



9644 NEWS



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



From the Commander

BY **PAUL GREMSE**

Happy Veterans Day prematurely, but sincere just the same! I like to believe every day is Veterans Day at the post. Sometimes that involves a lot of laughter but sometimes there's crying as we veterans have endured so much together. We'll just try to severely limit the bad days.

Some people play poker very well, but their physical signals erase all that skill. Others may not play so well but win because no one could never tell what that face is saying. Not always, but for several years now, I've thought I should start playing poker! As I pen these words tonight (10/29) I'm more convinced I could do well at poker. Earlier, our Auxiliary President, **Greg Almendares** caught me completely off guard. On behalf of many who conspired with him, I was presented a historical binder. It is historical because it chronicled our inaugural Car Show celebrating our country's Patriots Day this past September 11th. The hope is one day after 20 or more annual car shows, the binder will be there to reflect on that first one. Again, I was caught completely off guard. What has become my recent style, I'm sorry to admit, I was completely emotionless! Please just know that though I may not have projected it, I was genuinely grateful, nevertheless! Thank you to all who were involved!

While I'm thanking, I should ask a question. Has anyone taken notice of all that **Bill Mason** does around the post? Yes, he always in the kitchen as Jandra's right hand, but he does so much more. A couple of months ago I made it a point to notice. I don't know how many times Bill was out on the patio cooking for one occasion or another. Then I found him providing security for a hall event a few times. Did you notice how clean the building was while Greg is convalescing? Yes, that is because Bill picked up the majority of the slack (**Michelle and Steve Cordova** assisted too!) The next time you see Bill, tell him you appreciate his efforts. I sure do!

Then there's **Todd VanSant**. The donation of the swamp coolers wasn't enough. This week, he donated a computer with a new bingo program to replace one we've been using since before I was a member of the post. That computer was on life support but now we can pull the plug. I mentioned to Todd a grant I was seeking from Home Depot but wasn't successful. The next day Todd tells me he found a smaller grant program and would I like him to apply. Almost before I could say yes, the application was submitted. We're hoping to hear good news before the end of the year. Along with **Rob Derrera**, they put their professional skills to use and are coordinating the rehab of what used to be the men's auxiliary room. These guys are a great addition to our post!

It takes a lot of members working together to not only keep our doors open but to make our post the community it is. Bill, Todd, and Rob are the antithesis of a DMO. They are not the only ones but unfortunately, they and the others that are always there to help are becoming a rare commodity. Are you one that is always there to help, a DMO, or neither? If one of the last two options best describe you, there's time. With everyone's help, we can continue to Build Back Better!

Enjoy Veterans Day. You earned it.



Quarter Master

BY LYNN PETERSON



While our spectacular Fall colors remain evident in our neighborhoods, the falling leaves are a constant sign and reminder that winter is approaching; yard work to do and time to prepare for the cooler months ahead.

Over the past six months we have weathered some financial hurdles with a new furnace, new and rebuilt swamp coolers and increased Post Hall rental activity. Currently, we're in the final stages of acquiring our Post Tavern Liquor License which will open up an additional Post revenue source.

Also, time to briefly reflect back from where Post 9644 was in early 2021 with the pandemic and fast forward now to November, with Post open for business six days a week. Great to see your smiling faces! So.....Thanks to all who make it down to the post; albeit for a drink, weekly meal(s), bingo, games night or just conversation and comradery. Please join us.....the more the merrier.

As our Post visiting numbers increase, so is our Post membership. In October, two new Post members joined us; **Robert Derrera**, Post transfer & **Robert Mares**, new member. Presently, we have two additional transfer member applications and one new post member application awaiting approval at upcoming November General Membership meeting. Membership is picking up. Thanks to all for your welcoming hospitality and your spreading the word for added members.

With November 11th Veterans Day approaching, Special acknowledgement honoring ALL our Post veterans, with advance kudos to all those Buddy Poppy volunteers at our area King Soopers stores during Nov. 11 - 14th. Long awaited & anticipated added revenue.

Financially, despite the usual expected & unexpected, Post remains in the black and gradually moving in positive, forward direction. Post Monday Bingo at Barry's Bingo remains somewhat stagnant 50-60 guests. With rising Progressive pots, hopefully, our attendance will improve.

Our Post Tuesday Burger & Bingo has been growing; upwards of 45-50. Join Us for a fun evening of food, entertainment and possibly a bit of bingo luck.

That's all for now. Come see us.....and consider giving us an extra hand. Plenty of areas for you to assist. With Much Appreciation & Dedication to Servicing our Veterans,

Auxiliary President

BY GREG ALMENDARES



No article from Greg this month..... Greg has been out of commission for a few weeks with medical issues. We wish him all the best and a speedy recovery! Keep up the good healing process, Greg!

Auxiliary Jr. Vice

BY RACHEL RODGERS

We will be doing a toy drive to support one of our member's church. The church is Calvary Green Valley Ranch. The toy drive will be happening between now and 11.30.2021 to be sure that we can get the toys to church in time.



Calvary Green Valley Ranch is collecting toys and will be donating them to Ester House. This is a Denver home for women that have come out of sex trafficking.



Thank you for your support!!

Auxiliary Treasurer

BY **DEBBIE BLESCH**



I'm looking forward to the month of November. We can celebrate our Veterans for the 1st time in 2 years on Veteran's Day, distribute poppies to replenish our relief funds and continue to help where and when we can. That is why we are here. Thank you to all our members who have served. I love you.

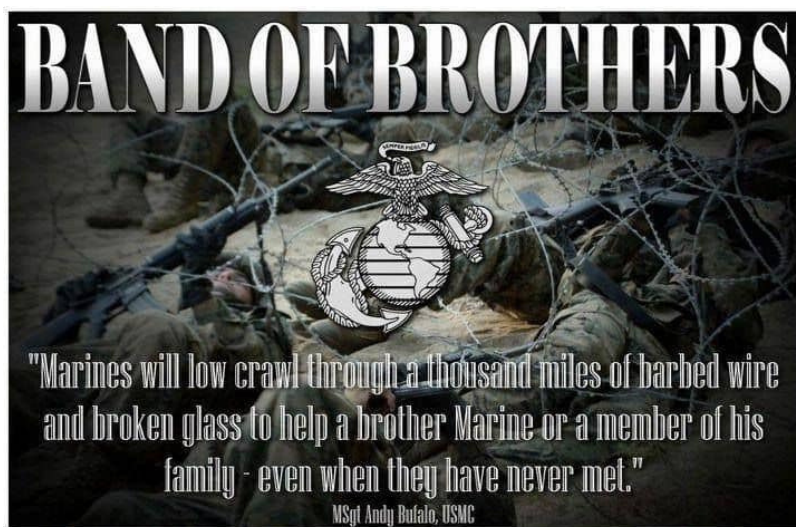
Then we have Thanksgiving to celebrate with our families, friends or special loved ones. It is a time we especially give thanks to all the special people in our life. Thanks to all our new members, to all who have helped make our post a better place to spend our time and to everyone who supports our meals, events and each other.

Our membership is still at 96.01% with still a dozen unpaid annual members. I will send out reminder letters and if annual dues are not received by the end of November. If dues are not paid by the end of December you will become a member not in good standing and ineligible for Auxiliary benefits. Please get dues paid as soon as possible.

The Auxiliary still does 3 weeks of Tuesday meals with Tuesday bingo. After expenses, we are still earning a little income for our general fund. These are our main deposits for expenses during this time of year. Have a blessed and fulfilling November.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY USMC!



USMC

0000H RAH!

Pics courtesy of Frank Rodriquez

Veterans Day

Honoring the past...

In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved and now we lie
In Flanders fields.



Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you, from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow,
In Flanders fields.



Buddy Poppy

Before Memorial Day in 1922, we (VFW Organization) conducted our first poppy distribution, becoming the first veterans' organization to organize a nationwide distribution. The poppy soon was adopted as the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, as it remains today.

During our 1923 encampment, we decided that VFW "Buddy"® Poppies would be assembled by disabled and needy veterans who would be paid for their work to provide them with financial assistance. The next year, disabled veterans at the Buddy Poppy factory in Pittsburgh assembled VFW Buddy Poppies. The designation "Buddy Poppy" was adopted at that time.

In February 1924, we registered the name Buddy Poppy with the U.S. Patent Office. A certificate was issued on May 20, 1924, granting our organization all trademark rights in the name of Buddy under the classification of artificial flowers. We've made that trademark a guarantee that all poppies bearing that name and the VFW label are genuine products of the work of disabled and needy veterans. No other organization, firm or individual can legally use the name Buddy Poppy.

Today, our Buddy Poppies are still assembled by disabled and needy veterans in VA Hospitals.

The VFW Buddy Poppy program provides compensation to the veterans who assemble the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home For Children.

Show your support today! **Sign up to help with our Post's Buddy Poppy drive!** You can sign up for as little as one hour and stay as long as you wish.

The sign-up sheets are at the Post in the foyer. Ron Davies 303-419-0472

Post Member Spotlight

featuring.....**Todd Van Sant**



Todd Van Sant enlisted in the United States Air Force in the fall of 1991. During MEPS, he was subject to further testing and asked if he wanted to wait a year and go into either crypto or linguistics. Todd chose to turn that option down as he didn't really want to do nothing for a year as he didn't have much going for him at the young age of 18. So he joined without a set classification.

On December 29th, 1991, Todd shipped off to boot camp and spent New Year's in basic training.

From basic training, Todd made his way to Lowry AFB for technical school to learn how to play with explosives (461XX/2W0XX). His first base as a wide-eyed 18-year-old was Osan AB in Osan, Korea. Todd spent a year in Korea doing joint live exercises in full MOPP gear and supporting Desert Storm from afar. His team also supported the Philippines from the devastating volcano eruption.

Todd spent a few years at Nellis AFB (Las Vegas) where he supported the USAF "Home of the Fighter Pilot". Later, he was shipped to Saudi Arabia (Khobar Towers) to do a 5-month stint supporting the F-4's from the 57th Fighter Wing – this was their last rotation before being shipped off to either the desert to be mothballed, or to be used as drones. Todd referred to these birds as “fuel-to-noise converters”, but there are probably many aircraft that carried that designation. He was in theater for the Riyadh bombing, and the Khobar bombing happened just after he left that region.

After leaving Las Vegas, he spent 15 months in Guam where he found the best diving water in the world and spent his days cleaning, servicing and disposing of very old ammunition from WW2. He finished his time in Albuquerque at Kirtland AFB.

Todd left the service 3 days before Y2K as an E-4 (Senior Airman). He was told “you will be called back to active duty if something happens on January 1, 2000”. Thankfully the turn of the century was uneventful!

These days Todd spends his days as a general contractor and owns a construction company in the Denver area. Todd lives in Sheridan - moving here in the beginning of 2020, where he joined the VFW and began coming in to Post 9644 in 2021.

Since Todd joined our Post, he has stepped up and helped with getting things repaired (coolers) and other repairs to the Post! He has graciously taken over the VFW website and doing amazing things with that!

Welcome Todd! And thank you for all that you have done, and will do for our Post!

VFW Participation Committee

The Participation Committee has hit the ground running with a plan to engage current members, increase membership for the post and auxiliary and the digitization of the VFW. Our membership goal this year is to connect with expired post and auxiliary members to see if we can renew their memberships.

Our goal for increasing current member participation is to make sure that our members are aware and know how to sign up for upcoming events, cooking meals and other volunteering opportunities.

Our last goal is to digitize the VFW by keeping the website updated with events, photos and more and also making calendars, newsletters and post news more readily available online.

If you would like to come to a meeting or have any ideas on some of our goals, please reach out to the Senior Vice Commander Ron Davies or the Junior Vice Commander Shawn Jones. The Participation Committee will have more updates to come, so please stay tuned!



I owe Mary Fisher a very sincere and public apology!
Mary worked hard and secured the top donations for the car show. When everyone else was recognized for their efforts, Mary was erroneously overlooked.
Benjamin Franklin once advised, "Never ruin an apology with an excuse". I won't. There is no excuse. Mary was overlooked and that is my fault. I am sincerely full of remorse!
Mary is always looking for ways to help the post wherever she can.
She is appreciated but I blew it this time. I'm so sorry, Mary!

Sincerely,
Commander Paul



WELCOME TO OUR POST

New Post Members
Robert Derrera, Jr.
Robert Mares

New Auxiliary Members
Jeff Bishop
Pamela Cruz



In loving memory,
Lou Milholm

Tuesday's Burgers & Bingo

Food @ 5:00 pm
Bingo @ 6:00 pm



AMERICA
Says

Thursday Nov 18th @ 6pm

Queen of Clubs

Drawings are held Tuesday and Friday's
Tickets are \$1/each or 6 for \$5.



Karaoke
3rd Saturday @ 6pm



*Auxiliary
Members*

November Birthdays

*Post
Members*

Field, Sandra	2
Proctor, Paulette	2
Simoneau, Wendy	2
Kotowski, Donell	3
Spies, Elaine V	3
Tansey Jr., David	4
Arnold, Lois	5
Connelly, Carol	7
Jepson, Jennifer	7
Dasi, Vrnda	9
Lamoureux, Robin	12
Almendaras, Gregory	13
Dunst, Mary D	14
Delaney, Leann	16
Smith, Susan (Suzy)	16
Wagner, Heather L	16
Jones, Josephine	18
Siragusa, Tracie L	21
Gonzales, Virginia T	24
Maschka, Carl	25
Snyder, Christina J	29
Cruz, Pamela	30
Engle, Brody	30
Romero, Kathy	30

Fagerness	Craig	1st
Nolan	Richard	1st
Reynolds	James	1st
Roberts	Jeremy	1st
Toovey	Jerald	2nd
Hughes	James	3rd
Goldsmith	Robert	4th
Mc Donald	Ernest	5th
Smith	Andrew	5th
Poeppel	Alfred	8th
Bray	Robert	9th
Torok	Frederick	11th
Katich	Michael	13th
Meissbach, Sr.	Robert	13th
Cozine	Carl	15th
Novak	Cecile	18th
Rodriguez	Ralph	18th
Schneider	Karl	19th
Blan	Dionisio	20th
Nies	Edward	20th
Pike	Glen	21st
Vaglianti	John	23rd
Smith	Robert	27th
Tellgren	Warren	28th
Demarche	Linda	29th
Whitlock	Bache	29th
Blackard	Van	30th
Wilson	Gary	30th

