

VFW 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
 Senior Vice Commander
 Junior Vice Commander
 Quartermaster
 Chaplain
 Adjutant

Todd Van Sant
 Paul Gremse
 Mike Stern
 Lynn Peterson
 Daniel Micka
 Marvin Garcia

Auxiliary Officers

President
 Senior Vice President
 Junior Vice President
 Treasurer
 Chaplain
 Secretary

Concetta Kile
 Shelly Hall
 Rachel Rodgers
 Debbie Blesh
 Lisa Bernhardt
 Bill Mason

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 out our website to see the latest events and happenings.

<https://vfw9644.org/>



POST VIEWS

From the Commander

By **Todd Van Sant**



Greetings and Happy April! Thanks to all of you, we successfully navigated a hectic winter, and now it's time to plan for the upcoming spring and summer months. Let's dive into the significant events we have in store:

- Memorial Day weekend is going to be a busy one. First, we kick things off with our poppy drive, and you'll find signup sheets in the lobby in the following weeks. Then, we have our TV show debut on Sunday, May 28th, and we're hosting a grand party in the canteen to celebrate. Lastly, we have the Memorial Day services at Fort Logan, followed by lunch, and we're going to need plenty of volunteers to make it through this busy weekend.
- The Pig Roast is on the horizon, and I'm open to hearing ideas on how we can make it even more successful than last year. Let's plan and prepare more thoroughly this time.
- The 3rd Annual Car Show is only a few months away, and our first planning meeting is scheduled for April 10th at 6 pm. I've already ordered good weather for that weekend, so come out to the meetings and help us make this event a great success!

The post and auxiliary elections are approaching soon, and we will be nominating positions at our next meeting. If you've ever wanted to contribute as a line officer, support position, or through any of our various committees, please let me or Concetta know. We need your assistance! While many attend meals, they don't always realize what it takes to keep an organization like this running. If you haven't been involved in years, now is the perfect opportunity to get back into it! Even if you'd like to offer help with one small task around the post, I'm all ears!

Our new website is now up and running, complete with a fantastic calendar showcasing upcoming events. Be sure to bookmark the site and check it frequently to stay updated on what's going on. For more information on significant events, we'll have dedicated web pages available to keep you in the loop.

Finally, let's talk about a less popular but crucial topic that we've discussed at length around here. We need to treat each other better than we are currently. We're all here for one purpose, which is to ensure the post's success and mission. Unfortunately, there's a lot of pettiness and unnecessary drama going around, and we need to put an end to it. Let's stay focused, work towards the mission, and treat our fellow post, auxiliary members, and visitors with kindness and respect. It saddens me to hear that someone is never coming back, or has stopped volunteering, or to see friendships ruined due to drama. At the end of the day, what ends up paying for that drama is the mission. Every single meeting for the last several decades, at least on the VFW side, it is said to not let petty jealousy or trivial personalities influence us – we all need to hear that right about now. So, I'll close with it, and say it one more time... Do not let petty jealousy or trivial personalities influence how you interact with your VFW Post, the membership that loves you, the veterans that need you, and the mission we must do every day.

If you are currently coming around – you are loved and have my gratitude. If you are not, you are missed – please come back!

POST VIEWS CONTINUED

From the Senior Vice Commander

By Paul Gremse



Greetings, and Happy Easter! After a bit of a hiatus, I'll make more of an effort to contribute to this newsletter more regularly.

Have you seen the April edition of our VFW Magazine? If you did, I don't think you could miss the proclamation on the front cover, "VFW service officers recover \$11.2 Billion for veterans"! That is, because of their advocacy and assistance, in 2022, 560,000 veterans were awarded a combined \$11.2 Billion. Hopefully, you're one receiving a disability check because I've met very few veterans who returned from war unscathed. If you are one who has a disability claim favorably adjudicated, chances are you had help filing that claim. Our Department of Colorado employs a great Veteran Service Officer, Matt Cummings with a assistance from a few others. Yes, it does take awhile to get an appointment but that is just because of the workload the entire office deals with day in and day out. The cost to run that office is well over \$100,000 per year and the department is able to budget roughly half that cost. The remainder comes from fundraisers and donations. Remember that person that assisted you in filing your claim? I only hope it wasn't an attorney. Could you have done it on your own? Possibly, but I would wager it would have taken much longer and the result may not have been as beneficial. A Veteran Service Officer shouldn't have cost you a penny but you and or a family member is now receiving one or more of the following a monthly disability check, education assistance, a guaranteed, home loan, widows pension, or burial benefits to name a few.

May I offer an opportunity to pay that assistance forward so that someone coming behind you has the same opportunity for assistance. Help our department keep the Veteran service office funded. One common suggested way to do this is to donate one month of your compensation to the cause – more or less as you are able. If you're receiving another benefit, again give accordingly as you are able. Your donation can be mailed directly to the department or to Lynn Peterson, our Quartermaster at the post. He'll ensure it gets to the right place and that way our post also receives credit. Either way, earmark the donation for the Veteran Service Office.

Oh, I mentioned lawyers? Are you getting phone calls from law firms every day about Camp Lejeune? Please tell these scum-suckers to go back to chasing ambulances. Everything is written in statute and your claim is a matter of completing and submitting the right paperwork along with a medical opinion if that comes from outside the VA. I've heard cases where an attorney has wanted up to 20% of every dime you ever collect from one of these claims over a lifetime. That's a lot of money for filling out a few forms. Again, you have Veteran Service Officers to assist you for free. If, for some reason, your case is complicated and the VSO can't get it done (doubtful, s/he has resources), you can always engage an attorney later to work on the same claim. No need to start over. Enough about VSO!

POST VIEWS CONTINUED

In previous articles I wrote that, as a veteran, you are able to shop the Base/Post Exchange on-line. As a service-connected veteran, you can gain access to military installations to include shopping at the commissary or BX with your VA ID Card. One new tidbit. Have you ever shopped the Canteen at a VA hospital (Rocky Mountain Regional has one right by the Patriot Brew coffee shop)? Well, they have on-line shopping that is kind of like shopping the Exchange, but so much more! Check it out: <https://shopvcs.va.gov/>. You can buy tickets to sporting events, concerts, and theme parks. You can book a hotel, and more! Who'd have thunk?

AUXILIARY VIEWS

From the Treasurer

By Deb Blesh



Wishing everyone a very blessed and Happy Easter.

As our year approaches the end of the term, I want to thank everyone who volunteered or offered support. We attained over 104% membership this year. Good job!!

Hope see you at bingos, meals and events. If anyone isn't on the birthday list or has a change of address, please let me know. I am still trying to fill in my data base for our records.

REMINISCING ON THE PAST

Some change is good change

By Ron Davies | November 14th 2012

First things first, THANK YOU to all the men and women who were and are instrumental in building VFW 9644 and its Auxiliaries and our Post home and Merry Christmas to all of you!

I'd like to share a valuable lesson I learned some years ago. I was at one of our Post meetings and we were discussing some improvements to the Post that was not readily accepted by some. During the discussion, I made mention several times that we had to attract younger members and these particular improvements hopefully would help or the Post was going to be in trouble. Obviously there were others that did not see it that way. There was one member that was very much against the change. He has been a member of our Post for 40+ years and actually helped physically build the very room we were meeting in. Well, he got up and voiced his opinion and during his argument singled me out to say that I was trying to run him and the older members out of the Post. I was dumbfounded at his remark! I, in no way, thought that any of the remarks I had made inferred any such thing. My respect for the people who have come before me is unwavering. But you know what, that is what his impression of my instigating the changes we were discussing was and I can't change that. I truly wanted to catch up to him after the meeting and let him know that by all means I had not meant to make him feel that way but others said he left very quickly.

Here is the lesson I learned and want to pass along to you so hopefully you don't make the same mistake. I am very passionate about attracting "younger" members to our Post and making the necessary changes to do so. But when doing so, I must be aware of the feelings of ALL the Post and Auxiliary members and explain myself fully of the reasons. I suppose in some cases it won't make any difference because there are those who are just going to resist change no matter what I (we) do or say. But at least I will know that I made the extra effort.

I was at the Department Jr. Vice Commander conference in Kansas City not to long after that and heard no less than 10 times almost exactly what I said at our meeting that night. "We must do this or that to effect change to attract new "younger" members". Most of us have become so entrenched in our thoughts on the subject that we forget our still living older members who did such a great job before us.

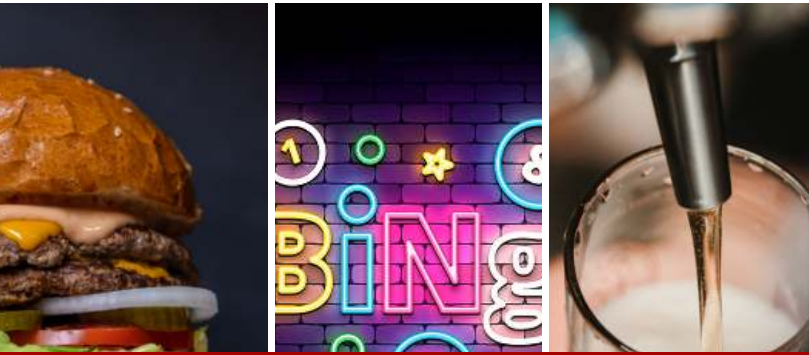
I do have one thing to say to those members. Please understand what I (we) are trying to do and that is save the organization you worked so hard to help build. We are not by any means trying to shut you out but only improve your legacy.

Ron Davies

Commander 9644

Fast forward to March 2023... History does repeat itself!!!

VFW HAPPENINGS



BURGERS, BINGO AND BEER NIGHT

Every Tuesday starting at 5pm



GAME NIGHT

Every Thursday starting at 6pm



FRIDAY PM & SUNDAY AM MEALS

Friday starting at 5pm & Sunday starting at 9am



KARAOKE NIGHT

Every third Saturday starting at 6pm

MORE VFW HAPPENINGS

VFW Egg Demo-Derby

Presented by VFW Post 1 & VFW Post 9644

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Egg Roll at 1pm

\$5 children 12 & under ~ \$10 adults 12 & older ~ \$5 per extra egg
(Egg Salad Sandwiches Provided)

Door Prizes ~ Raffles

Trophies for Winners of the Derby

Proceeds go to Colorado Hospitality Room at National Convention in Phoenix, AZ

VFW CALENDAR

April 2023 Military Saves Month

Food
Meetings
Post Events
Calendar Events

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
				Friday Night Dinner 5:00 pm	April Fool's Day 🤡	Breakfast 9:00 am VFW Egg Demo-Derby 🥚
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Burgers, Bingo, Beer 5:00 pm	Post & Aux Meeting 7:00 pm Passover	Game Night 6:00 pm	Friday Night Dinner 5:00 pm	Good Friday	Breakfast 9:00 am Easter 🐣 🐰 🥚 🌸	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Burgers, Bingo, Beer 5:00 pm		Game Night 6:00 pm	Friday Night Dinner 5:00 pm Air Force Reserve Bday 🇺🇸	Purple Up! Day	Breakfast 9:00 am Orthodox Easter 🕯️ 🌸	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Burgers, Bingo, Beer 5:00 pm Tax Day 🇺🇸		Game Night 6:00 pm	Friday Night Dinner 5:00 pm	Karaoke Night 6:00 pm Earth Day 🌍	Breakfast 9:00 am Army Reserve Bday 🇺🇸	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Burgers, Bingo, Beer 5:00 pm		Game Night 6:00 pm	Friday Night Dinner 5:00 pm			Breakfast 9:00 am National Military Brad Day 🇺🇸

Future dates to be aware of

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DONATE TO POST 9644

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

Donate to VFW 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 PayPal where you can add your donation.)

VFW CELEBRATIONS

Post Birthdays

Thomas Cooper	April 2
David Spies	April 9
James Johnson	April 9
John Kary	April 10
Melvin Koski	April 10
James Koucherik	April 11
John Sparhawk	April 13
Howard Hanson	April 13
Michael Kearns	April 14
Daniel Griffith	April 16
Aaron Ahlfinger	April 18
Margaret Anderson	April 18
Robert Derrera	April 19
James Langdon	April 19
Robert Mares	April 19
Scott Andrews	April 20
John Dixon	April 20
Robert Eshelman	April 20
Robert Powell	April 22
Michael Danielson	April 23
Francis Dolan	April 23
Gary Bean	April 24
Heinrich Stehle	April 25
Richard Safonovs	April 27
Clifford Linhardt	April 30

Auxiliary Birthdays

Helen Brown	April 7
Judy Graham	April 8
Connie Maloney	April 8
Kent Moore	April 11
Jessica Hall	April 12
Chris Kile	April 13
Teodora Plant	April 13
Marcia Kneuer	April 17
Dorothy Stratton	April 17
Else Rodriguez	April 18
Joseph Kissell	April 19
Billy Mason	April 20
Donna Jackson	April 22
Theresa Jaramillo	April 23
Susie Martinez	April 23
Glenn Wiltsie	April 23
Robin Bean	April 25
Rose Bolden	April 25
Michael Martin	April 25
Michael Neuroth	April 27
Roberta Sherman	April 28
Delores Baca	April 29
Beverly Springfield	April 30