

2021 | Issue 1  
**Jan/Feb**

# The Post Observer

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*We value our  
veterans*

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## **Joseph J Jacques Jr Post 7945**

10217 Quivas Street | Thornton, CO 80260  
303-438-6700 | [www.myvfwpost7945.org](http://www.myvfwpost7945.org)

Follow us on Facebook: Thornton VFW Post 7945 Joseph J. Jacques Jr.



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*Greetings Comrades  
and Auxiliary  
Members*

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## **Post Commander**

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary members,

I hope that everyone had the best of the holiday seasons as much as that was possible. This year our holiday decorations were absent in the Post along with our members and patrons. Our December meeting was cancelled, along with all of our events. Mid November the District judging for the VOD and Patriot Pin entries were completed at the Post. We were supposed to hold the banquet this year, but again another event was cancelled. We have not had any District meeting since September of last year. January is normally the month that host the meeting, however I have not heard anything yet from the District commander if any meetings are planned.

The Post is to quiet and empty, the spirits that roam the building are tired of seeing Ron, Doug, and myself up there taking care of books and building maintenance. I am actually up at the Post this morning writing this article after repairing the Post computer. I feel as if someone is peering over my shoulder watching (misspel / misspelle / misspall) misspell every other word in this article.

Monday January 4rd the restaurant and bar industries are allowed to open again at 25% in Colorado. I am happy to report Dougie G's will be back open on Wednesday the 6th. Dougie G's hours are as follows: Wednesday – Saturday 11am until 10pm. January 13th we will be having our monthly meeting, and I am looking forward to seeing our members. My daughter is already asking me if I am going to the VFW meeting this month? I wonder what she is planning? What are you planning? It's time to break routine, get out of the house and come on up to the Post. I look forward to seeing you all very soon. Like Wednesday night? Hint Hint!

See you at the Post

Be safe out there.

Scott Evans, Commander

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*Greeting Auxiliary  
Members*

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## **Auxiliary President**

Auxiliary Members,

Another year has passed, and 2020 will go into history as the year of the pandemic. I have been calling it "the year that wasn't", because nothing about this year has been normal since the first of March.

In spite of the fact that we haven't been able to hold as many meetings, and those we have held haven't been held in the normal way, we met in October and voted on a donation to the VA Hospital in Aurora for \$300, which was matched by the Post. This money was for the purchase of an item to add to the gift baskets the Volunteers were putting together for needy veterans. At the November meeting we decided to buy gift cards with the \$600. I purchased 120 cards at \$5.00 each for the baskets. They were doing 200 baskets, so we didn't quite cover all of them. But, it was a start. We can't donate clothing right now, because of COVID-19. But, it shows there are still things we can do. Donating canned goods to any Food Bank right now is a great way to help the needy (including our veterans).

Our Post was asked to host the Department VOD/PP banquet the end of January, but due to the continuing status of the pandemic, Department Commander, Robert Kidd, and Department VOD Chairman, Tony Archer, have decided to cancel this event. The winners will be notified and their

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prizes awarded. Colorado's first place winner will be forwarded to National to compete for the \$30,000 scholarship.

Now that we have a vaccine against COVID-19, hopefully we can look forward to getting back to normal and back together soon. In the meantime, we continue to follow the guidance of the CDC and Governor Polis to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Several "ZOOM" meetings have been held with another one for COA happening January 10th at 1:00 P.M. These meetings help us maintain some continuity in fulfilling our protocols.

I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and that you were able to share it with your families, whether in person, by phone, or virtually. We are blessed to have that capability in this time of isolation.

We look forward to a New Year free of virus so that we can be together again, planning and doing for our Vets.

Follow us on Facebook and our website to stay informed.

Hope to see you or hear from you in January and February.

Kathy Trickler, Auxiliary President

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*We're here to meet  
your needs*

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## **Chaplains**

**Bill Nicholson / 720-837-3616**

**Shirley Colvin / 303-427-2982**

Please call our Chaplains, Bill (Post) or Shirley (Auxiliary) with any card requests due to illness, hospitalization, or deaths. Funeral luncheons will only be provided for deceased members of our Post or Auxiliary, upon request of the family. If the deceased was not a member of our Post or Auxiliary, the family may contact Doug Gohr (303-438-6700) about the use of the Post for a funeral luncheon.

## **TAPS**

## **Under the Weather**

Phil Garcia has had a return of his cancer and could use our prayers and words of encouragement.

Phil Garcia, 11299 East 159th Place, Brighton, CO 80602

Get well wishes, Cindy Anderson, double cataract surgery, January 4th.

Cindy Anderson, 8261 Clay Street, Unit A, Westminster CO 80031

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*We're here if you  
need us*

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## **Cancer Grant**

**Shirley Colvin, Chairperson / 303-427-2982**

Both the 7945 Auxiliary and the National Cancer grant applications are available at the Post and they are now both also available on our website. Go to [www.myvfwpost7945.org](http://www.myvfwpost7945.org) and on the left side of the Home page there is a "Helpful Resources" link. Click the link and then click on the PDF file which will bring up the applications. Fill them out and send the National application to National Headquarters in Kansas City, address is on the form and send our Auxiliary grant application to me, Shirley Colvin, 8381 Delaware, Denver, CO 80221. There is also cancer grant money available at the Ralph Emerson/Jack Gulden Cancer Grants for all VFW and Auxiliary members. Contact the Department of Colorado for information and forms.

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*Continuing  
Education*

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## **Scholarships**

**Sally Adam, Chairperson**

### **Continuing Education Scholarship**

The VFW Auxiliary is pleased to present the Continuing Education Scholarship to assist members and their immediate family members who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or career direction at a vocational/technical school.

### **Who is Eligible to Apply?**

Applicant must be 18 years of age or older and one of the following:

- Current VFW Auxiliary Member\*
- Spouse of current VFW Auxiliary Member\*
- Son of current VFW Auxiliary Member\*
- Daughter of current VFW Auxiliary Member\*

\*Qualifying member must have been a member of the VFW Auxiliary for one (1) year by the application submission deadline.

### **What is the Scholarship Amount?**

Four \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded each year, one in each of the four VFW Auxiliary Conferences. Each applicant must: Answer all questions on the application and write a brief essay (no more than 300 words) describing their commitment to their goals and how this scholarship will help them attain these goals. The entry form is at the back of the newsletter and also on our website [myvfwpost7945.org](http://myvfwpost7945.org).

### **What are the Scholarship Deadlines?**

- July 1: Application process begins.
  - February 15: All applications must be submitted to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
  - May 1: Scholarship recipients are notified.
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*It takes a village*

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## Membership

Lennie Dolan, Chairperson

Because we did not hold our December monthly meeting, due to our county's status Red, we did not have an opportunity to do the drawing to select two of our annual members to receive Life memberships, because they had paid their annual dues by November 1st. As of January 4th, we have moved to a status Orange and will be holding our January 13th meeting at 7:00. At that meeting, we will draw two names and notify the winners. Remember, if you did not pay your annual dues by December 31st, you are no longer a member in good standing and cannot hold an office or vote at meetings. You have until June 30th to pay these dues without losing your membership. There is no longer a "reinstate" and as of July 1st 2021 you will need to reapply for membership and begin as a new member. That also means that you would have to wait a full year to apply for a cancer grant. If you have any questions, please call me at 303-341-7488 or email me at [arlinedolan@comcast.net](mailto:arlinedolan@comcast.net).

### THE GOOSE STORY

This is a time of living day by day, not knowing if we will, again, be totally closed or partially open. Planning for events is also day by day, week by week, and we encourage you to check our website often as we will try to keep you informed of what is happening and who is ill and in need of prayers. We are trying to continue to support our National Programs and encourage you to join us for our meetings, the second Wednesday, at the Post, beginning at 7pm. Our Post is large and we are fortunate to be able to social distance. With that said, I would like to share a story from our VFW National Chaplain, Joseph Gallick. The author is Dr. Harry Clarke.

When fall arrives and you look up to the sky, you see and hear geese flying in a "V" formation, heading south. Do you wonder why they fly that way? Science has discovered they fly this way because as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds about 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

VFW comrades who share a common direction and a sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier, because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

When a goose falls from the formation, it suddenly experiences drag and the resistance of trying to fly alone and quickly returns back to formation to take advantage of the lift power of the goose directly in front.

VFW comrades, if we had the sense of a goose, we will say in formation with our fellow VFW comrades who are headed in the same direction

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose takes over.

VFW comrades, it pays to take turns doing hard jobs.

The geese honk in the rear of the formation as they fly to encourage those in the front to keep up their speed.

VFW comrades, words of encouragement go a long way.

Finally, when a goose gets ill or is wounded and falls out of the formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose

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until it recovers and is able to fly or until it dies. Then they launch out on their own or with another formation to try to return to their group.

VFW comrades, if we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other even when we fall.

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*Paying tribute to our veterans*

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## Americanism

Happy New Year everyone! I'm looking forward to a much better year for our country and for all of us. I hope you were able to enjoy the holidays, whatever they looked like this year, and get some rest and relaxation to tackle the new year.

Although things look a little different right now, that doesn't mean that we can't still promote patriotism safely in our communities. One of the Americanism programs that would like to highlight is the Gold Star Families, which also includes blue, silver and white stars. The following information on these families is taken from the national VFW Auxiliary website –

- Blue Star Families can display a flag or banner that is officially defined as a white field with a red border, with a blue star for each family member serving in the United States Armed Forces during any period of war or hostilities.
- Gold Star Families can display a flag or banner with a gold star (with a blue edge) that represents a family member who died during military operations.
- Silver Star Families can display a flag or banner with a silver star that represents a family member who was injured, wounded or became ill in combat.
- White Star Families had a family member who served in the military and lost their life to suicide. This service banner has yet to be approved by the Secretary of Defense.

Recognizing these families is one way that we can support this program. Watch out for these flags in your daily lives. Watch for them anytime you are traveling through a neighborhood, or even for signs such as a bumper sticker on a car. You can take a card or a small gift to the door and leave it, or even has a socially distanced conversation and thank them for their sacrifices.

Another thing that can be safely done is promoting patriotic holidays. This can be done with something as simple as a post on social media. Presidents Day on February 15th is our next upcoming holiday.

Thank you for all that you do and continue to do to promote patriotism during these trying times. Be creative and think outside of the box, and we can make sure that this support continues for our veterans.

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*Stay safe and support  
our veterans*

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## Patriot's Pen

The pandemic wrecked out essay competition this year. But we did get an entry from Amelia for the Patriot's Pen. That got her first place and her entry was sent to District. The VOD competition drew four entries from students around our area: one from Highlands Ranch, one from Fort Collins and two from high schools nearby. All four received awards and the first place winner, Sydney, had her entry forwarded on to District. Congratulations! Sydney, Nicholas, Norah, Ella and Amelia.

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*Post Roster*


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*Auxiliary Roster*


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**Closed Sunday through Tuesday**

**Wednesday & Thursday 12:00pm – 8:00pm**

**PH: 303-438-6700**

**Friday & Saturday 11:00am – 10:00pm**