

**February 2020**  
**Post Newsletter**  
WesternSpringsVFW.org

**Commander's Stuff**

**By Rich Jesswein**

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January whizzed by, and we are now into February. Yes, the shortest month of the year. However, this year February has 29 days. You know what that means?? Yes, Sadie Hawkens Day. That's the day when women ask men to get married. Sooooo, be careful guys if you don't want to get married.

Your Memorial Day Committee has selected a grand marshal! His name is Mike Holub. He is former police chief of La Grange. He served in the Army, but not overseas in a war zone. He is very active in the American Legion. We will also honor a 99-year-old woman who served in WWII, overseas, in the Wacs as a nurse. Her name is Helen Strzelczyk.

After fighting for nearly half a century, the VFW clamed a victory in December with the termination of the military "Widows Tax." The victory was a part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

Another new benefit for vets is that you can now purchase the "Stars and Stripes" newspaper at a 50% discount. Those who take advantage of this benefit will enjoy exclusive news, special

**Save the Dates**

Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> – Hospital Visit

Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> – Deadline for February Newsletter

March 10<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

features, photos, and other content daily newspapers do not carry. Just log into "VFW.org" to sign up.

Dealing with the VA when filing a claim can be very frustrating. That's why the VFW's National Veterans Service was established. It is designed to cut through the VA red tape. The local service officer is Derek Griffin. His phone number is 312-980-4284.

Effective Jan. 1, 2020, the process to get "veteran" displayed on your drivers license has been simplified. A vet no longer is required to visit the Illinois Department of Affairs before going to a Secretary of State driving facility. All you need to take is your DD214 to the Secretary of State Driving facility.

Female veterans make up 15% of the active duty military and 18% of the National Guard and Reserves. We need

to do something to identify these women and have them join our Post!!  
Some important dates in February are:

- Feb. 12 - President Lincoln's birthday
- Feb. 17 - President Washington's Birthday (commonly called Presidents Day)

Once again, I've rambled on long enough, sooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

*Roses are Red  
Violets are Blue  
Female vets are needed in our Post  
So, what is it that you can do??*

Till next month CHOI

### **Quartermaster Report**

**By Mike Winner**  
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#### Statement of funds as of 1/14/20:

Post General Fund	\$8,941.94
Post Relief Fund	\$666.69
TOTAL:	\$9,608.63

Fellow Veterans, we lost a GREAT friend last month, Danny Legan.

Since I've been lucky enough to be a part of this Post, I've witnessed Danny as one of the most humble and hardest working Poppy volunteers ever! He was out there every day in the rain, snow and excruciating heat. None of us have put more into our fundraising than him. In just the past three years, he collected over \$4,000.

As if that wasn't enough, he has asked that the gifts from his memorial service to be donated to our Post for Veterans. As of this writing on Jan. 15, we have already collected in excess of \$2,500 in honor of Danny. He was a great Marine,

a loving father, a loving husband and he will truly be missed!

Semper Fidelis!

### **Parade Committee Stuff**

**By Chuck Bosko**  
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This year's Grand Marshall is Michael Holub. Mike served in the Old Guard in the mid-1970s. Post-military, Mike became a police officer (Stickney) and eventually became a chief for several villages retiring as Chief of Police in La Grange.

Mike's veteran focused volunteerism involved serving with the ESGR, Illinois. The Employer Support for Guard and Reserves is a Department of Defense initiative.

This program is designed to allow employers to become aware of federal laws protecting members of the National Guard and Reserves during those individual's time away from family and work while in uniform. Further, reservists are made aware of their obligations to keep their employers aware of yearly training schedules.

Since 9/11, the Guard and Reserves have increasingly contributed to America's military missions and, as such, keeping employers aware of the Federal laws protecting these individuals have also increased.

Mike has volunteered in this program since 1995 traveling throughout Illinois hosting numerous seminars and often personally contacting employers on behalf of members of the guard and reserves. As such, Mike has protected the careers of those same individuals.

Currently, Mike serves as the Vice Chair for the Illinois ESGR. Mike will

share a unique vision of the meaning of Memorial Day and will be a terrific Grand Marshall.

Further, the committee has extended an invitation to a resident of Bethlehem Woods. Helen Strzelczyk is a WWII WAC veteran with an incredible story to share.

## **Hospital Chairman Report**

**By Walt Bergenthal**

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Our sympathy to the family of Life Member Danny Ray Legan, who passed away shortly after the New Year. Danny served two tours in Vietnam as a Marine and was our Post's top Poppy Days fund collector for many years.

Note a correction to last month's newsletter: The correct spelling of the name of the Charter and Life Member who passed away in early December is James Brownlow.

## **Message on a Bottle: Fun Facts About Heinz Ketchup**

**Why it's called Heinz 57** – On a train in New York City in 1896, Henry John Heinz passed a billboard advertising “21 Styles of Shoes.” He tallied his products and realized he had over 60! However, he went with “57 Varieties” because he liked the way that number looked.

**Clear glass vs. colored glass** – In the late 1800s, most companies used green or brown jars because colorless glass was more expensive to make. However, Heinz opted to use clear bottles to emphasize his pure ingredients.

**Remember the pickle on the label** – For 114 years, a pickle was used as the company's symbol before Heinz changed it to a tomato in 2009.

**Ketchup vs. catsup** – To stand out, Heinz changed the name of his product from catsup to ketchup – the common spelling we use today.

**Inverted bottle** – In 2002, an inverted squeeze bottle of ketchup arrives on grocery store shelves.

**Mayochup anyone?**– As if ketchup wasn't good enough on its own, in 2018 Heinz launches a ketchup-mayonnaise hybrid called Mayochup. More hybrids followed, including a ketchup-barbecue mashup called Mayocue, Mayomust (a mayo-mustard blend) and Kranch, a ketchup-ranch dressing mixture.

**Not all new products are winners** – While it's too soon to know if these condiment hybrids will succeed, Heinz has had some losers in its history, such as the Heinz EZ Squirt. The green colored ketchup, along with later colors including purple and teal, were discontinued in 2006.

Source: Food Network Magazine

