

**September 2017**  
**Post Newsletter**  
WesternSpringsVFW.org

**Commander's Stuff**

**By Joe Barker**

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Sitting here mid-August, it is a challenge to write an article for the newsletter. Some of it is my lack of imagination coupled with strong desire for brevity. The other part, for me, is that September seems an awkward month. On the one hand, it's back to school (a good thing) and all that it entails: fresh start, new books, new subjects, and new teachers.

But this month also marks the 16th anniversary of an attack on our country which forever changed many lives. There are few events which have had such an effect, typically resulting in armed conflict. You've all answered the call following such events, so I won't preach to the choir about sacrifice – you've lived it and continue to serve comrades who need assistance. Thanks for all you do.

**Senior Vice Commander**

**By Chuck Bosko**

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We often discuss membership in our Post for rather good reasons - new members are vital. With that in mind,

**Save the Dates**

Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church  
Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> – Hospital Visit  
Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> – deadline for October newsletter  
Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

have you been in a situation wherein you meet another vet and engaged in conversation about each other's experiences in service? During the conversation, you ponder, "Should I invite this fellow vet to a Post meeting?" However, you're not quite sure if he or she is eligible to join. Hmm.

So, to address this scenario and ease your mind, I am including a "Service Medal" sheet for the next several newsletters which feature interesting facts about each medal and, more importantly, pertinent dates of eligibility so that readers may become more informed and confident inviting any fellow vet to a Post meeting. The sheets will be elsewhere in these newsletters.

This month will feature the "Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal." Please notice the various dates and campaigns.

Individuals who have earned this medal are eligible for membership.

Here's an interesting qualifier- look at the Quemoy & Matsu Islands, Aug. 23, 1958 –June 1, 1963. Anyone figure what occurred here?

See ya at September's meeting!

### **Quartermaster Report**

**By Mike Winner**

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#### Statement of funds as of 8/8/17:

Post General Fund	\$18,263.71
Post Relief Fund	1,991.77
Post Dues Reserve	85.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$20,700.48</b>

Semper Fi!

### **Hospital Chairman Report**

**By Walt Bergenthal**

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Our sympathy to the family of 98-year-old Michael Makeyn, who passed away at Hines Hospital. Mike served in England during WWII in the Army Air Corps. He was Jim Prorock's father-in-law, both members of our Post.

After calling bingo at our monthly Hines outings for about 20 years, Seedy Ulrich is passing the baton to Bruce Harken. Seedy will still attend the bingo get-togethers with patients in the Spinal Injury Ward along with Walt Bergenthal, Jack Lund, Fred Rodriguez and Tom Higgins.

### **Note of Thanks**

*From The Dog Tag Veterans Group*

We thank our fellow veterans and the Post for financially supporting our endeavors to offer viewers informative and interesting videos on our YouTube Channel.

Additionally, our Facebook page also will include news and information visitors may find useful.

Our most recent episode features a "How To" submit a claim for disability compensation with the VA. Granted, there are numerous other such videos on YouTube. However, none I have seen are as in depth as ours. Next episode will feature several female veterans with a focus on their military career paths and their new careers post military service.

On **YouTube**, go to: The Dog Tag Veterans Group.

On **Facebook**, go to: The Dog Tag Veterans Group.

As mentioned, we, the members of the Dog Tag Veterans Group thank our fellow veterans.

Chuck Bosko (Army, Vietnam),  
Buddy Georgoulakis (Army, Vietnam),  
Michael Holub (Army, the Old Guard),  
Melissa Ventrone (USMC, Afghanistan)

# TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

VETS OF THE MILITARY ACTIONS RECOGNIZED by the prestigious Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) can take pride. They form a long line of American veterans who have served overseas in times of crisis and actual combat.

Since the medal's inception, 31 distinct military operations have been conducted that rated award of the AFEM. Rooted in "brush fire" operations conducted during the Cold War, the AFEM was created by *Executive Order 10977* on Dec. 4, 1961.

It was made retroactive to July 1, 1958, to include participants in *Operation Bluebat* during the first U.S. intervention in Lebanon, as



well as early Vietnam vets. Since then, the Joint Chiefs of Staff has selected all qualifying operations except El Salvador and Bosnia. Congress authorized the AFEM for those missions.

Operations have included keeping world peace, advising and defending allies, demonstrating U.S. military resolve, maintaining freedom of the seas, rescuing hostages, evacuating American citizens, averting full-scale war and thwarting terrorism. Dating back to Lebanon and Vietnam, and ranging through Bosnia and Iraq-related missions in the Persian Gulf, recipients of the AFEM have had a profound impact on the outcome of U.S. foreign policy.

#### Military Actions Covered by the AFEM

Kuwait ( <i>Desert Spring</i> )	..... Dec. 31, 1998 - March 18, 2003	Persian Gulf ( <i>Earnest Will</i> )	..... July 24, 1987 - Aug. 2, 1990	Congo	..... Nov. 23 - 27, 1964
Iraq ( <i>Desert Fox</i> )	..... Dec. 16 - 22, 1998	Libya ( <i>El Dorado Canyon</i> )	..... April 12 - 17, 1986	Cuba	..... Oct. 24, 1962 - June 1, 1963
Iraq ( <i>Desert Thunder</i> )	..... Nov. 11 - Dec. 22, 1998	Grenada ( <i>Urgent Fury</i> )	..... Oct. 23 - Nov. 21, 1983	Berlin	..... Aug. 14, 1961 - June 1, 1963
Iraq ( <i>Northern Watch</i> )	..... Jan. 1, 1997 - March 18, 2003	Lebanon	..... June 1, 1983 - Dec. 1, 1987	Laos	..... April 19, 1961 - Oct. 7, 1962
Middle East ( <i>Vigilant Sentinel</i> )	..... Dec. 1, 1995 - Feb. 15, 1997	El Salvador	..... Jan. 1, 1981 - Feb. 1, 1992	Congo	..... July 14, 1960 - Sept. 1, 1962
Persian Gulf (intercept operations)	..... Dec. 1, 1995 - Open	Cambodia ( <i>Mayaguez</i> rescue)	..... May 15, 1975	Quemoy & Matsu Islands	..... Aug. 23, 1958 - June 1, 1963
Iraq ( <i>Southern Watch</i> )	..... Dec. 1, 1995 - March 18, 2003	Vietnam ( <i>Frequent Wind</i> )	..... April 29 - 30, 1975	Taiwan Straits	..... Aug. 23, 1958 - Jan. 1, 1959
Bosnia (former Yugoslavia)	..... June 1, 1992 - Open*	Cambodia ( <i>Eagle Pull</i> )	..... April 11 - 13, 1975	Vietnam	..... July 1, 1958 - July 3, 1965
Haiti ( <i>Uphold Democracy</i> )	..... Sept. 16, 1994 - March 31, 1995	Cambodia (Bombing)	..... March 29 - Aug. 15, 1973	Lebanon	..... July 1, 1958 - Nov. 1, 1958
Somalia ( <i>Restore Hope</i> )	..... Dec. 5, 1992 - March 31, 1995	Korea**	..... Oct. 1, 1966 - June 30, 1974		
Panama ( <i>Just Cause</i> )	..... Dec. 20, 1989 - Jan. 31, 1990	Dominican Republic	..... April 28, 1965 - Sept. 21, 1966		

\*Mission declared officially accomplished Nov. 24, 2004, but remains open because small numbers of U.S. troops rotate there to assist NATO in tracking down war criminals.

\*\* Korea Defense Service Medal available since 2002.



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