



9644 NEWS



Monthly Newsletter for **Verle Huffman VFW Post 9644**



From the Commander

BY **PAUL GREMSE**

Well, it's been quite a month!

For some time, we knew our boiler was limping into the graveyard, but it has been getting the job done - barely. That is or was until earlier this month when we realized the boiler was no longer reliable and would need to be replaced. So, we started getting bids. The first one came in at \$15,500.

Before we could even get the second bid, the sub-zero temperatures hit and that proved to be too much a strain on the heart of our boiler. Without enough heat putting out, a pipe in the attic supplying the swamp cooler froze and burst raining water into the bathrooms on its way into the basement. It was bad, but could have been much worse.

So now besides replacing our boiler, there is significant drywall damage to repair in addition to other associated odds and ends. I would estimate those repairs to be \$10,000, at a minimum. The boiler bid we did accept came in at just shy of \$9000 for a combined \$19,000. But the news is not always bad. The water break was on Tuesday, the night we play Bingo at the post. I took that opportunity and detailed the situation as best I knew at the time for the members present. Hearing that, **Frank Rodriquez** once again stepped up and pledged \$500. **Ron Davies** did the same (\$500) and more pledges started coming. (See the accompanying list of members who donated.) We got better news the next morning.

Only weeks before, I had the pleasure to meet a Life member of our post who, while very active at one point, had moved to Arvada. That move coupled with running a few businesses, one being a construction company, hasn't left much time to visit the post. I called **Johnny Martinez** about 8:00 the next morning and explained what had happened. He was already at one job but regardless, he was at the post by noon to inspect the damage. After accessing the situation, Johnny offered all labor needed to repair the damage at no cost to the post. We only need to buy the materials. So, suffice to say, the generous donations will cover not only the new boiler but the repairs to the water damage too! Many of you know Johnny Martinez. He's the contractor donating the labor to repair the water damage. I hope you will consider him the next time you need a contractor. (There will be more on Johnny and his companies next month!)

Still more good news: one of the members who donated \$500 later added another zero to the right. Yes, that would be an additional \$5000. I wanted to publicize his name, but he assured me publication wasn't the reason he was making that donation. I will respect that! We also recently received another \$3000 from an anonymous member. So, with some fiscal responsibility by all those involved, and some generous members, it seems we may be recovering from a point just a few months ago when I seriously wondered whether we'd keep our doors open without taking a mortgage out on the building. Now, we are by no means solvent, but it's looking much better down the road so long as the governor doesn't shut down Bingo, Bingo returns to what it was pre-pandemic mania, and nothing else attempts to beat us down!

God continues to bless our post! May he continue to bless our United States of America!



THANK YOU to our Generous Members and Guests!

B.J. and Debbie McGee	Post/Auxiliary	\$500
Debra Blesh	Auxiliary	\$100
Frank & Vicki Rodriquez	Post/Auxiliary	\$500
Cliff and Pat Payne	Post/Auxiliary	\$500
Steve & Michelle Cordova	Auxiliary	\$100
Ron & MaryJane Davies	Post/Auxiliary	\$500
Greg & Quinn Engle	Auxiliary/**	\$100
Carol Connelly	Auxiliary	\$200
VFW Band	VFW Band	\$500
Dave Resendez	Honor Guard	\$100
Thomas Smola, CMsgt, USAF (Ret) & Mary Smola	Post/Auxiliary	\$100
Roberta Perkins***	Auxiliary	\$500
Total		\$3700
+ \$4500 (added to \$500 donation)		
+ \$3000 (anonymous donor)		
Grand Total		\$11,200

THANK
YOU

** Many aren't aware, but Quinn Engle is a special member of our post. Through no fault of hers, she is not eligible for membership in our Auxiliary. But we have her husband Greg who grew up in the post to thank for Quinn. Quinn has been a tireless servant for your post. This wonderful newsletter is her work but that is only a small example of the great work Quinn does with any opportunity to advance the post. We've all benefited from her uncanny, brilliant intelligence. And, when we need people to get their hands dirty, she's there in the thick of it! Whatever the task, Quinn is there to help! Many of you know Quinn. The next time you see her, please thank her for all she does. For those who don't know her, introduce yourself; you'll be happy you did – and then thank her for all she does for our post!

*** Roberta was inadvertently excluded from previous postings denoting donations. As commander, I take complete responsibility for that Roberta. I hope you'll accept my sincere apology!

Merçi
beaucoup

thank
you

you're
jamaZing

THANKYOU

you ROCK!



Auxiliary President

BY **GREG ALMENDARES**

Back in the Day!



I was born in 1964.....I am Generation X. Anyone who was BORN between 1964-1979, we are the last generation that played outside until dark. We are the FIRST to play video games & the LAST to record songs off the radio onto a cassette tape, we loved roller skating on Friday and Saturday nights. We survived the 80's with big hair and the era of extravagant everything. We took walks with friends without worry of being taken, we watched cartoons on Saturday mornings while eating a bowl of cereal. We programmed the VCR before anyone else... we remember learning how to use a computer for the first time. We played Atari & Nintendo. We are the generation of Soul Train, Gilligan's Island, Dukes of Hazard, Scooby-Doo, Charlie's Angels, Wonder Woman, Love Boat, Three's Company, All in the Family, Little House on the Prairie, Happy Days, & Good Times... We traveled in cars w/o seat belts or airbags, rode in the backs of pick ups & lived without cell phones. We did not have flat screens, surround sound, iPads, Facebook or Twitter...and we had a GREAT time ALL the time with each other! Most importantly-we spent time together without a phone in our hands and had loads of stuff to talk about.



Auxiliary Junior Vice

BY **RACHEL RODGERS**

Thank you everyone that purchased a t-shirt!! We sold a total of 60 shirts with two separate orders.. The profits of \$400 was split between the post and the canteen to assist with anything that was needed. The 2nd order of shirts are in and available for pick up Friday evening or Sunday morning.

We are still working on collecting food and items for the Pandemic Drive to support **Sharing with Sheridan Food Pantry**. Please bring items to the post for donation. The drive will go through Friday, March 19th .

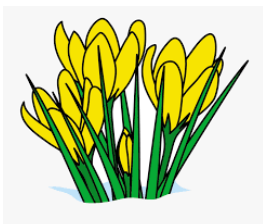
Pandemic Drive

Items that are most helpful to the food pantry include:

- **Personal care items**
 - toilet paper
 - Toothpaste & toothbrushes
 - Shampoo & conditioner
 - bar soap
 - Feminine hygiene products
- **Baby items**
 - Diapers – especially larger sizes of 3,4 or 5
 - Wipes
 - Canned formula
- **Non-Perishable Food Items**
 - Canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc)
 - Peanut butter & jelly
 - Canned or dried beans (pinto beans are the most popular)
 - Cooking oil
 - Pancake/Cornbread Mix
 - Rice
 - Canned vegetables or fruit
 - Soup
 - Pasta



For more information, please contact Rachel Rodgers at 720.394.7093 or at rachel.rodgers@yahoo.com



Auxiliary Treasurer

BY **DEBBIE BLESSH**

Welcome to March 2021. As we wait for Spring, I will catch you up on my treasurer work. Membership is still in the 97% range. We have lost many members this year. The state VFW will be hosting a state memorial at our post on March 7th at 10:00 am in the Hall. It has become an annual event and we welcome them. We will be serving breakfast before and after the ceremony for \$6.00.

Honoring our members:

	2020-2021 Deceased Members	Years of Service	
Life	Westervelt, Florence	10	deceased 7-1- 2020
Annual	Brigham, Thresa	39	deceased 7-22-2020
Life	Tressler, Lorraine	22	deceased 8-2020
Life	Robinson, Darleen J	50	deceased 10-7-2020
Life	Proctor, Kevin	12	deceased 10-29-2020
Life	Vaglianti, Carla	35	deceased 12-17-2020
Life	Cordova, Gwendolyn	21	deceased 2-2-2021
Life	Lindberg, Sallie	24	deceased 1-29-2021
Life			

May your memories bring you peace, healing and love.

We continue to have our Thursday game night which has been lots of fun. We are serving food so come in and have some fun and a low cost meal when you are ready. Give it a try.... We'd love to see you!

Our breakfast and Friday dinners are still being served and I'm sure you will enjoy our varied menus from some of our favorite cooks. We still continue with burgers and bingo on Tuesdays (and a few different menus to change it up a little). Watch your weekly happenings email from Quinn. The Auxiliary Bingo on Tuesdays raise funds for our general fund. You can also have a little fun at Bingo and a little beverage to help the Canteen.

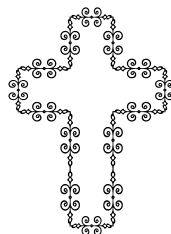
Bingo at Barry's is still on Mondays for the Post, and Thursdays for the Auxiliary. As restrictions are lifted, we hope to get more people playing bingo to get our numbers up to replenish our funds.

Special thanks to **Shelly, Janet, Val and Carol** for making Valentine cookies for our police and fire stations from our Auxiliary. Lastly I would like to thank **Michelle Cordova** for helping me with my Tuesday meals and **Ron Davies** for cooking burgers. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Gwen Cordova

On February 2nd, we lost a good friend and longtime VFW Life Member of the Auxiliary to a year of battling lung cancer!! While she hasn't been seen at the club during that time, she will be remembered for the tireless years of working to support the VFW. She served in many capacities at the club and was a valuable friend to many during their hard times as they were dealing with stress in their lives. Gwen spent an equal amount of time and effort volunteering at the VA hospital to support our veterans with serving coffee and donuts, participating in the Chapel Hour Services, helping at the holiday parties, etc.

God Bless and rest in peace, Gwen!!





Vietnam Veterans Day



Vietnam Veterans Day commemorates the sacrifices of Vietnam veterans and their families and is part of a national effort to recognize the men and women who were denied a proper welcome upon returning home more than 40 years ago.

The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act, signed into law in 2017, designates March 29 of each year as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

In the 1960s, our country issued a call-to-arms as it had many times since 1775. Its young men and women had never failed to heed that call. Since Bunker Hill, circumstances occurred to test our nation's young in the art of war-fighting as an obligation of duty to their country. From the War of Revolution through the war in Korea, America's best stepped forward almost in unison.

During the war in Vietnam, you were the ones who answered that call. In spite of others in our bifurcated nation, who fled the confines of the United States, dodged the draft, or feigned any number of mental and/or physical maladies to avoid military service, you answered that call — you responded. In spite of friends, relatives, and even parents pleading with you to avoid military service — you responded. Regardless of the pardoned deserters and draft dodgers, and regardless of the well-connected members of our society receiving “special” treatment and exceptional consideration, you either accepted your draft notice, or you volunteered — you responded. In that vein, you were no different from your fathers and grandfathers who served in World War II and the Korean War. You trained to become a member of America's elite military forces deploying to the war in Vietnam. You made friends, shared hardships, had good times, fun times, and some bad times and developed a manifest camaraderie, often still lingering. Indeed, you formed a brotherhood, easily recognized by veterans of those earlier wars and those younger veterans of our most recent wars, some still being prosecuted. Most all of you put your life on hold while you served your country in time of war, and you completed your tour of duty with honor.

After your honorable service, you returned home to a nation largely divided. Many of you were asked to doff your uniform and wear civvies for your trip home within the United States of America. There were no parades; no cheering crowds greeted your arrival through airports, or other ports of entry. Some of you had difficulty adjusting to being “home” again, while others more readily did adjust. Some hid their service time and could only confess with other veterans, often through military service organizations who, at first, sadly failed the Vietnam veteran community. You were treated differently than other war veterans, creating visible and invisible scars just being a Vietnam War veteran.

Newscaster Tom Brokaw, on assignment to cover a Normandy D-Day ceremony, became so enamored with the stories of those who landed in France to begin the liberation of Europe he completed a book and coined the phrase “America's Greatest Generation.” It was published in 1998. His description of that generation was on target. However, those men and a few women that marched to the sound of the gun did so with a supportive nation, a supportive Congress, indeed a national support for the men and women of the “Greatest Generation.” It was contagiously affecting an entire American population. And, upon their return, the supportive “welcoming home” was a deafening and defining loud and clear message. From every fiber of this great nation came a well-deserved “thank you” for what they had accomplished. ... continued on next page.



By contrast, when you came home from Vietnam, you reentered an indifferent nation; sometimes it became disrespectful, even hostile. The simmering rejection of the war-fighting evolved into the rejection of the war-fighter. I was fortunate to have returned from Vietnam surrounded by fellow veterans still on active duty. I remained in the cocoon of military life, whereas, most of those I served with in the war zone, immediately reentered civilian life a different person — in a seemingly different country.

As the “fog of war” has lifted, history reveals that the youth of America who responded to the nation’s call during the war in Vietnam, are, in every respect, by any measure, cut from the same cloth as the World War II and Korean War veterans; indeed, you lay claim as equals to Tom Brokaw’s identified “Greatest Generation.” You accomplished this feat while facing rejection for entering the armed forces, chastised for fighting a war our Congress had first supported and then rejected, and faced many other obstacles just for being a Vietnam War Veteran. That Congress, supported by many citizens of this nation, cut support for that war in Vietnam — and cut the pride of those who fought it.

Yet, time has proven Vietnam veterans to be as noble in thought, word, and deed, as all American war veterans ensue, and deserve equal legacy to the “Greatest Generation.” Your obstacles were far greater than any one of them could have ever imagined.

Times have changed. A Presidential Proclamation reads, in part:

“... Our veterans answered our country’s call and served with honor, and on March 29, 1973, the last of our troops left Vietnam. Yet, in one of the war’s most profound tragedies, many of these men and women came home to be shunned or neglected – to face treatment unbecoming their courage and a welcome unworthy of their example. We must never let this happen again...”

Four years ago President Trump made Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Day, March 29, a national holiday.

Stand tall. You are also America’s Greatest Generation. Welcome home Vietnam War veterans!

Article written by:

Major Ralph Stoney Bates, Sr. USMC (Ret) served 26 years as an active duty Marine and 16 years as a law enforcement officer. He is a Vietnam War veteran and lives in Mount Pleasant with his wife, Lyn. Together, they research and write of interesting characters in American history. He also volunteers at Patriots Point.



Volunteering and why it matters...

Volunteering is a selfless act but has lots of personal benefits. Volunteering allows a person to connect to the community or ones surrounding to make it a better place. Volunteering can be a two-way street: it can benefit you as much as it can cause you to choose not to help.

Dedicating your time as a volunteer helps you make new friends, expand your networks, and boost your social skills and of course, the greatest benefit of volunteering is knowing you make a difference. Remember you are making a difference in your own life as well as the lives of those you volunteer with, most importantly those who benefit from your efforts.

Most people want to do good in the world and here are a few reasons why we should all think about volunteering. It helps lower blood pressure, helps decrease depression, and changes lives. Think to yourself - "How might I volunteer", as the Post is always in need of some new volunteers. I look forward to seeing new faces and new volunteers.

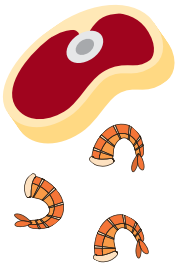
Respectfully,

Michelle Cordova

Auxiliary Secretary Post #9644



Join us every First Friday of the Month!



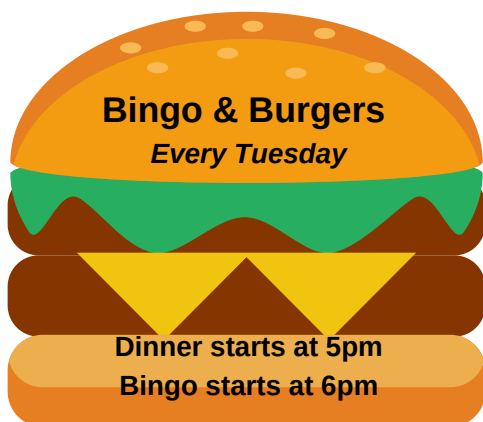
STEAK NIGHT

Friday the 5th @ 5:00pm



Karaoke is BACK

**Saturday March 20th @
5:00pm**



Auxiliary Members

Burley, Edrie E	1 st
Blesh, Debra K	4 th
Ehrman, Sherry Lynn	5 th
Reichert, Sue	6 th
Snyder, Cheryl	6 th
Trujillo, Patricia	6 th
Insalco, Trudy	9 th
Bowen, Judy L	10 th
Jones, Johnnie	10 th
Simoneau, Andreus	12 th
Flanagan, Elizabeth	12 th
Prien, Helen	12 th
Blesrud, Sonia	14 th
Mason, Tina	16 th
Ruiz, Guadalupe S	16 th
Andrews, Susan A	17 th
Watkins, Patricia	17 th
Mason, Megan	18 th
Waufle, Dorothy	23 rd
Kile, Concetta	25 th
Makries, Mary E	25 th
Estrada, Pamela	30 th



March Birthdays







Post Members

Brett	Cory	1st
Draper	C	1st
Fabrizio	Steven	1st
Gimlin	Stanley	1st
Mc Elroy	Ronald	1st
Peterson	Cleveland	1st
Rose	James	1st
Martinez, Jr.	Johnny	2nd
Nickell	Mark	2nd
Plant	Joseph	2nd
Lightfoot	Don	4th
Jones	Virgil	7th
Leary	Michael	7th
Romero	Juan	8th
Swanson	Ernest	9th
Denison	Scott	10th
Mullins	Gary	10th
Smith	Robert	11th
Binet	Bill	12th
Cole	Larry	12th
Hendrick	Edward	12th
Neely	Jason	13th
Tongish	David	13th
Douglas	Donald	15th
Jones	Terry	15th
Thornley	Robert	15th
Garcia, Jr.	Marvin	16th
Strecker	Dennis	16th
Hill	David	17th
Ronning	Gary	18th
Claggett	Richard	19th
Ruggeri, Jr.	Louis	22nd
Hohenberger	Richard	23rd
Bonacci	Leo	24th
Madril	Chris	25th
Foster	Ryan	27th
Kokko	Warren	27th
Fakes	John	29th
Hess	Troy	30th
Srdoc	Dana	30th



March



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Post closed	2 Burritos & Bingo 5p-7p	3 Post & Aux Meetings Navy Reserve Birthday	4 Games Night 5p-?	5 Post Steak or Shrimp	6 Post closed
7 State Memorial Service @ 10am Bacon, eggs to order, potatoes, toast, fruit	8 Post closed	9 Burgers & Bingo 5p-7p	10 	11 Games Night 5p-?	12 Post Corned beef & cabbage, potatoes Irish Dancers TBD	13 Post closed K-9 Veterans Day
14 Past Comm Pancakes, sausage patties, eggs	15 Post closed	16 Burgers & Bingo 5p-7p	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Games Night 5p-?	19 Aux Shelly's Fish & Chips, coleslaw, dessert 	20 Post open 3pm Karaoke @ 6pm 
21 Post Waffles, bacon, eggs, and potatoes	22 Post closed	23 Burgers & Bingo 5p-7p	24 Medal of Honor Day 	25 Games Night 5p-?	26 Past Pres Bierocks, salad, side, dessert	27 Post closed
28 Past Pres Garden omelet, cinnamon rolls	29 Post closed Vietnam Veterans Day activities TBD 	30 Burgers & Bingo 5p-7p	31 Home Board			



Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!



Post Meetings: 1 st Wednesday of the month -Finance Meeting @ 6:00p -Post Meeting @ 7:00p -Auxiliary Meeting @ 7:00p Last Wednesday of the month: -Home Board meeting @ 6:00pm	Barry's Bingo: Each Monday: -Post Bingo @ 12:00pm Each Thursday: -Auxiliary Bingo @ 12:00pm	Canteen Hours: Monday – Closed Tues, Wed, Thurs – OPEN 3-11:00pm Friday – OPEN 2-11pm Saturday – OPEN <i>third Saturday of each month</i> 3-11pm Sunday – OPEN 9am – 11pm
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