

# September 2018 Post Newsletter

WesternSpringsVFW.org

## Commander's Stuff

By Rich Jesswein

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A few important dates in September:

- 9 - The Rotary Club of Western Springs Steak Fry, noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Western Springs Baptist Church.
- 11 - Anniversary of the terrorist attacks. I just heard there are still first responders who are dying from lung problems.
- 18 - U.S. Air Force Birthday.
- 29 - VFW established in 1899

I attended the "National Night Out" on Aug. 7 in Spring Rock Park. This is a festival that is celebrated across the country. For those of you who don't know what it is, National Night Out is a festival on getting to know your local police officer. There were officers from all the surrounding communities attending. I thought it might be a good place to recruit some new VFW members. I handed out three cards----who knows?

I found at the local post office a brochure that read "THEY PROTECTED US. NOW IT'S OUR TURN." It is a program that the post office and AARP have joined together to stop scammers from targeting veterans.

## Save the Dates

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

Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> – Hospital Visit

Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> – deadline for October newsletter

Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

Some of the scams are VA loan scam, IRS tax scam, and credit card scam. If you have been approached, call (877) 908-3360 and report it.

A friend of suggested I include the following in this newsletter. It's called "Take a Knee"

### **Take a knee...**

I don't think I've ever read anything more powerful than this piece. It was written by Ted Nugent.

Take a little trip to Valley Forge in January. Hold a musket ball in your fingers and imagine it piercing your flesh and breaking a bone or two. There won't be a doctor or trainer to assist you until after the battle, so just wait your turn. Take your cleats and socks off to get a real experience.

Then, take a knee on the beach in Normandy where man after American man

stormed the beach, even as the one in front of him was shot to pieces, the very sea stained with American blood. The only blockers most had were the dead bodies in front of them, riddled with bullets from enemy fire.

Take a knee in the sweat soaked jungles of Vietnam. From Khe Sanh to Saigon, anywhere will do. Americans died in all those jungles. There was no playbook that told them what was next, but they knew what flag they represented. When they came home, they were protested as well, and spit on for reasons only cowards know.

Take another knee in the blood drenched sands of Fallujah in 110 degree heat. Wear your Kevlar helmet and battle dress. Your number won't be printed on it unless your number is up! You'll need to stay hydrated, but there won't be anyone to squirt Gatorade into your mouth. You're on your own.

There are a lot of places to take a knee where Americans have given their lives all over the world. When you use the banner under which they fought as a source for your displeasure, you dishonor the memories of those who bled for the very freedoms you have. That's what the red stripes mean. It represents the blood of those who spilled a sea of it defending your liberty.

While you're on your knee, pray for those that came before you, not on a manicured lawn striped and printed with numbers to announce every inch of ground taken, but on nameless hills and bloodied beaches and sweltering forests and bitter cold mountains, every inch marked by an American life lost serving that flag you protest.

No cheerleaders, no announcers, no coaches, no fans, just American men and women, delivering the real fight against those who chose to harm us, blazing a path so you would have the right to "take a knee." You haven't any inkling of what it took to get you where you are, but your "protest" is duly noted. Not only is it disgraceful to a

nation of real heroes, it serves the purpose of pointing to your ingratitude for those who chose to defend you under that banner that will still wave long after your jersey is retired.

If you really feel the need to take a knee, come with me to church on Sunday and we'll both kneel before Almighty God. We'll thank Him for preserving this country for as long as He has. We'll beg forgiveness for our ingratitude for all He has provided us. We'll appeal to Him for understanding and wisdom. We'll pray for liberty and justice for all, because He is the one who provides those things. But there will be no protest. There will only be gratitude for His provision and a plea for His continued grace and mercy on the land of the free and the home of the brave. It goes like this, GOD BLESS AMERICA.

***Those who would disrespect our flag have never been handed a folded one.***

*Roses are red  
Violets are blue  
BE CAREFUL  
Some folks try to fool you*

Till next month, CHOI

## **Quartermaster Report**

**By Mike Winner**

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### Statement of funds as of 8/14/18:

Post General Fund	\$17,025.33
Post Relief Fund	4,940.67
TOTAL:	\$21,966.00

We were able to donate \$3,000 to Hines Fisher House and \$1,000 to Diveheart, a non-profit providing support and educational scuba diving programs that are open to any child, adult or veteran with a disability.

I ask that we all remember Ed Baniewicz and Leonard Moscicke, who recently passed. Both of them served in WWII Pacific Theater. Ed was an Army Veteran and Leonard was an LST Navy Veteran.

God Bless, Fair winds and following seas Gentlemen.

## **Hospital Chairman Report**

**By Walt Bergenthal**

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On July 12, after our monthly bingo get-together in the residential care facility, Bruce Harken, Jack Lund, Tom Higgins and Walt Bergenthal dropped off a \$3,000 check at Volunteer Services to be used for the maintenance of the Hines Fisher House. These funds were made possible through our Post's Poppy Day sales.

## **Dog Tag Veterans Group Seeks**

### **Veterans to Interview**

**By Chuck Bosko**

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I mentioned in the August edition of the newsletter the intention of The Dog Tag Veterans Group to interview our members as a series of genuine "human interest" snippets. We'll post those interviews on the Post 10778 website, the Dog Tag Facebook page and the Dog Tag YouTube channel.

We intend to provide the same program to our fellow vets at Legion Post 1049. To date, we have two interviewees- John Palla and Guy Vorsanger.

I will be contacting folks, however, should you decide that this is a fun idea, give me a call. Still tweaking the questions. Looking to do five in all, same for all interviewees.

## **Labor Day 101**

On Monday, Sept. 3, many of us will bask in the glory of a paid day off from work while marking what has traditionally become the unofficial end of summer. Kids will be back at school, if they didn't start already. Community swimming pools will close for another outdoor season.

But why do we get Labor Day off? Here are some fun facts you can share with others at a Labor Day cookout.

- Labor Day is celebrated the first Monday in September. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, it's a "yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country."
- Labor Day was first recognized in 1885 and 1886 through municipal ordinances.
- While New York introduced the first state bill, it was Oregon that passed the first state legislation recognizing Labor Day in 1887. Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York followed suit that year.
- By 1894, 23 more states adopted the holiday.
- On June 28, 1884, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September a legal holiday.

Learn more about the History of Labor Day at [www.dol.gov/general/laborday/history](http://www.dol.gov/general/laborday/history)