


IPSWICH POST 1093 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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DECEMBER, 2009 POST NEWSLETTER

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



As we enter the last few weeks of this year, I would like to reflect on and point out some of the more significant happenings this year. Our recruiting effort has resulted in the addition of twelve (12) new, transferred or reinstated members to our Post. However, we sadly have also buried fourteen (14) of our Comrades since January. Thanks to the time and effort of our Comrades Ed Marsh and Chad Freeman our Post now has two computer Websites which will enhance our recruiting effort and also enable us to communicate directly with other VFW Posts, District and National. We have also set up a recruiting page on *Facebook* for which we have already received many hits and comments. This computer Web Page and the *Facebook* page is what our younger veterans are responding to in this modern day of communications. Through our Post Adjutant, George Lewis, we have been able to generate a good solid Community Activity Report to Department which outlines just what our Post has been doing relative to Ipswich activities that include, but not limited to, hospital visits, nursing home visits, educational, scholarships, wakes & funerals for local veterans, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, 4th of July activities, etc. Without these

periodic reports, Department and National VFW headquarters do not have any idea of just how much we do. In accordance with VFW By-Laws, in order to retain our Post Charter, we must perform a certain amount of Community Activity in order to be classified as non-profit. Now that we have a solid framework for reporting such activities, we need not worry about having our Charter revoked. We have also put together a computer generated quarterly Audit Report of our finances, insurances, etc that is prepared by our Trustees and sent to Department headquarters. Again, this prevents the risk of loosing our Charter in that the two biggest reasons that National revokes Charters is due to non-submission of the Quarterly Audit and Community Activity Reports. Our Post is one of a few that has set up computer files for all Post business and activities that will enable future Post Officers quick, easy and centralized access to all information. We can now also request duplicate membership cards, pay dues, transfer and reinstate VFW members by electronic means in lieu of a tangle of paperwork. Much work has been accomplished to bring our Post into the electronic age.

Memorial Day and Veterans Day activities reflected a larger turn out of participants not only by veterans but civic organizations. The Community and private business also provided enormous support for our veterans. The First Church of Ipswich hosted a breakfast for all Ipswich veterans on the Sunday morning before Veterans Day, the Hart House hosted a free lunch Veterans Day afternoon for all veterans and about 90 veterans showed up, the Dairy Queen provided gift certificates to all four veterans Posts and Christopher's Table donated cup cakes in honor of veterans.

We have also lost the leadership of two of our Comrades. Comrade Rich Barbato, our Senior Vice Commander, was transferred to a new job site out of State and Ed Bryant resigned as Judge Advocate due to health reasons. They both have been replaced by Bob Metz as Senior Vice Commander and Ed Marsh as Judge Advocate. Chad Freeman was elected to replace Bob Metz as the Junior Vice Commander. We will miss both Rich and Ed and I thank them both for all they did for the Post. I also congratulate Chad Freeman, Bob Metz and Ed Marsh on their election to these positions of leadership. I know they will do an outstanding job.

In conclusion, without the full support and participation of all our active Comrades we could not have accomplished all we have done this year. It is through their efforts and participation as a team that we owe our success. I thank them all so very much for their support. I especially thank George Lewis, our Adjutant and Clerk of the Corporation, for all he does relative to our Newsletter

I also wish to single out and thank Buddy Bernard for the outstanding manner in which he not only manages the Club, but also all the other little known things he does to support the Post. We have a outstanding Post with outstanding members. I am proud to serve with each and every one of you and look forward to the new year together.

Bill Duke, Commander

FROM THE NOVEMBER POST MEETING

Commander Duke distributed gift certificates from the Ipswich Dairy Queen donated by owners Harry Lampropoulos and Peter Pomadora. The Commander reported that students at the Doyon School had sent pictures and cards to VFW veterans as a class project. The commander will send the students a letter of appreciation. Commander Duke stated he was “pleased and proud” of the veterans participating in the Veterans Day Parade noting increased attendance this year. He also thanked Comrade Jake Burrige for his efforts coordinating the free lunch for veterans at the Hart House. In addition the commander noted with appreciation the breakfast on Sunday morning, 11/8 provided to veterans by the First Church in Ipswich and thanked Comrade Bruce Bryant for coordinating with the church. The commander also noted that Christopher's Table in Ipswich had sold cupcakes to customers with the understanding that the cupcakes would subsequently be donated to the refreshments table at the VFW following the Veterans Day parade. Following multiple motions the adjutant cast a single ballot for the election of Ed Marsh who was unanimously voted to be the post of Judge Advocate. After the election, Commander Duke, following VFW protocol, presided at the swearing-in of Ed Marsh as Judge Advocate, Chad Freeman as Junior Vice Commander and Bob Metz as Senior Vice Commander. Comrades Chad Freeman and Ed Marsh spoke relative to a post web site that is now available on the web at VFWPOST1093.COM. There was discussion concerning uses of the web site, already effective as a recruiting tool as noted by the commander. There was also general discussion noting appreciation and approval for the comrades who set up the web site. It was voted that the application for membership from Luke Rasmussen who will shortly be deployed to Afghanistan.

TAPS

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES - MAY THEY REST IN PEACE



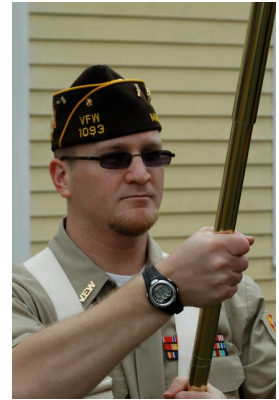
O God, Father of us all, we offer this final earthly tribute to our beloved comrades who have passed on.

Harry Georgeopoulos, Henry Mozdziej, David Carleton

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.

VFW WEB PAGES, ETC.... FROM THE DESK OF JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER & SERVICE OFFICER CHAD FREEMAN:

With the completion of the website (www.vfwpost1093.com), our post has taken a big step into the technology age. We believe that this is key in bringing in a younger generation of veterans into the fold. I started using computers as a teen, and it has become part of my life, like it has for so many others. When I hear of something new, one of the first things I do is to go look it up on the Web. Now, almost every home in America has a computer, and a strong presence on the internet would be advantageous in many ways. It also allows post members and potential comrades to have a central nexus of information about the post, from upcoming events, profiles of the leadership, online access to this and past newsletters, to photos of this past veterans day to name a few. We are constantly striving to improve the site to be even more beneficial to present and potential post members.



We are also building a presence on *Facebook*, one of the largest social networking sites on the internet today, with over 200 million members (with 100 million of those logging on about once a day). This also brings another dimension in modernizing the post, allowing members to communicate directly with each other, share stories, post updates, and RSVP to events, giving the post leadership an idea of who would be attending. A link to our *Facebook* group can be found right on the front page of the Post website.

Also, plans are underway for the 2010 Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans Convention. We are hoping that strategic planning, along with the new tools of the website and *Facebook* at our disposal, will make this year's convention an even bigger success than last year's event. We have also created a *Facebook* group specifically for the event, and we will start working on incorporating it more into the website. As of the day that I am writing this, we currently already have 48 members on the group page. Hopefully, as time goes on and the event draws closer, more will join. One of the great things about *Facebook* is that I can send a message to all group members at once, which is a wonderful tool to disseminate information on the event. If you are already a member of *Facebook*, you can follow this link to go right to the Convention group page: <http://tinyurl.com/vetcon2010>

Finally, if any member would like a tutorial on the website, or how to use *Facebook*, or if you have a suggestion, please do not hesitate to contact myself, Comrade Marsh, or the Commander after a post meeting, and we would be happy to oblige.

→ www.VFWPost1093.com www.IpswichVeterans.info ←

**2009
VETS
Convention**



Pertinent information selected from

VFW WASHINGTON WEEKLY

November 16, 2009

2. VFW Legislative Priority Goals for 2010

3. No Tricare For Life Changes

2. VFW Legislative Priority Goals for 2010: The VFW's Legislative Committee voted and approved this year's priority goals, which are our mandate for lobbying Congress on behalf of veterans and our servicemembers and families members. Ensuring a sufficient VA budget, reducing the disability claims backlog, and providing enhanced quality of life programs and services for all military members and their families are just a few of the 2010 Legislative Priority Goals. The VFW urges all members and veterans' advocates to educate themselves and their congressional delegations on these critical priority goals, which are based on resolutions passed at the VFW National Convention in August. The entire list is available at the VFW website at <http://www.vfw.org/PR/Legislative/2010PriorityGoals%20PROOF.pdf>

3. No Tricare For Life Changes: VFW members have been receiving erroneous e-mail claims that Tricare For Life is under attack by the Administration and Congress. The claims stem from a January Congressional Budget Office report that recommended changes to the program, changes that the President and Congress did not act upon. In fact, Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act with no fee increases and no changes in administering Tricare For Life, and they added language into the legislation that prohibits the Defense Department from implementing any Tricare inpatient care copayment increases for FY2010. The legislation also authorized premium-based Tricare coverage for "gray area" Reserve Force retirees younger than age 60, and expanded active-duty Tricare eligibility for activating Reserve Force members and their families. The President signed the bill into law in October. Also of note, the health reform legislation that Congress is considering would enable those covered by Tricare as well as VA care to be exempt from the legislation's individual responsibility penalty. The VFW continues to lead other Veterans Service Organizations in ensuring nothing is done to erode Tricare or VA health care benefits that veterans so richly deserve.

American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial



Adding to the beauty of our nation's capital, the *American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial* will soon become one of our country's treasured landmarks, bringing together visitors of all ages and backgrounds—a fitting tribute to the brave men and women who stand watch over America.

Commanding an impressive two-acre site between Washington Avenue SW (Canal Street), C Street SW and Second Street SW, the memorial will be within full view of the United States Capitol, adjacent to the National Mall, and across from Independence Avenue and the United States Botanic Garden.

The Memorial was sponsored by Senator John McCain (AZ), former Senator Max Cleland (GA), and Representatives Sam Jonson (TX) and John Murtha (PA). Congress passed legislation authorizing the creation of the *American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial* in Washington, D.C. and President Clinton signed the legislation into law in 2000. With the passage of [Public Law 106-348](#), which specifically states that no federal funds may be used for the Memorial, the **Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation** (DVLMF) was authorized to raise public funds to design, build and maintain this momentous American Memorial. The Memorial

will honor all those veterans who were permanently disabled while serving in the United States Armed Forces. With the help of many generous citizens, organizations and corporations, it will become a reality. For additional information go to:

http://www.avdlm.org/site/c.gnKFIJNqEqG/b.5307887/k.9915/The_Foundation.htm

INSURANCE, BANKING , INVESTMENT SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE FROM USAA

Post Judge Advocate Ed Marsh has passed on the following from a letter from the USAA (United Services Automobile Association) which may be of general interest to veterans. *"I hope you agree that all men and women who have honorably served in the U.S. Armed Forces deserve to do business with a financial services company that understands their unique needs, appreciates their service and does the right thing because it is the right thing to do. Your USAA Board of Directors believes so, and I am very pleased to let you know that USAA membership is now open to anyone who has honorably served in the U.S. military."* Josue (Joe) Robles Jr. Maj. General, USA (Ret.), President and CEO
For further information go to: https://www.usaa.com/inet/ent_logon/Logon

THE NEW NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM/ SOLDIER CENTER AT PATRIOT PARK (JUST OUTSIDE THE GATES OF FORT BENNING) - COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Patriot Park celebrated its Grand Opening June 19, 2009. It is located in Columbus, Georgia, just outside the gates of Fort Benning, the Home of the Infantry and one of the Army’s largest installations.

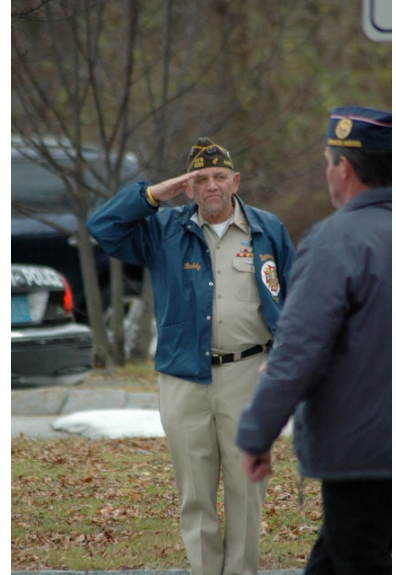


This world-class tribute to Infantrymen past, present and future, is the first of its kind in the United States. Throughout the 190,000-square-foot museum, visitors will take an interactive journey through every war fought by the U.S. over the past two centuries.

The museum tells the heroic story of everyday Infantrymen through an enviable collection of more than 30,000 artifacts. Era galleries trace Infantry history from before the Revolutionary War to action today in Iraq and Afghanistan. There is a special gallery recognizing Medal of Honor recipients and one that pays tribute to those who love an Infantryman, and the sacrifices they make supporting him. Soldier Center offers visitors more than an education in military history. It is located at 177 Legacy Way, Columbus, Georgia. For additional information go to: <http://www.nationalinfantrymuseum.com/> or <http://tinyurl.com/y8pfesy>

The Wall Street Journal has noted: “This museum.....celebrates without fanfare or political overtones, the accomplishments of the “grunts,” the “ground pounders,” the ordinary soldiers who so often go unheralded while doing the day-to-day dirty work of combat and peacekeeping. For this alone, this museum is well worth a visit...” The Journal article also notes that in the Fort Benning Gallery there is, “an overview of modern infantry training-including marksmanship, first aid and communications, as well as advanced infantry specialties such as Ranger school, sniper training and the Pathfinders.” It sounds like a great place to visit.....and then write a review for this newsletter.





VETERANS DAY PARADE – 2009

