

Joseph J. Jacques Jr. Post 7945

THE POST OBSERVER

2017 Issue 2

10217 Quivas Street, Thornton, CO 80260

303-438-6700

MARCH/APRIL

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POST WEBSITE: www.myvfwpost7945.org

POST FACEBOOK: Thornton VFW 7945 Joseph J. Jacques Jr.

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Post Members and Auxiliary

March 6th,2017

Good afternoon Members and Auxiliary as we get into March 2017 and hoping everyone is in the best of health. Nominations for the upcoming year will be on March 8th. Also, don't forget to set your Clocks forward as Daylight Savings is March 12th.

Again, the Council of Administration Meeting will be held the weekend of March 25-26th in Colorado Springs at Hotel Elegante, 2886 S. Circle Drive. Workshops (8:30 am), will be on Saturday March 25th and Joint Meeting with the VFW Auxiliary on Sunday the 26th.

Department Service Office Fundraiser: 2017 Raffle is now available and distributed to all District Commanders. Cost is \$10.00 a ticket. Prizes are 2-\$500.00 Delta Air lines Gift Cards and 1-\$2000.00 Visa Gift Card to the Lucky winners. Drawing will be held November 11th,2017 at 12:00 noon at Department Headquarters. Good Luck to All.

Citizenship Education Teacher is now in progress. Nominations were due to the Post by February 15th, 2017 and Post 7945 Nominated Elizabeth from Mountain Range High School. She does a great job for Veterans and we will honor her at the Meeting on March 8th. Please come by and give her a "BIG" Post 7945 Thank you.

Salute to Service Banquet will be April 22nd,2017 at VFW Post 501, 4747 W. Colfax, Denver, Co. Nominee will receive an invitation to attend and bring one (1) guest. All other guests will pay \$10.00, with happy hour from 5:00-6:00pm and Dinner at 6:00pm. RSVP for dinner by 4/14/2017 to Department Headquarters. 303-421-1630.

Department Convention will be hosted by Department Headquarters June 17th, 2017. Information printed on Page 8 of the May Colorado Veteran.

Don't forget the Monthly VFW Meeting March 8th as Nominations for the upcoming year will be held. Hope to see you all at the meeting.

Dave Garcia

Commander VFW Post 7945

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

Greeting all,

I hope everyone is getting ready for the warm weather of spring.

I would like to congratulate our Patriot Pen winner who took 5th place in Department.

The final COA (Council of Administration) is coming up March 24-26 in Colorado Springs. Try and attend, there is always a ton of great information.

We are nearing the end of the 2016-2017 year and are doing great with our programs. Please feel free to contact me or any of the chairman with ideas or to report the great things you and your family do for our veterans. Please look at the calendars in the newsletter and mark yours, as we have a lot of exciting events coming up. Let's finish this year out strong.

May God continue to watch over and bless each and every one of us, especially those serving to protect us.

Brigitte M. Dolan, President
Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 7945

AUXILIARY SWEETHEART DINNER DANCE

A huge thank you to everyone that attended our annual Valentine’s day Sweetheart Dinner/Dance on February 11th. Because of you our Auxiliary was able to raise over \$2300 for our programs to aid our Veterans and their families. The Post was beautifully decorated, thanks to those that came early morning to set up. The raffle committee of Pat Legge, Sally Adams, and Sherry Nettland did an outstanding job bringing in over 100 raffle items. They had everything marked and organized and some volunteers to help with the raffle. Thanks to the raffle sellers, Debbie Semmen, Joyce Alverado, Sherry Nettland who made sure everyone got their tickets. The prime rib dinner was delicious and again, a big thank you to the cooks and the servers who took care of getting everyone fed, to Kristi and Tyler Wood for getting desserts delivered, and those who helped clear tables and get dishes done. Thanks Lennie Dolan for manning the dinner sales table and taking care of the money. This takes a lot of work, soliciting door prizes, making the prize list sheet, cooking, setting up and cleaning up and a THANK YOU isn’t nearly enough for your efforts. Thanks to all the businesses, too numerous to list, and those who donated raffle items. Because of all of you we are “Keeping Veterans Close to our Hearts”.

Go to our facebook page, Thornton VFW 7945 Joseph J. Jacques Jr., and see pictures.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOTS PEN

At our January 11th meeting we were honored to host our Patriot’s Pen 6th, 7th, and 8th grade winners and their families. They arrived at 6:00 for the pizza party and we enjoyed meeting all of them. The winners at each grade level read their entries and received their prizes. There were also prizes for second and third places at each grade level. Sally Adams, VOD/PP Auxiliary Chairman spends many hours and many miles visiting the middle and high schools getting the information out to the students each year. THANK YOU SALLY.

AMERICANISM

Brandi Dolan, Chairman

Dates we honor our citizens and country for showing their patriotism:

March 15th, Youth Supporting our Veterans Auxiliary entry to Department

March 16th, Vietnam Veterans Day.

March 25, 26th COA see Colorado Veteran for information

March 26th Winter Sports Clinic, Snowmass

March 31st, Cut off date for program reporting

and are available on our website, myvfwpost7945.org under “Helpful Resources”. We are now at over 98% and only need five more to be over 100%. You can send your \$25 continuous dues or life membership fee to me at 1170 Fulton Street, Aurora CO 80010. If you have any questions about this, please call me at 303-34

Young American Creative Patriotic Art - There is still time to enter!!

The Creative Patriotic Art competition is open to all students in grades 9-12 enrolled in public, private or parochial high school or home study program in Colorado, and a maximum of 18 years of age at the time of entry. The student must also be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national. Students are required to submit their art on paper or canvas in water color, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen-and-ink or oil (no digital art will be accepted). The art should not be framed; submit canvas entries on stretcher frames. Other entries must be matted on white. Do not use other color mats. In matting, use heavy paper to reinforce back. Mounted and floating mats may also be used. The art should be no smaller than 8” x 10’ or larger than 18” x 24”, not including mat. The typed explanation of the patriotism expressed in the art work is limited to 150 words.

The entry form is online at www.vfwauxiliary.org: click on “Scholarships”; then “Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest”; you will find the entry form and rules. Attach the entry form to the back of the entry. **Complete rules are on the entry form. Please read them carefully.** Judging is based on originality of concept, presentation, and patriotism—how the content relates to patriotism, the clarity of the idea, technique, impact of the work, and its uniqueness. Deadline is March 31, 2017. Judging is done in each state (department) and the first place winners’ entries will be sent to the National Convention for final judging. Eight prizes will be awarded with the national first place winner receiving \$10,000.

If you have any questions regarding the competition, please feel free to call me at 303-452-0474.

Sally Adam, Scholarship Chairman

March and April Events

We continue to have Bingo every Friday at Turn II Bingo on 71st and Pecos. We hold our session at noon and are finished around 2. If you have some free time please consider volunteering to help, or, if you need an afternoon out, come and play.

March 8th, Post and Auxiliary meeting. Pizza will be served at 6:30, come and meet our Smart/Meyer Teacher nominee from Mountain Range High School.

March 17th St. Patrick's Day. The Post and Auxiliary will be serving their Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner with potatoes and carrots, buttered dinner rolls and a delicious homemade dessert. Dinner will be served 6-8, \$10. Remember, when you support a Post/Auxiliary dinner all the proceeds go to supporting our Veterans, Active Duty and their families. Bring your families and friends, wear some green, and party with the Irish.

Country Dance Lessons – Every Friday in March 7 to 8 pm. \$5 per person.

April 8th A Little Bit County, A Little Bit Rock and Roll. We will be hosting a fundraiser for the Department of Colorado Auxiliary. It's going to be a hoot! \$10 cover includes dinner from 6-8 with Memphis Pulled Pork, Mary's Homemade Potato Salad, Calico Ranch Beans, Creamy Coleslaw and Dessert. This evening will be hosted by our Little Bit Country, Willie Nelson and Little Bit Rock and Roll, Wolfman Jack playing your favorite dance music all night long. We have spared no expense and will also be flying in a few Country/Rock Stars to surprise and entertain you. Buy lots of 50/50 tickets and get that pot huge so you can win half! Fun begins at 6 till ? so put on your sh**kickers or saddle shoes and lets have some fun. Everyone welcome, bring your friends and neighbors and come for a heehaw/doo-whopping good time.

April 12th, Post Auxiliary Meeting, Election of Officers. Dinner at 6.

April 16th, Happy Easter!

MARCH 16TH VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

The **VIETNAM WAR** was the second-longest war in United States history, after the war in Afghanistan

Promises and commitments to the people and government of South Vietnam to keep communist forces from overtaking them reached back into the Truman Administration. Eisenhower placed military advisers and CIA operatives in Vietnam, and John F. Kennedy sent American soldiers to Vietnam. Lyndon Johnson ordered the first real combat by American troops, and Richard Nixon concluded the war.

Despite the decades of resolve, billions and billions of dollars, nearly 60,000 American lives and many more injuries, the United States failed to achieve its objectives.

One factor that influenced the failure of the United States in Vietnam was lack of public support. However, the notion that the war initially was prosecuted by the government against the wishes of the American people is false. The notion that the vast majority of American youths took to the streets to end the Vietnam War is equally false. Early initiatives by the United States under Truman, Eisenhower, and Kennedy received broad support.

Only two members of the United States Congress voted against granting Johnson broad authority to wage the war in Vietnam, and most Americans supported this measure as well. The antiwar movement in 1965 was small, and news of its activities was buried in the inner pages of newspapers, if there was any mention at all. Only later in the war did public opinion sour.

The enemy was hard to identify. The war was not fought between conventional army forces. The Viet Cong blended in with the native population and struck by ambush, often at night. Massive American bombing campaigns hit their targets, but failed to make the North Vietnamese concede. Promises made by American military and political leaders that the war would soon be over were broken.

And night after night, Americans turned on the news to see the bodies of their young flown home in bags. Draft injustices like college deferments surfaced, hearkening back to the similar controversies of the Civil War. The average age of the American soldier in Vietnam was nineteen. As the months of the war became years, the public became impatient.

Only a small percentage of Americans believed their government was evil or sympathized with the Viet Cong. But many began to feel it was time to cut losses. Even the iconic CBS newscaster Walter Cronkite questioned aloud the efficacy of pursuing the war.

President Nixon signed a ceasefire in January 1973 that formally ended the hostilities. In 1975, communist forces from the north overran the south and unified the nation. Neighboring CAMBODIA and LAOS also became communist dictatorships. At home, returning Vietnamese veterans found readjustment and even acceptance difficult. The scars of Vietnam would not heal quickly for the United States.

The legacy of bitterness divided the American citizenry and influenced foreign policy into the 21st century.

We thank and honor all Veterans who served in Vietnam!!

POST DIRECTORY

Commander	David Garcia	Cell 303-808-4194	303-979-0977
Sr. Vice Commander	Bruce Dolan		303-421-1630
Jr. Vice Commander	George Sandoval		303-948-4920
Quartermaster	Ron Schlieman	sshelbell@aol.com	303-349-5615
Chaplin	Phil Garcia		303-655-0115
Judge Advocate	Dr. Tina Garcia J.D.		
Adjunct	Chris Stillman		720-209-1502
3 Yr Trustee	Leroy Chavez		720-724-6773
2 Yr Trustee	Darwin (Ole) Hydeen		303-451-1296
1 Yr Trustee	Chris Stillman		720-209-1502
Service Officer	Scott Evans		303-457-1999
5 Yr. Home Board	Bill Bingham		303-880-8620
4 Yr Home Board	Terry Timberlake		303-920-1853
3 Yr Home Board	Bruce Dolan		303-421-1630
2 Yr Home Board	Scott Evans		303-457-1999
1 Yr Home Board	George Apodaca		303-906-8661

AUXILIARY DIRECTORY

President	Brigitte Dolan		720-394-5474
Sr. Vice President	Cat Apodaca		303-906-8671
Jr. Vice President	Wilma Trout		303-252-8258
Secretary	Shelley Schlieman	sshelbell@aol.com	303-550-7689
Treasurer	Lennie Dolan	linebrd@aol.com	303-341-7488
Chaplin	Shirley Colvin		303- 427-2982
Conductress	Kathy Trickler		303-450-9280
Guard	Jan Timberlake		303-920-1853
3 Yr Trustee	Sally Adam		303-452-0474
2 Yr Trustee	Maggie Munoz		303-915-8304
1 Yr Trustee	Brandi Dolan		303 -353-9629
Patriotic Instructor	Brandi Dolan		303-353-9629
Web Master	Kristi Wood	kmltwood10@msn.com	720-201-4062

POST HOURS

Monday thru Thursday 12:00-8:00 Friday and Sat. 11:00-2:00am Sunday 11:00 -9:00pm