



**LAKE ONTARIO POST 313**  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

---

February 1, 2016

Dear Fellow Veterans and Friends:

Happy Ground Hog Day!! (Whoops! I jumped a day). I only hope that Ground Hog Puksatawney Phil or Dunkirk Dan saw their shadow, because I for one don't care to see another six weeks of "winter", I really don't think this is considered winter, balmy days (over 32 degrees) and snow, what snow! What a difference from a year ago.

Well, back to more important news:

On the morning of January 16, Colonel Dickinson, Ralph Borelli, John Moore, and yours truly, did a clean sweep of the interior of the Post. We cleaned out all the rooms of unnecessary items, old papers, old odds and ends in the storage rooms, and unwanted items in the other rooms. We had quite a pile for the garbage men and the recycling people. Thank you Colonel, Ralph, and John for a job WELL DONE!

I have enclosed a copy of an article I saw in the *Buffalo News* that I thought was very interesting and shows that other Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts do REALLY care about other Veterans and their Posts. We give our sincere thanks and appreciation to Niagara County Chapter 268 and Niagara Falls Chapter 681 for their donations in memory of Youngstown Resident "Frank" Daniel Zuhlke, who died October 28<sup>th</sup>. These donations in memory of "Frank" will go toward the potential purchase of a security camera to guard the Veteran's Memorial at Veteran's Park which as you know was vandalized in late 2014.

I read, and I suppose most of you read, in the *Sentinel*, that VFW Downriver Post 7487 (Lewiston, New York) will host the Village of Lewiston Memorial Day ceremony after a year off. The Veterans are going to have a parade and be putting on a luncheon. Adjutant Norm Machelor said the point of the event – beyond honoring the fallen – is to provide the public an opportunity to fellowship with Veterans. Commander Bill Justyk stated "What we had before and what we're doing now is trying to get the community involved (with) the Veterans ..."

Commander Justyk also stated that the Post will be conducting a Membership Drive on Saturday, May 2, at the Lower Niagara Moose Lodge 584, 112 S. Water Street, Lewiston, New York from 10-11 a.m. Refreshments and Breakfast Pizza will be served.

The Colonel, Ralph Borelli, and I sat down and discussed the finances of the Post. Last year (2015) we spent \$1,600 more than we actually received. If this trend continues, the results will not be very good if we want to continue to be a VFW Post to help our local Veterans. It must be remembered that the only revenue we receive are from dues, rental of the Post, grant from the Town of Porter, dinners on special holidays, donations via our annual drive, and fund-raising events. We figure our expenses to keep the Post operating (gas, electric, water and sewer) are over \$400.00 a month. This does not include supplies, and maintenance of the building. WHAT do we do?

I think personally that we should get all the officers and members of the Post together (not on a meeting day) and do some brain storming to discuss this situation. I have some ideas, but it is going to take a lot of work from everyone.

I hate, really hate, to bring you this news, but I think as members you should know how we stand financially and what the prognosis is.

Finally, we will be offering our annual \$500 scholarship to a Lewiston-Porter senior this June. If you know any eligible candidates, please give them a copy of the application or have them contact the Lew-Port guidance office.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

**February 8 (Monday), 7:00 P.M. – Regular Post Meeting.**

**February 28 (Sunday), 3:00 P.M. – District 7 Meeting, Dansville Post 6780.**

**March 14 (Monday), 7:00 P.M. – Post St. Patrick's Day Dinner, cocktails at 6:00 P.M., dinner at 7:00 P.M. \$15.00 per person, RSVP to Commander Gary Zanardi at 628-0440 by March 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**March 19 (Saturday) – Youngstown St. Patrick's Day Parade (more Information to follow)**

**March 19 (Saturday) – Youngstown Lions Club "Cash Bash" taking place at the Youngstown Red Brick School from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Tickets are \$20.00, includes food and beverages. See John Mac Arthur or Colonel Dickinson for tickets and further information.**

**April 11 (Monday), 7:00 P.M. – Regular Post Meeting, nomination for Post Officers.**



# Vets help fund security cameras for memorial

BY TERESA SHARP  
NIAGARA CORRESPONDENT

YOUNGSTOWN – Two local chapters of the Vietnam Veterans of America will be making a donation toward the potential purchase of security cameras to guard the veterans memorial in Veterans Park, which was vandalized in late 2014.

The donation is being made in honor of Vietnam veteran and Youngstown resident Francis “Frank” Daniel Zuhlke, who died Oct. 28. The memorial was restored and rededicated this past Veterans Day.

Gordon Bellinger of Pendleton, treasurer of the Niagara County Chapter 268 of the veterans organization, said his group, along with the Niagara Falls Chapter 681, of which

Zuhlke was a life member, will be presenting a check for \$600 to the village. They will make the presentation at the Youngstown Village Board meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday in Village Hall.

He said his chapter has received \$475 in donations made in Zuhlke’s name. His chapter and the Niagara Falls chapter gave additional funds to bring the total to \$600.

“Frank was a door gunner on a helicopter gunship in Vietnam, protecting us,” Bellinger said. “We thought giving the money that was donated in his name to Youngstown for security cameras was just like him still flying in his gunship, protecting the veterans memorial



Francis  
Zuhlke

in Youngstown.”

Bellinger said Zuhlke was a “well decorated veteran,” earning the Purple Heart and Bronze Star with Valor among many other commendations.

“He was a member of the Navy Seawolves – they were a pretty aggressive group,” Bellinger said. “His squadron flew an average of 600 missions a year.”

Youngstown Mayor Raleigh Reynolds said the Village Board was pleasantly surprised to hear of the donation.

“I think it’s tremendous that these organizations are coming to help us with this,” he said.

The memorial was damaged between Dec. 30 and Dec. 31, 2014, when someone smashed

Plexiglas panels protecting the lists of names of veterans from Youngstown and Porter. The lists of more than 1,300 names – dating back to the American Revolution – were torn from the three-sided monument and discarded nearby. No arrests were made.

All facets of the community helped raise funds for the restoration of the memorial, including an ambitious campaign at nearby Lewiston-Porter schools. Village Clerk Cindy Tripoli said \$6,678 was spent restoring the memorial. Reynolds said the remaining \$2,201, also kept in a dedicated account by the village, is to be used for maintenance of the memorial and, possibly, security cameras.

“We have two trustees who have just started looking into the camera,” Reynolds said.