

November 2015
Post Newsletter
WesternSpringsVFW.org

Commander's Staff

By Mike Winner

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Fellow Veterans,

I encourage each of you to attend our monthly meetings or visit our Post website at WesternSpringsVFW.org for relevant news events effecting our Post and our community.

Let me begin by saying, "Happy 240th Birthday Marines!" I invite all members to join me at my unit's birthday ball on Saturday, Nov. 7, at Soldier field. Details are on the Post website.

November is a busy month for all of us. Veterans Day will be honored at schools all across America. Local businesses will be offering discounts and gifts, including Michael Doepke, the co-owner of Home Helpers Home Care at 123 E. Ogden Ave. Suite 102A in Hinsdale. He's a Western Springs resident and owner of a home care company that serves many veterans in our area. He's always looking for additional ways to thank local servicemen and women. He's graciously offered meals to veterans in need. For further details, see the Post website.

Save the Dates

Nov. 10th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

Nov. 12^h – Hospital Visit

Nov. 13th – Deadline for December newsletter

Dec. 8th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

From our District Commander: The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced on Oct. 16, 2015, that the remains of three servicemen missing from the Vietnam War have been identified and will be buried with full military honors. For the full story, visit our website.

In this month's Action Corps Issue:

1. No COLA in 2016; Higher Part B Premiums Possible.
2. New Medal of Honor Recipient Announced.
3. Grants Awarded to Train Veterans as Commercial Drivers.
4. VA Launches Mobile App to Answer General Benefits Questions.
5. Veterans Day in Washington.
6. MIA Update.

Locally, veterans can receive inoculations free of charge at the VA

clinics or Hines VA Hospital; flu and shingles also included. See the following for further information:

www.publichealth.va.gov/pneumonia.asp

On Nov. 10 at the Northwest Armory, (1550 N. Kedzie Ave., Chicago, also known as the Humbolt Park Armory) there will be a winter standdown in Chicago for homeless veterans.

As you can see, there are many events in November. I hope you can be a part of the many activities. Lets bring honor to our Post and our fellow veterans.

Semper Fi,
Mike Winner

Post Extends Scholarship

By Walt Bergenthal

(708) 246-4858

Statement of funds as of 10/13/15:

Post General Fund	\$17,011.73
Post Relief Fund	4,471.18
Post Dues Reserve	42.00
TOTAL:	\$21,524.91

A note of thanks to Vietnam vet and Life Member Dave Coons. Each month Dave runs off the computer generated newsletter mailing labels. He is responsible for deletions, additions, changes and setting up the Post Office mailing code on each label.

This past month we received another generous grant to our Post from the Wakerly Family Foundation. As a result of this grant, it was voted on and passed during our last meeting that we extend the annual Ralph F. Wakerly/Western Springs VFW Post 10778 scholarship to a Lyons Township High School student in need from five to 10 years.

Our sympathy to the family of Life Member Rufus Stoy, who passed away

this past September. Before moving to Wisconsin, Rufus was a 35-year neighbor of Rich Flatley, who recruited him. He had served as an E4 Marine/Navy Corpsman HM 3 overseas from October 1962 to June 1963.

Our condolences to the family of Stan Horonzy, who passed away in late September. Stan was a Marine Corporal who enlisted in July 1941 and was discharged in April 1946. He served in the Pacific Theater making beach landing in Guam and Iwo Jima. Stan witnessed the raising of the American flag on Iwo and was wounded in the process.

The Melrose Park and Stickney VFW Posts have folded. The 4th District is handling the sale of their buildings.

Remains Found

By Carol Anne O'Donnell

(708) 246-1204

The most recent report of remains found was announced on May 15, 2015 on ABC (Channel 7) News, and happened to be those of Marine PVT Jack Redman from Watseka, IL. He was reported to have died in November 1943 during the Battle of Tarawa. It's always wonderful when our comrades are brought home, but especially one from Illinois.

The second article is from *Military Officer* dated several years ago—December 2012—and contains the following information:

“The remains of five American airmen who perished when their seaplane went down in the Gulf of St. Lawrence 70 years ago were recovered in July 2012 by U.S. divers. Based in Presque Isle, Maine, the PBV-5A Catalina capsized in rough waters Nov. 2, 1942, near the village of Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan in

eastern Quebec, Canada. Local fisherman rescued four of the nine crew members before the plane slipped under the waves and settled on its back 130 feet down.

The plane remained missing until 2009, when divers with Parks Canada found it while conducting an underwater survey. Summer 2012, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) sent a 50 person team, supported by the USS *Grapple* (T-AR-53), to investigate the crash site.

Divers recovered what are believed to be the remains of the lost crew, which were sent to a DNA lab for identification. A large number of artifacts, including aviator glasses, film negatives, an intact Listerine bottle and still readable pages from the crew's log, also were recovered. Experts say the artifacts were so well preserved because of the water's near freezing temperature and the depth of the wreckage, which protected the items from damaging light and oxygen.

'To be able to do this and bring some closure to families is pretty rewarding,' said Dr. Stefan Claesson, a JPAC forensic archeologist, in an interview with *The Canadian Press*. 'As long as we find one remain, it's a success for us. And in this case we have a significant number of remains to bring back home.'"

Please keep all our POW/MIAs and their families in your prayers.

YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

Thanksgiving Fun Facts

President George H.W. Bush pardoned the first turkey on Nov. 17, 1989, kicking off this now annual tradition.

It cost **\$49.41 to feed a table of 10 Thanksgiving dinner**, according to the latest annual American Farm Bureau Federation price survey – a 37-cent increase from 2013.

The Calorie Control Council finds that the **average American consumes 4,500 calories on Thanksgiving Day**.

Feeling sluggish after that big meal? Resist the urge to slump on the couch as **lying down can inhibit digestion**. Instead take a family walk or play with the kids/grandkids outside.

Cube bread for stuffing and leave it on a baking sheet overnight. Stale bread makes the best stuffing.

If a holiday recipe calls for pomegranate seeds fear not. Here are **three steps to seed a pomegranate**:

1. Score a circle about 2 inches below the crown with a sharp paring knife. Grip the knob on top of the crown and carefully peel away the skin.
2. Score the skin between each section (about 4-6) using membrane as a guide.
3. Pull the bulk of the membrane right out. Using both hands pry the sections open. Remove the shreds of membrane that cling to the outside of each section then scoop out the seeds with a spoon.

Sources: Real Simple, Food Network Magazine