



THANK YOU

United States ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE and MARINES

Freedom isn't free



VFW

POST and AUXILIARY 445
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pump to relieve our flooding problem and with the completion of the road construction, water will be directed to the road. My company has agreed to design a parking layout which will be offered for your approval. We will then add signage and markings to facilitate parking and traffic flow.

With YOUR help we will accomplish all of these things. Without YOU, we accomplish nothing.

God Bless America and the VFW

Jim

Comrades, Auxiliary and Supporters

We are beginning a new fiscal year in the VFW and with it comes the challenges associated with our pledge to help our Veterans and our Community. We need your support in our continued efforts to fulfill this pledge.

We would like to have candidates for the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen programs, Teacher of the year, First Responder, and Boy Scouts awards.

These candidates are all from our Community and you, as members, know them personally. You need only to nominate them and we will initiate the necessary steps to recognize them. Many of these programs reward Candidates with Scholarship monies in addition to their standing in the community.

We are continuing our efforts to make repairs to our Post Home despite emergencies that seem to be constantly arising i.e. parking lot flooding, road construction, air conditioning condensation and parking alignment. We have gotten approval for a new Trash



ADJUTANT'S REPORT

June Meeting Minutes are posted on the Business Bulletin Board (Blue) in the Canteen hallway.

Service Notes

Your Post participated in moving a veteran from an unsafe housing situation by donating \$250 towards the needed security deposit and providing the vehicles and manpower to complete the move.

The Auxiliary donated \$200 which was combined with \$200 from the Post that will pay the property taxes owed by a vet living in substandard conditions (makeshift home with no electricity or water). This payment will pave the way for us to work with Project Street Outreach, SC Serves and other veterans' organizations to provide suitable housing for this veteran.

Thanks to all who helped!

Our new Veterans Resource kiosk!

The Charleston area has so many organizations that provide many types of assistance to our veterans and we often get information from them that we want to pass on to our members and families. Check out the new kiosk by the front door to get information on a variety of services offered in this area.



Post Meetings & Events

7/6 @ 6:30 - House Committee Meeting

7/10 @ 6:00 - Membership Committee Meeting

7/11 @ 7:00 - General Membership Meeting

7/18 @ 6:30 - Building & Grounds Committee Meeting

Canteen Events

Breakfast every Sunday from 9:00–11:30

Pool Tournament every Monday @ 7:00.
\$10 entry fee; Prizes!

Wings & Things every Wednesday from
6:00 – 7:30

Shuffleboard Tournament every Friday @
7:00 - \$5 entry fee; Winner takes all!

Friday Night Dinners - 6:30

7/7 - CHICKEN by MONTANA

7/14 - CHINESE BY TREY –
MUSIC with OCEAN DRIVE

7/21 - SURPRISE! - KARAOKE

7/28 - FISH FRY by BOB –

MUSIC with OCEAN DRIVE

Notable Dates

July 4th: Independence Day

July 27th: Korean War Veterans
Armistice Day (1953)

July 29th: Anniversary of the Army
Chaplain Corps

Building & Grounds Committee

A new pump for parking lot drainage is needed. We received a quote for \$400 for the pump and temporary piping. This expenditure was unanimously approved in the June GM meeting.

The men's bathroom is in need of new flooring and other repairs. CDR Barger is pursuing a grant to fund the needed work.

House Committee

CDR Barger informed the members that the new POS system is up and running and the upgrades to and networking of the business computers was complete.

Membership Committee

Our newly formed Membership Committee met for the first time to discuss plans recruiting and retention of members.

Post 445 was recognized at June's Department Meeting for achieving over 100% in membership for the 2016 – 2017 year. This award was a direct result of the efforts of CDR Barger to "cross the finish line" in the last month of the year. Bravo Zulu Commander!

YOUR VA

VA Accountability, Whistleblower Protection Act Becomes Law:

The VFW is saluting President Trump for signing into law today the VFW-championed *Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017*.

"Accountability must be a two-way street, and today's signing now provides VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin the authority to manage his people in a manner expected of all senior executives, public or private," said VFW National Commander Brian Duffy, who attended the White House signing ceremony along with VFW Adjutant General Bob Wallace and others. "Three years ago, a nationwide crisis in access to care and confidence engulfed the entire VA," said Duffy. "Weeding out the nonperformers and those whose personal conduct brings doubt and dishonor upon thousands of dedicated employees is essential to restoring the full faith of veterans in their VA," he said. "Today's signing will not instantly fix an employee culture of indifference to appointed leadership that took years — if not decades — to fester, but it does send a very loud and unmistakable signal to all employees that maintaining the status quo no longer works for those who have borne the battle," he said. "Let the healing begin."

VA Women's Summit - Registration:

The Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Women Veterans is hosting a Women Veterans Summit in Houston, August 25-26. Information on health care and benefits will be widely discussed. Topics such as culture

change and gender-specific care will be hosted on panels and many partnering organizations will host exhibits. VFW staff will participate in panel discussions on women veterans, as well as at an exhibit.

[Learn more or register for the summit.](#)

PTSD

In June the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched a new online tool that will help Veterans compare various treatment options for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The PTSD Treatment Decision Aid is a free, interactive online tool that helps educate patients about effective treatment options for PTSD and encourages them to participate actively in decisions about their care.

The tool includes information about evidence-based PTSD treatments, such as talk therapy and prescription medication options. It also includes useful information designed for people who have served in the military. Users can watch videos of providers explaining different treatment options and what to expect with those treatments, and hear from Veterans who have benefited from them.

To learn more about PTSD visit the National Center for PTSD website at www.ptsd.va.gov.

Thank a
Soldier for
your
continued
freedoms!



Have you ever wondered if anyone in Europe remembers America's sacrifice in World War II? There is an answer in a small town in the Czech Republic. The town is Pilsen (Plzen).



Every 5 years, Pilsen conducts the Liberation Celebration of the City of Pilsen in the Czech Republic. May 6th, 2010, marked the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Pilsen by General George Patton's 3rd Army. Pilsen is the town that every American should visit. Because they love America and the American Soldier.



Even 65 years later... by the thousands, the citizens of Pilsen came to say thank you.

Another chapter in this important story... the Czech people are teaching their children about America's sacrifice for their freedom.

In the Czech Republic, the school children of the equivalent of fifth grade are each assigned one of the American and Canadian liberators buried there.

The Soldier's grave is the student's responsibility for the year and they learn all there is to know of their own hero. Their surviving family is sent letters and they respond to the annual child who tends their loved one's grave.



This is the crash site of Lt. Virgil P. Kirkham, the last recorded American USAAF pilot killed in Europe during WWII. It was Lt. Kirkham's 82nd mission and one that he volunteered to go on.

At the time this 20-year-old pilot's P-47 Thunderbolt plane was shot down, a young 14-year-old Czech girl, Zdenka Sladkova, was so moved by his sacrifice she made a vow to care for him and his memory. For 65 straight years, Zdenka, now 79-years-old, took on the responsibility to care for Virgil's crash site and memorial near her home.

On May 4th, she was recognized by the Mayor of Zdenka's home town of Trhanova, Czech Republic , for her sacrifice and extraordinary effort to honor this American hero.

COMMENT:

This is a wonderful "commitment to honor" the people of Pilsen have shown.

It is sad to know that some in our own Country are so callous and disrespectful of the sacrifices our Veterans have made.

I am thankful that our VFW and Auxiliary members across the Country have accepted the privilege of serving our Veterans.



Upcoming dates

Mark your Calendar

- * July 22-26 National Convention in New Orleans
- * August 5th is C of A at Columbia Headquarters.
- * August 19th is District one school of Instruction at Post 3433—Ladson.

- * October 19th—5th annual Celebrating America's Freedom Event at Yorktown Battlefield, Yorktown, Virginia

Also the Fall Conference (whenever the Dept. of SC gets their act together and puts the dates on the Calendar).....

Ditto the Spring Conference

More to come....



AUXILIARY REPORT!

- We had a very successful Blood Drive on the 24th June with 18 pints of blood donated—Thank you to all who gave!

- The Bake Sale (with yummy deserts donated by Post & Auxiliary members) generated much needed funds to help our veterans.

- The Shirts, Jackets and Caps donated by a very generous patriot has helped raise money—but we still have several items left which can be purchased in the Canteen at your Post 445. We donated 10 Caps to the Palliative Care unit at the VA.

- We sold out early at the Auxiliary Dinner in June—everyone loves Greg's Chicken Dinners. Thanks to everyone who helped out. The funds generated were used to purchase much needed T-Shirts and Shorts for the Vets program at the VA

- There is no Auxiliary meeting for July—we all need a break!

- July 1st marks the beginning of the new Fiscal year for the VFW



WE NEED YOU.....

**JOIN US - PARTICIPATE
RECRUIT - C'MON DOWN -
HELP MAKE THIS THE BEST YEAR
EVER AT YOUR AUXILIARY!**

This year we are starting early with the promotion of the VFW Scholarship Program. If you know of a Student who would like to apply for one of the following Scholarships—please let an Auxiliary Member know or better yet....bring them to one of our meetings - 2nd Thursday of every month.

- **Continuing Education Scholarship**

Current VFW member

Spouse of current VFW member

Son or Daughter of current member

4 - \$1000 Scholarships per year.

- **Patriotic Art Scholarship**

Any student grades 9-12 enrolled in public, private, parochial, home study program

Maximum age - 18

US citizen or US national

- **Patriot's Pen Scholarship**

Any student grades 6-8 enrolled in public, private, parochial, home study program in the U.S. and its territories.

- **Voice of Democracy Scholarship**

Any student grades 9-12 enrolled in public, private, parochial, home study program in the U.S. and its territories.

The Scholarship amount varies for Patriotic Art, Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy. In addition there are several levels at which they can win.

For Applications and full rules, please contact a VFW Auxiliary Member.

DUES LETTERS have been mailed. Early Bird dues are still \$20 until August 31st - to entice you to "mail early".

Also, this year we have a new system called MALTA which allows you to use a credit card directly with National VFW. Saves on postage. You will generally receive your new membership card within 2 weeks of payment. Check with our Auxiliary Treasurer, Dennis Baker, for more information on this new system. Phone: 914-525-4915
E-mail: dennisleebaker@gmail.com

Following are some pictures and highlights from the State Convention in Columbia.



Barb was taking notes at the Auxiliary Meeting. Reports - Reports - Reports..



Judy Duncan—Ladson Post 3433 was taking pictures all day - but we caught her this time.

Following are the New State Officers for the VFW and Auxiliary.

Commander, Harry Mcfadden
 Sr Vice Commander, John L. Sullivan, Jr
 Jr Vice Commander, Robert Holsclaw
 Quartermaster, Dwight M. Hora
 Chaplain, Oliver Smith
 Judge Adv., Paul D. Lyles

President, Theodora Montague
 Sr. Vice President, Jody Sullivan
 Jr. Vice President, Valarie Dayson
 Chaplin, Cathy Farley
 Treasurer, Hattie Henderson
 Conductress, Kate Brock
 Guard, Beth Tufts



Way to go!

Our Auxiliary received a recognition for being over 100% in membership at the State Convention in June. Thanks to all of our members and friends who help make this possible.

We have also been asked by our District to take on the Hospitality project for the coming year.

We said yes! If any of you would like to help staff the Hospitality Suite at the Spring conference and/or the State Convention come to the meeting in August—should be fun!

MOLLY'S ADOPT A SAILOR

The box is at the Post—we will be shipping later this month.

Also, still collecting new Sheets and Blankets for the "Veterans in Transition" project. I know some of you probably have new or almost new items that could be re-purposed. Bring them in.

I have enjoyed this past year and appreciate all of the help and participation our members have given. We accomplished much and I hope this new year is even better.

WE NEED YOU!

Judy

If you know someone who would like a copy of the Newsletter emailed, let me know.