

May 2022
Post Newsletter
WesternSpringsVFW.org

Commander's Stuff

By Esteban Lopez

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"March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers." Why do we have April showers? April is a month in transition; the long, cold winter days start to wane, and the jet stream – a band of strong winds – begins to move northwards. The chilliness of the dark months is replaced with warmth and light, but so too low pressure and as a result, the skies open.

For our Post, April is also a month of transition. April is the time of ballot validation and the time we pick continuing or new leaders for our team. Congratulations to the incoming officers! We look forward to the new drive that such transition provides.

The Post continues to ramp up for Memorial Day, but we should not lose sight of our fund-raising event, the Buddy Poppies sale week. Buddy Poppies are the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Donations for poppies started in 1922 to help disabled veterans.

From its inception, the Buddy Poppy Program has helped the VFW live up to its motto, "to honor the dead by helping

Save the Dates

May 10th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting**

May 13th – deadline for June newsletter

June 14th – **Post Installation**

the living." The Buddy Poppy – a small red flower symbolic of the bloodshed in World War I by millions of Allied soldiers in defense of freedom – was originally sold to provide relief for the people of war-devastated France. Later, its sale directly benefited thousands of disabled and down-and-out American veterans.

The poppy program actually got its start on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. Shortly after World War I, Madame E. Guerin, founder of the American and French Children's League, became concerned that the free world was "forgetting too soon those sleeping in Flanders Fields."

Inspired by Colonel John McCrae's poem, "In Flanders Field," which spoke of poppies growing in an Allied graveyard "between the crosses, row on row," Guerin decided on the poppy as the most appropriate memorial flower.

As we continue the tradition of selling the Buddy Poppies, we also have the responsibility to educate the public. The sale of the poppy is a way to remember and honor the fallen, who for our country paid the ultimate sacrifice.

That's all for now. Until next time.
Stay Safe!

Ad Maiora

Quartermaster Report

By Mike Winner

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Statement of funds as of 4/12/22

Post General Fund	\$4,549.79
Post Relief Fund	3,236.63
TOTAL:	\$7,786.42

Semper Fidelis!

Memorial Day Parade Update

The Memorial Day Parade commences at 1000 hours on Monday, May 30, with observance to follow.

Of all events with a focus for military veterans, Memorial Day is the most important and, in a way, personal.

It's important because America should never forget the price paid by our fellow service personnel. It's personal because each of us may have known such a soldier, sailor, marine, airman for a brief period in our lives.

It depends on us veterans to "lead the way" on Memorial Day. We must publicly display our commitment for the fallen with dignity and honor. If not us, then who? See you there.

On behalf of the committee,
Chuck Bosko, Allons

Installation Dinner at Zoo

In last month's newsletter, I forgot to include an important note on the reservations slip – yes, please do send your check with the reservation.

Members of the Post and spouses and/or guests will be able to enjoy the surroundings of Brookfield Zoo on June 14, 2022, which is Flag Day.

Our installation dinner will be at the Discovery Center. **Reservations must be received to me by May 26, 2022.** Please let me know of special dietary needs.

For more information or concerns, call Chuck Bosko at 708-205-3541.

Memorial Day Facts

- Before the Civil War ended, women's groups decorated the graves of soldiers who passed away.
- From 1868 to 1970, Memorial Day was celebrated on May 30 regardless of the day of the week. Since 1971, it's been observed on the last Monday of May.
- Memorial Day observes those who died while serving the U.S. Armed Forces while Veterans Day honors any veteran who served or is currently serving.
- Newly freed slaves in Charleston, South Carolina held one of the first Memorial Day celebrations. On May 1, 1865, freed slaves gathered with member of the U.S. Colored Troops to bury and honor fallen Union soldiers.

Source: Better Homes & Gardens