENSE BILL IS SIGNED

President Signs Defense Bill: The President has signed the National Defense Authorization Act which authorizes \$550.2 billion for FY 2010 Department of Defense programs, and \$130 billion to support overseas military operations. Some VFW-supported highlights include:

- No proposed Tricare fee increases.
- A 3.4% pay raise for active duty, Guard and Reserve members.
- Authorizing premium-based Tricare coverage for "gray area" Reserve retirees who are under age 60.
- Authorizing special compensation on behalf of caregivers of severely wounded warriors while on active duty.
- Requiring a medical examination before administrative separations of members affected by traumatic brain injury or PTSD.
- Protecting absentee voting rights for military members and families.
- Expanding active-duty Tricare eligibility for activating Guard/Reserve members and their families.

A detailed summary of the bill can be found at: <http://armedservices.house.gov>.

DID YOU KNOW.....

DNA Samples Are Needed for MIA Identifications: There are 88,000 missing and unaccounted-for American servicemen from World War II forward, yet many MIA families have not provided a family reference sample to assist in DNA identifications. Currently, 68% of Korean War families have provided samples, 66% of Vietnam War families and 63% of Cold War families, but only 0.01% of WWII families have provided samples. The government identifies about 75 MIAs annually, but many more could be identified—and quicker—if reference samples were on file. Please forward the following service casualty office contact information to MIA families in your hometown, as well as to local newspapers:



Viewing your VA Medication Names

Did you know My Health Vet users can order VA prescriptions by medication name instead of by prescription number? Just complete a simple, one-time In Person Authentication (IPA) process when you visit your VA facility. This process is used to verify a My Health Vet user's identity. Then you can order your refill online using the name of the drug. Ordering medications by name requires completing In-Person Authentication. VA patients who have completed In-Person Authentication see both their medication names and numbers. In addition, they see their VA Wellness Reminders. As other personal features become available for VA patients, In-Person Authenticated users will be able to use them. So do not delay. Complete the In-Person Authentication process the next time you visit your VA facility. New users of the VA prescription services should visit the My Health Vet web site for complete information concerning use of the program. It is fast, efficient and getting better. Go to:

https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhvPortal/resources/jsp/help.jsp?helpDirectRequest=rxrefill_training_vets/index.htm



**DUST
STORM**