

March 2019
Post Newsletter
WesternSpringsVFW.org

Commander's Stuff

By Rich Jesswein

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We've made it through the worst part of winter. We can noticeably see longer days, the snow doesn't stick around as long, and we are that much closer to spring.

I am sooo proud of our very own Grace Gleason who participated in the Patriots Pen contest. She took first place at the District level and a second place at the State level!! Congratulations Grace!!

At our last VFW meeting, we honored the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy second and third place winners. They received a plaque and some money for the large effort they displayed. Congratulations!!!

One of the things we discussed earlier, but our National Commander wants us to repeat is "what" and "why" our logo was changed from the maltase cross to the VFW logo. One thing we want to emphasize is that the Maltase Cross will always be the seal for the veteran of foreign war.

That being said, it is also a logo that is confusing to many people. We are competing all the time to get more people, to get more contributions, or just

Save the Dates

March 12th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church
March 14th – Hospital Visit
March 15th – deadline for April newsletter
April 9th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

remember who we are. Folks don't have to remember the Maltase Cross stands for the VFW, it is right out there.

So now we know the "why," the "what" is as follows: The wide gold band at the front of the new logo represents the gold standard of work the VFW has done for the last century. The thinner gold band is for what we are doing this century. The color red of the VFW stands for the blood shed veterans have suffered through the various conflicts our country has been in.

Some important dates this month are:

- March 1 - Deadline for Scout of the Year awards.
- March 3-7 - Legislative Conference in Washington, DC.
- March 10, Daylight Saving Time begins. (Move your clock one hour ahead)
- March 17 - St Patrick's Day.

- March 20 - First Day of Spring.

Well, I believe I've meandered long enough, sooooooooooooooooooooo

*Roses are Red
Violets are blue
Don't forget our new logo
After all, it's brand new*

Till next month CHOI

Quartermaster Report

By Mike Winner

(708) 829-0069

Gonakadet@att.net

Statement of funds as of 2/12/19:

Post General Fund	\$11,772.17
Post Relief Fund	1,607.15
TOTAL:	\$13,314.32

Two requests

If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter, please let me know via voice or text at (708) 829-0069 or email gonakadet@att.net. We need to clean the roster.

Secondly, I'm still looking to add military photos of you to our website. Send your pics via:

- Mail: Post 10778 P.O. Box 73, Western Springs IL 60558
- Email: gonakadet@att.net
- Text: (708) 829-0069.

Semper Fidelis!

Hospital Chairman Report

By Walt Bergenthal

(708) 246-4858

Our sympathy to the families of Life Members Walter Blessman and Albert Jacobsen, who passed away this past month. Both served in the Navy in the Pacific during World War II.

Speedy get well wishes to Life Member and Past Commander Joe Gorski, who slipped and broke his ankle.

Remembering a Fallen Veteran

By Jim Boland

Past Commander, 1989-91

Our Post has been blessed in having an abundance of amazing veterans. One of them was a quiet man named Milton Quake. Milton was a charter member of our Post and could always be counted on to assist in every activity our Post engaged in from blood drives to spaghetti dinners to pancake breakfasts to even being in our Post color guard.

Yes, our Post had its own color guard with tan uniforms, Army jump boots and was led by the Captain of the Guard Seedy Ulrich. For many years, our Post's color guard performed at VFW district meetings, at wakes, parades, etc. As I stated, Milton Quake was one of the Color Guard's faithful members.

Milton grew up in Chicago and attended St. Mel's High School. He recounted to me, many times along with Joe Kot, that the tough Irish kids from St. Mel's would chase them all the way home. Now mind you, Milton was such a quiet, unassuming man that when he recounted being chased home by the neighborhood's Irish kids it seemed so unfair that such a gentle person as Milton had to be subjected to bullying.

When World War II broke out, Milton joined the US Army at the age of 18. He was made an infantryman and assigned to the Army's Rainbow Division. When Milton learned that my uncle had also been in the famed Rainbow Division but in WW I, he became happy to learn of the connection.

He was very proud to serve in the Army and yet, he never talked about his experiences. That is, until one day, when I went over to visit Milton, who had been feeling under the weather and he invited me in for a cup of coffee. As we sat alone in his house, he began recalling serving with Patton as his division was also part of Patton's spearhead into Germany.

I sat back that afternoon and just let Milton talk when he suddenly became very emotional. He recalled how he was one of those who first came across a "death camp." As he tried to tell me what he saw and what he smelled that day, he choked and was unable to continue talking. I mentioned to him how regrettably there are those who deny what took place in Hitler's death camps. He told me there is no denying what took place and he tried to recall what he had seen, the stacked up naked bodies, the horrible stench, the skeleton-like internees, the furnaces with incinerated human ashes.

I will never forget his recounting what he had seen and how when he continued to try and telling me what he had seen, he suddenly began to sob. He buried his face into his hands and began to uncontrollably sob. I reached out to try and offer comfort, but knew that this quiet man, Milton Quake, had seen what nobody should ever have to see. All the years after that fateful day of discovering one of the all too many death camps, he still carried the memories with him.

Milton was one of the most unassuming men one could meet. He was the type of man like most veterans who answered his nation's call, did his duty to his utmost capability, saw the most haunting sights and came home to try and get beyond it. He went on to get married and had one child. I don't know what he did for a career after returning from WW II, but what I do know is Milton was a true patriot.

Like so many patriots in our Post, when he joined our VFW Post he did so with pride. He always did his best and never sought acclaim or recognition. He helped make our Post become an All American Post, which is a rare honor bestowed on a VFW Post.

Milton has been gone for a number of years now but my memory of him will stay with me and the day he recounted what he saw at the death camp has led me to make it a mission to remind those young people, who I went on to teach, that the holocaust was real. Milton had looked it in the face and it never left him. That quiet St. Mel's boy.

Daylight Saving Time: States Ponder Keeping it Year-Round

On Sunday, March 10, we'll move our clocks an hour ahead and rejoice in the extra hour of daylight in the evening. But many states are seeking legislation to stay on Daylight Saving Time (DST) permanently.

As of press time, a bill in Washington to keep DST year-round went before state senators for a public hearing. Arkansas and New Mexico are among other states rallying to keep DST permanently.

On the flip side, Arizona and Hawaii do not observe DST and observe Standard Time year-round.