

# VFW POST 9644 NEWSLETTER

## NEWS, VIEWS, AND HAPPENINGS

### Verle Huffman VFW 9644 & VFW Auxiliary



Award-winning VFW, est. 1947, Closest Post to Fort Logan National Cemetery

#### **VFW Post Officers**

Commander	Todd Van Sant
Senior Vice Commander	Gary Bean
Junior Vice Commander	Joe Camarillo
Quartermaster	Lynn Peterson
Chaplain	Robert Derrera
Adjutant	Marvin Garcia

#### **Auxiliary Officers**

President	John Whisler
Senior Vice President	Bill Mason
Junior Vice President	Rachel Rodgers
Treasurer	Debra Blesh
Chaplain	Lisa Bernhardt
Secretary	Concetta Kile

#### **Post Address**

2680 W Hampden Ave  
Sheridan, CO 80110

#### **Post Phone Number**

(303) 789-9733

We have an updated website thanks to our Commander, Todd Van Sant.  
Please check it out to see the latest events and happenings.

<https://www.vfw9644.org>





**Todd Van Sant**  
Post 9644  
Commander

## **Farewell, 2023, and Hello 2024!**

We did it! We weathered another year, and what a rollercoaster it was. While we learned to temper expectations in 2020, let's hope 2024 brings smoother skies and brighter horizons for all of us at Post 9644.

## **New Year, New Meetings, New Pizza?**

Speaking of new beginnings, we're shaking things up with our monthly gatherings! Starting February, meetings will be held every **first Saturday of every month at 11 AM**, instead of Wednesday evenings. We know some of you prefer daylight driving, and we hope this change entices more faces to join our table. To sweeten the deal, we'll be serving **lunch afterwards**, starting with classic pizza. If this Saturday morning routine sticks, expect the menu to expand as we go! Remember, your voice matters! If you have feedback or suggestions, don't hesitate to chime in during our monthly decision-making session, held at every meeting.

## **December Dazzle and A Thank You Chorus**

December was a whirlwind! We kicked it off with Thanksgiving festivities, followed by a joyous Kids' Christmas Party, a lively Adult Christmas Party, a heart-warming Christmas Day gathering, and finally, a celebratory New Year's Day feast. It's one of our busiest months, and our incredible Post 9644 family, made it a resounding success. From volunteers who helped set up to generous donors who kept the food flowing, from culinary wizards who whipped up delicious meals to meticulous cleaners who kept things tidy, and even those who wielded their tools to fix whatever needed fixing – **THANK YOU!** You are the heart and soul of this post, and your contributions are truly invaluable.

## **2024: Busy Bees, Building Dreams, and Boosting Membership**

Mark your calendars, folks, because 2024 promises another year brimming with activity! Our website boasts an updated calendar with all the exciting events lined up, so be sure to sync it with your own.

One of our biggest goals this year is membership growth. We're thrilled that our Auxiliary has already hit 100% membership, but the Post needs your help to reach the national membership target of 102%. Do you have a family member who served our country and might be eligible for the VFW? Let Lynn, Gary, or myself guide them through the paperwork and welcome them into our fold. Every new member brings fresh energy and strengthens our Post. Together, let's achieve this 102% goal for both the Post and the Auxiliary!

Another crucial focus this year is our beloved building. We've poured our hearts into renovations, but maintaining a structure of its age and condition is no small feat. Unfortunately, its age has also become a hurdle in securing affordable insurance. Last year, our rates skyrocketed by 25%! I'm actively exploring solutions to secure better coverage, but your support and resourcefulness can be invaluable.

## **Onward, Together!**

As we embark on this new year, let's remember that Post 9644 is more than just a building. It's a family, a haven, and a testament to the unwavering spirit of our veterans. Let's keep fostering camaraderie, supporting each other, and working towards a brighter future. Together, we can achieve anything!

**P.S.** Don't forget to check our website for updates, event details, and membership information!



**Gary Bean**  
**VFW Post 9644**  
**Sr Vice Commander**

Happy New Year....I hope that we are all in good health both mentally and physical-ly. Just a few things to mention for the New Year and New Month!

- Wednesday, January 3rd is free pizza and Post/Aux meeting nights. We will be doing a 50-50 drawing split the card for the Veteran Relief Fund. No one does more for the Veterans than the VFW and our Auxiliary members.
- Friday, January 5th Dinner we are inviting the winners of the Voice of Democracy and the Patriots Pen and their parents to share is announcing the winner that was moved onto District. As well as passing on the Prize for finishing in the top 3 for VFW 9644 Post and Auxiliary.
- Sunday, January 14th will be the district winners' lunch at VFW Post 7945 in Thornton.

- Saturday, January 20th will be the Department winners' dinner from the State of Colorado which will be held here at Post 9644. So keep your eyes and ears out for those exciting dinners.

I am vamping up my recruitment and resigning of those present members that are not caught up on their dues as well as members that have moved into the area from other posts. Exciting to meet and welcome new members to out active post

Best of health to all you and yours!

Gary Bean  
 Sr. Vice Commander  
 Post 9644

# MONTHLY MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3RD**  
**5:30PM FREE PIZZA**  
**7PM POST/AUXILIARY**





**Lynn Peterson**  
**VFW Post 9644**  
**Quartermaster**

Dear Post 9644 & Auxiliary Members:

From the Trenches, with a diversity of sentiments .... Well, double happy to say, in hind sight, "Riddens" 2023 and a most Welcome 2024 Happy New Year to you All!!!

Importantly, as well, adding to our ranks....a hearty "Welcome Aboard" to New Post 9644 Members. Honorary December Membership Scorecard: Army - 3, Navy - 3, Air Force - 2 & Marine Corps - 0

- Gary Bloom, US Air Force
- Charles Callahan, US Air Force
- Michael Crawford, US Navy
- Alton Donnell, US Army
- Gregory Lippmann, US Army
- David McCune, US Army
- David Nutter, US Navy
- Donald Smith, US Navy

And more in process!!! Stay Tuned.

Continuing on.....with other "News Front" info....

Firstly, it's a **Call to Action** - Come on Down to "Your Post"; plenty of activities, conversations, snacks, food, adult beverages, BS, etc., with plenty of tables, chairs & stools available, to boot. Remember: You're likely AWOL, unless, of course, you come see us. Do So!! Thanks.

Secondly & noteworthy, our Post, thanks to an anonymous giver, contributed significant funds to the Post Hall, allowing us to acquire & construct a new Hall Facility exterior Storage Shed; as well as, painter's/painting, hence, providing a much-needed space for the Hall's Tables, Chairs, etc. Thank You!!!

Concerning Post finances, all accounts, Bingo, General, Hall & Canteen, including Post Foundation, are Strong & in the **Black**. However, significant expense(s),

are upcoming in the next several months; insurance, media equipment/installation; along with an ever present wish list of added Post Facility improvements are anticipated. Thanks, in advance, for your generosity, assistance & support.

In a solicitation mode, several big Post facility events are beginning in January; as we host the VFW Dept. of Colorado's annual Voice of Democracy & Patriot Pen youth program & Teacher Appreciation events. Watch for details & needs.

Then, as an Advance Reminder, commencing in February, per both Post & Auxiliary prior voted approvals, our **Monthly General Membership Meetings** will change **from 1st Wednesday of the month to 1st Saturday of the month**. As such, we hope to be more convenient & available for You members & participants. All are Welcome. More details to follow in upcoming weekly activities email(s).

In closing, Thanks to You/All who both consistently, regularly & as able, help make VFW Post 9644 a success, by your attendance, actions, participation & encouragements.

In sum, that's all folks. See ya back at the Post :). That's all folks!! Again, Thanks in your membership, support & participation; adding value to our prized Post 9644.

Lynn E. Peterson  
 QM, VFW Post 9644  
[lepeterson47@comcast.net](mailto:lepeterson47@comcast.net)  
 720-292-6992



**Paul Gremse**  
**VFW Post 9644**  
**Service Officer**

I hope everyone enjoyed a great Christmas (or whatever holiday you celebrate this time of year) and please accept my best wishes for a great new year!

If you served during the Vietnam War, including Veterans who served on Blue Water Navy vessels or Coast Guard ships, you may be at risk of certain health conditions. Understanding this will allow you to receive better care. Let's take a look at these conditions and what you can do to take care of your health.

Many of the health risks related to the Vietnam War manifest as a result of exposure to Agent Orange. Contrary to what many believe, exposure to Agent Orange does not warrant a claim for disability. It is the diseases that have been linked medically to that exposure. These are what is known as "Presumptive Conditions", presumed to be a result of exposure to Agent Orange. Many are cancers including Bladder cancer, Chronic B-cell leukemia, Hodgkin's disease, Multiple myeloma, Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Prostate cancer, Respiratory cancers (including lung cancer), and some soft tissue sarcomas. Other conditions include AL amyloidosis, Chloracne (or other types of acneiform disease like it), Diabetes mellitus type 2, High blood pressure (hypertension), Hypothyroidism, Ischemic heart disease, Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), Parkinsonism, Parkinson's disease, Peripheral neuropathy, and Porphyria cutanea tarda.

Hepatitis C, Hearing problems caused by noise (imagine that - war IS noisy!), Illnesses or injuries caused by job-related hazards (you may have come across chemicals, paints, radiation, and other hazards), and PTSD are other ailments that can be associated with Vietnam service. **NOTE:** These are not limited to just service in Vietnam. These are the common ailments. The best rule of thumb is to consider any ailment you believe may have been caused by your service in Vietnam, or anywhere else, qualifying for disability compensation.

What should you do? There are many preliminary steps. For starters, talk to your primary health care provider about health concerns related to your military service.

Get your toxic exposure screening. Your provider can arrange this and it makes your VA health care team aware of any potential exposures to toxins during your military service. Absolutely, get a free Agent Orange Registry health exam. Lastly, if you do nothing else, be sure your doctor knows if you have a history of Agent Orange exposure. Because of the possibility of increased cancer risk, your doctor may suggest cancer screening tests.

Next, visit with a Veterans Service Officer. Though I was accredited with the VA for 12 years, I am no longer. But I can still offer guidance. All the major Veteran Service Organizations (VFW, DAV American Legion, etc.) as well as every county in the state employs at least one.

It's important to note once the PACT Act passed in August, 2022, Service Officers everywhere have been deluged with claims so it may take awhile to meet with one. While waiting for an appointment, a good start is to merely establish a claim which simply tells the VA you intend to file a claim. That will establish your "date of claim". I can help with that. As long as you follow up within 12 months and are granted compensation, your compensation will be retroactive to the month you filed your intent.

The PACT Act expands eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras. The PACT Act also added 2 new Agent Orange presumptive conditions.

The PACT Act Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras. It adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for **burn pits**, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures as well as adding more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation. It requires the VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care (**Burn Pit**) and will improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures. Read more about the PACT Act at: <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>



**John Whisler**  
VFW Post 9644  
President

Happy New Year Post and Auxiliary members of 9644!

As we enter this new year as a unit, I stop to think how the post has changed my mind set, my way of life and how I see people as individuals. This has been a year of growth for me. From the way I approach my job to the way I interact with my family. I have seen many things get completed through the Post and Auxiliary and I have seen a community grow and become stronger. I ask everyone to stop as this new year starts and see is there a way, I can help volunteer or is there an event/activity that is something I would

like to lead and plan. If you volunteer to help at an event, please remember that each event does have 1 or 2 people in charge and they are the ones looking for support and understanding with the event/activity.

So, in closing please remember that the Post and Auxiliary are only as good as the volunteers that help. Please stay safe as we roll into this coming year.

Thank you from your Auxiliary President  
John Whisler



**Deb Blesh**  
VFW Post 9644  
Treasurer

I hope the new year brings everyone the promise of better times, renewed energy and enthusiasm.

It is time to appreciate the things volunteers do for our organization, recognize everyone has something going on that others may not know about, and treat each other the same way you want treated. Please remember to respect each other for the good of the organization.

I'm sure there are those who will get offended and those that will appreciate the message.

Now for my news: Membership is currently at 101.19%. We have met our goal, but with the loss of a few members

and saddened by this loss we continue recruiting new members.

Our bingo has been doing well, and the end of this month both of our progressives have been won. Time will rebuild them as they so often do. We have great customers who like our session and continue to support our organization.

After my month off meals, I hope to get in the swing again of some new ideas and some old favorites. Hope you will continue to support the small fund raising that Tuesday offers us, no matter how small the profit.

Have a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

**VFW Department of Colorado**  
**Voice of Democracy & Patriots Pen Banquet**  
**Saturday, January 20th**  
**5pm Cocktails, 6pm Dinner**

VFW Post 9644,  
2680 W Hampden Ave  
Sheridan, CO 80110



Rachel Rodgers  
VFW Post 9644  
Jr Vice President

Hello VFW 9644!!

Thank you to everyone that has been so supportive and volunteered your time over the last few months!

We had a great success for the Childrens' Christmas Party and it would not have been a successful event without all the elves that helped out. Thank you again to Santa Claus (Gary Bean) AND Mrs. Claus (Robin Bean)!! The kids had an amazing time and they loved the pictures with you!

As mentioned there are a few events that are coming up in the next 2 months that we are looking for help with:

- January 6th is a regift exchange and Hill Billy pot luck. Please see MJ for more information.
- January 20th is the VFW Department of Colorado VOD/PP Banquet at our post. Cocktails at 5pm with dinner at 6pm.
- February 10th is the Senior Luncheon. This is always an

amazing event that we love to put on for our seniors in the community.

- Super Bowl is Sunday, February 11th. AGAIN this year we are having the Chili Cook Off. Kick off is at 4:30pm so come down with your best chili and to watch the game with your VFW Family!!

We also as the Meal Planning Meeting and I believe that there are about 12 meals (Sunday Breakfast, Bingo Dinners, & Friday Dinners) that we are looking. There is a calendar in foyer hanging on the bulletin board as well as one in the kitchen. Please take a look and see if there is anything you would like to sign up to help us with the meals.

Until February, thank you again for all your help and support everyone gives to make our Post so AMAZING!!

Rachel Rodgers  
Jr Vice President

## 46th Annual Salute to Seniors Lunch

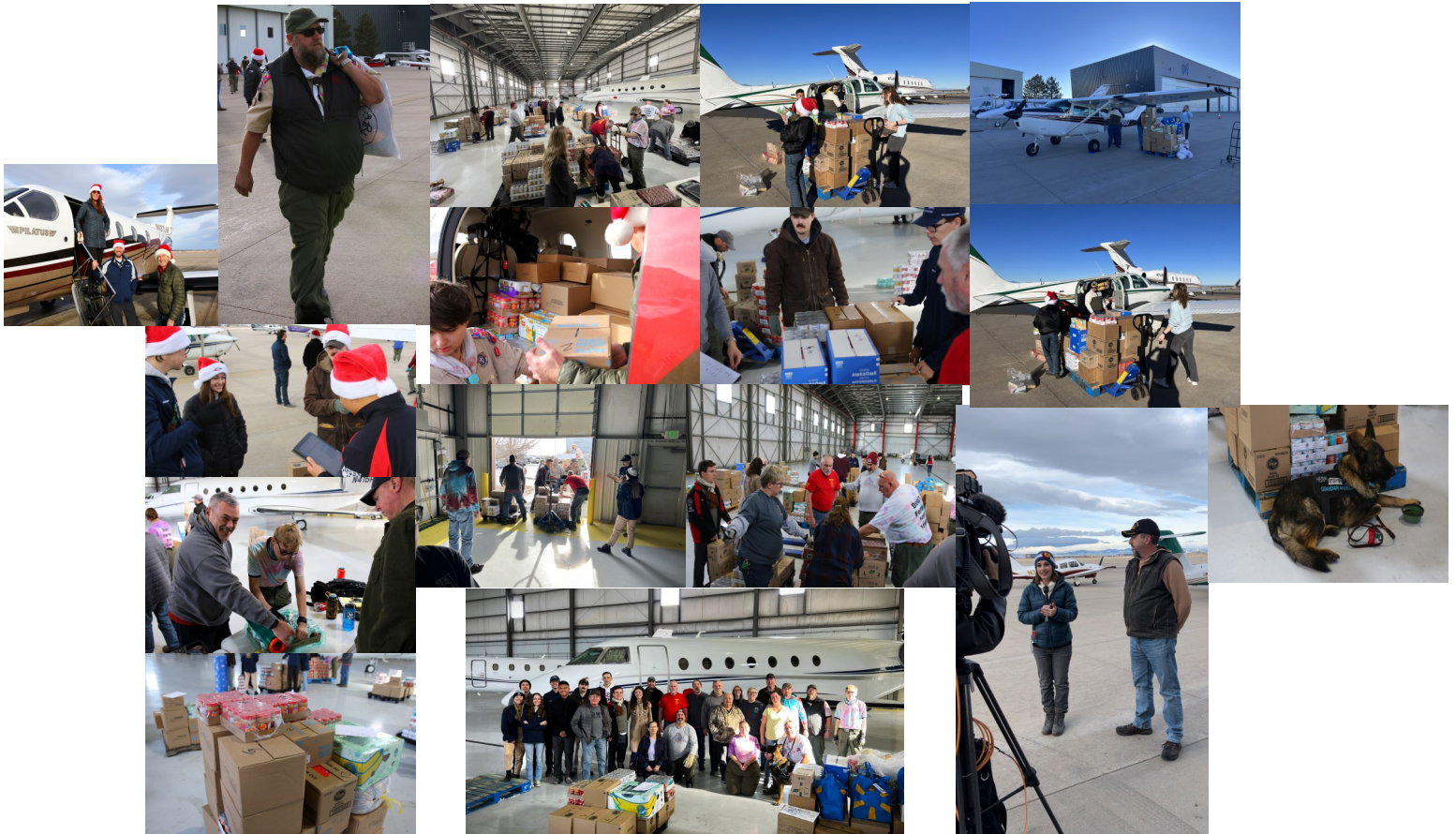
Saturday, February 10, 2024  
11am to 3pm

We are hosting our annual senior citizen lunch!! We are looking for volunteers. Please sign up in the lobby in interested to help!

Thank you to everyone that helped with Children Christmas Party! This was a huge success and we had about double the amount of kids we have seen over the past few years. So happy to have the community back in the post!



CABA had another successful year with about 10,000 pounds of food & toys making it to our rural communities with the help of other VFWs across the state!!



# January 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 New Years Day— Post Opens at 11am & Blacked Eyed Peas at 2pm	2 Dinner/Bingo	3 Finance Meeting 6pm Post/Aux Meeting 7pm	4	5 Friday Night Dinner	6
7 Sunday Breakfast	8 Participation Meeting at 6pm	9 Dinner/Bingo	10	11	12 Friday Night Dinner	13
14 Sunday Breakfast	15 MLK Jr Day Participation Meeting at 6pm	16 Dinner/Bingo	17	18 America Says	19 Friday Night Dinner	20 Dept of CO VOD/PP Banquet Karaoke 6pm
21 Sunday Breakfast	22	23 Dinner/Bingo	24	25	26 Friday Night Dinner	27
28 Sunday Breakfast	29 Participation Meeting at 6pm	30 Dinner/Bingo	31 Home Board Meeting 6pm			

**Weekly Happenings:**

Monday - Post Open at 2pm  
 Tuesday - Post Opens at 3pm; Dinner & Bingo 5pm to 7pm; Bingo starts at 6pm  
 Wednesday - Post Opens at 3pm  
 Thursday - Post Opens at 3pm  
 Friday - Post Opens at 2pm; Friday Night Dinner 5pm to 7pm; Penny's Derby Downs Horses Races starting at 5:45pm  
 Saturday - Post Closed  
 Sunday - Post Opens at 9am; Sunday Breakfast 9am to 12 pm

**Monthly Happenings:**

1st Wednesday - Finance Meeting at 6pm, Post/Aux Monthly Meeting at 7pm - STARTING FEBRUARY THIS IS MOVING TO THE FIRST SATURDAY AT 10AM.  
 3rd Thursday - America Says at 6pm  
 3rd Saturday - Post Opens at 4pm; Karaoke at 6pm  
 Last Wednesday - Home Board Meeting at 6pm

**Upcoming Events:**

Senior Luncheon at VFW Post 9644 - February 10th  
 Super Bowl & CHILI COOK OFF- February 11th  
 St Pattys Dinner - March 15th  
 Dept of CO COA - March 16th & March 17th @ VFW Post 1

For an updated/detailed calendar please visit ~  
[vfw9644.org/calendar](http://vfw9644.org/calendar)



## Post

Walter Allen	January 1	Michael Steinbach	January 1
George Askins	January 1	Karl Taylor	January 1
Gerald Bates	January 1	Barton Trujillo	January 1
John Bechtold	January 1	Bennie Trujillo	January 1
Dale Becker	January 1	James Turner	January 1
Darrel Benton	January 1	Sylvester Walorski	January 1
Robert Blanshan	January 1	Robert Weins	January 1
David Bleau	January 1	James Kirst	January 2
Robert Brake	January 1	Randy Baca	January 5
Michael Brosh	January 1	John De Oliver	January 10
Delmar Brown	January 1	Raul Gierbolini	January 11
Dennis Cushman	January 1	Warner McMichael	January 11
Robert Czarnek	January 1	Clint Cator	January 12
Fletcher Eames	January 1	David Ollila	January 12
Lee Gaskill	January 1	Paul Martinez	January 13
Frank Gill	January 1	Rory Mathias	January 13
Robert Grimes	January 1	Frank Rodriguez	January 14
Delavan Hansen	January 1	Jason Abbey	January 16
Steven Harris	January 1	David Barnes	January 20
Clifford Heitzman	January 1	John Bredenber	January 21
Raymond Herrera	January 1	James Cardinal	January 22
Martin Hixon	January 1	Darell Larson	January 22
Nathan Hunter	January 1	David Morgan	January 22
Tom Keeton	January 1	Shawn Jones	January 23
Eric Koppelmaa	January 1	Terrance Goad	January 24
Christopher Lapham	January 1	James Golden	January 25
Paul Leveque	January 1	Barry Schwabauer	January 25
James Lingle	January 1	Ray Navarro	January 26
Bryan Mc Gee	January 1	Duane Ammerman	January 27
James McDonald	January 1	Joseph Guerrieri	January 28
Leo Muniz	January 1	Michael Hill	January 30
Levi Myers	January 1	Robert Powell	January 30
Ruben Ortega	January 1		
Donald Peters	January 1		
James Phenix	January 1		
Roy Richards	January 1		
David Ritchie	January 1		
Leon Rodriguez	January 1		
Travis Roundtree	January 1		
James Shattuck	January 1		



## Auxiliary

Margaret (Meggie) Davies	January 1	Bonnie Hardin	January 22
Diane Fraley	January 1	Pauline Theurer	January 22
Sandra Hall	January 1	Sharon Vine	January 22
Barbara Harberson	January 1	Mary Blackard	January 25
Norma Henderson	January 1	Terra Snyder	January 25
Phyllis Horton	January 1	Deborah Connelly	January 27
Tina Mabe	January 1	Patricia Sampers	January 27
Marian Maschka	January 1	John Whisler	January 27
Whitney Mason	January 1	Ila Alred	January 28
Agnes Pankoski	January 1	Michelle Hall	January 30
Nancy Paterson	January 1	Amanda Czarnek	January 31
Louise Seggerma Penn	January 1	Andrew Hahn	January 31
Patricia Pinner	January 1	Linda Wilkerson	January 31
Mary Rice	January 1		
Sherol Roy	January 1		
Catherine Stoner	January 1		
Rita Webber	January 1		
Gladys Winner	January 1		
Catherine Zawicky	January 1		
Tanya Shiflett	January 3		
Judy Ellis	January 4		
Carol Neises	January 4		
Ginny Dumas	January 7		
Carol McMenamin	January 7		
Lora Hodson	January 8		
Pamela Novotny	January 8		
Eileen Krasovec Perez	January 9		
Tony Italiano	January 10		
Sara Leatherwood	January 10		
Mary Johnson	January 11		
Rebecca Moors	January 11		
Judy Scott	January 13		
Yvonne Tatham	January 13		
Christine Collier-Lux	January 15		
Marshalaine Maez	January 15		
Pablo Espinoza	January 16		
Annetter Sue Williams	January 18		
Sharon Rodriguez	January 21		

## Red Oak Claims

### Red Oak Claims donated \$360 for website advertising

RED OAK CLAIMS is a Colorado based company that is proud to support your VFW! Our expertise is serving as advocates for policyholders. If a property owner is facing an extensive property loss and claim, our team would work on behalf of the insured to ensure that they receive a favorable settlement in a timely manner. Our role is to prepare, present and negotiation the claim, always with the insured's best interest in mind. We are licensed by the Division of Insurance as Public Adjusters. By the nature of our license, we always work for the policyholder. We never work for the insurance companies as that would be a conflict of interest. RED OAK CLAIMS is your claim advocate! COMPASSION FOR YOU. AUTHORITY FOR YOUR CLAIM



## Veterans Auto Hail Services



Veterans Auto Hail Services will donate \$200 to our Post for every qualified vehicle we refer for painless dent repair.

Veteran Steve Clark started Veterans Auto Hail Services to give back to the community while helping people through the headache of getting hail damage fixed.

Contact Steve to get started—720.401.1903

[steve@veteransautohailservices.com](mailto:steve@veteransautohailservices.com)

[VFW9644 | Veteran's Auto \(veteransautohailservices.com\)](https://www.veteransautohailservices.com)

## Donate to VFW Post 9644

Use the QR Code to donate to your local veterans through your VFW Post.  
Donations go directly to veterans in need.



(This QR Code will take you to PayPay where you can add your donation)