

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

Hey there! Winter is almost over, and warmer days are coming soon. It's time for our summer activities to kick off! We have a lot planned, from car shows to pig roasts and everything in between. Stay tuned, show up, and get ready for another busy summer at your VFW Post!

I've been away for most of February for work, but it's always great to come home and see that everything is still going strong. It's amazing how many people volunteer their time to make our post run smoothly. You cook, organize events, take care of membership, clean up, and do all the other stuff that keeps our doors open. A big thank you to everyone who volunteers—you're the best!

Our first Saturday meeting was a success. We had a great turnout, and it was awesome to see so many of you. We held the joint and post meeting in the canteen area, which was a lot more cozy and comfortable. We'll be doing that again this month. After the meeting, we'll have a small lunch as a thank-you to everyone who showed up. Please try to make it!

As we move into spring, it's time to start thinking about officer elections again. I challenge all of you to think about getting involved in the 2024/2025 year at VFW Post 9644. Both the Post and the Auxiliary need good people to step up and help shape the future of our organization. Every single officer position is open every single year!

I wanted to take a moment to say a big thank you to the Boy Scouts (Pack/Troop/Crew) for being such awesome partners at our post. I know that a lot of you enjoy seeing them around the post in their uniforms, helping out and being generally awesome. So, if you see a scout, be sure to say thanks!

Did you know that the VFW and the Boy Scouts of America have a history that goes back 100 years? It all started when VFW Post 2100 teamed up to establish Troop 1 in Everett, Washington. During World Wars I and II, the Scouts played a huge part in col-

lecting food and other supplies to support our troops in the war. Through scouting (including Girl Scouts, Venturing, and Sea Scouts), VFW Posts can reach out to their communities while also providing a great resource for veterans' families and their kids. It's a win-win!

The Spring Council of Administration meeting is coming up soon. It's happening on March 16th and 17th at VFW Post 1 downtown. If you want to come, it's totally free! You can also check out some council meetings and have some grub with us. For more details, like maps and schedules, you can check out the [VFWCO.ORG](https://www.vfwco.org) website.

The Colorado VFW Convention is going down in Cripple Creek this year, which is pretty exciting. I'm running for State Junior Vice Commander this year! It's gonna be a blast, and the location and hotel are both super cool. Congratulations to the VFW Auxiliary for celebrating 100 Conventions!

In conclusion, our membership has experienced a notable change this year. It is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the passing of fifteen members, marking a record-breaking year for deaths within our organization. The loss of these valued individuals poses a significant challenge in achieving our membership goal. Presently, the post side remains approximately twenty members short of attaining a 102% membership rate. On a positive note, we have welcomed seven new members so far this year, which is a testament to our ongoing efforts.

We'd really appreciate it if you could invite your family, friends, coworkers, or neighbors who qualify for the VFW to join. To make it easy for them to sign up, we've got a digital sign-up option here: <https://bit.ly/vfw9644>. Just a heads up, we cover the membership fees for veterans over 70 or active duty military personnel who meet the requirements.

All for now, thank you for taking the time to read my article. Have a fantastic month of March!

Just a reminder that Community Service reporting ends March 31, 2024. All CS needs to get to MJ by March 29th so that she can get it into Dept. Forms are in the lobby and you can leave them in the CS box. You can also email MJ at mommadavie59@gmail.com or call 303-472-2837 if you have any questions. Thank you all for all you do! MJ Davies - Community Service Chairman



Gary Bean
VFW Post 9644
Sr Vice Commander

Well, a lot has happened to our post since I became a member a little more than 15 months ago; mostly for the good but a few learning curves were crossed and a few more need to be managed and controlled. I wish to thank those who are mentoring and challenging me, and I challenge you to take part in any role that can better yourself and the post.

I am announcing that I am going to run for VFW Post 9644 Commander in 2024 - 2025. I believe that with members' support and the past commanders' leadership and guidance, our post will succeed in the goals and activities that we have done in the past as well as those we want to restart, i.e. the VFW Warriors Riders group. I am asking you to support me and allow me to support you in your projects and inspirations to make the VFW Post 9644 the post that we will be proud to call home.

March is the month we get to support the food drives of Sheridan Shares, St Patty's Irish Dancers and Penny's Corned Beef & Cabbage, Easter Egg Hunt, COA and workshops at Post 1, District 10 Memorial Service here at Post 9644. Last but not least let's remember our Vietnam Veterans.

Friday is Steak and or Shrimp dinner, horse races and Queen of Clubs.

Saturday is Post Meetings Joint at 11am food after the meetings and 50/50 match the card for VFW Service Officers.

So, if you have questions on any topic that I have mentioned, there is no better time to get the answers and clarification than in person on Saturday morning.

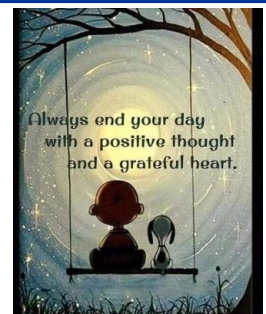
Gary Bean
 Sr. Vice Commander
 Post 9644

MONTHLY MEETING

SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH
11:00 AM POST/AUX MEETING
FREE LUNCH TO FOLLOW



From the Hall: Parking - We have confirmed with all the businesses surrounding us and we can have overflow parking at every place EXCEPT for the party rental locations. Please understand that we are doing our best to accommodate our members and our guests that we service.





Lynn Peterson
VFW Post 9644
Quartermaster

Dear Post 9644 & Auxiliary Members:

As we MARCH, all ahead in-step to another month, some news from the Desk of the Quartermaster.

Viva Phoenix (not Los Vegas).....as family, I/ we soon head to Arizona for 6 days of cheering our grandson at competitive youth baseball tournament & MLB Cactus League Spring Training Games; and warmer weather too! After which for me, it's back to the proverbial "Play Ball" as our hometown Colorado Rockies begin a totally questionable 2024 season. No past season Repeat please, just "Go Rockies" Cheers, bet at the Game(s) or at the Post Canteen.

Importantly this month, again we Welcome approved New Post 9644 Members: Kathleen Ross, US Army & Pernel Watson, US Air Force. Thanks for your Service & joining your fellow comrades by visiting the Post! See You Soon!!

Bingo-wise, several nuances to share: Post Monday Bingo Progressive winners stole the show as Winners recently this past month. Our jackpots are on the low end, so it's time

for You All to come Monday AM to Barrys Bingo to help us build up our Jackpots; hopefully, as Luck would Have it, maybe you would add some value to your pocketbook, along with having some enjoyable, relaxing fun. Come See us & be a Lucky Duck.

Secondly, some Tuesday evening Post Bingo news, in the upcoming week(s) planning to replace our Tuesday evening Bingo night U-Pickem side game, with a more interesting & expectedly offering a "higher return on investment" of a Bingo evening side game teaser to the mix. Come visit & participate.

Despite the slowdown abit & backlog of pending & New Memberships, it's time to kick butt pick it up. So, let's add some new Post faces to our ranks. Help the cause & Bring em on in.

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

Lynn E. Peterson
QM, VFW Post 9644
lepeterson47@comcast.net
720-292-6992



Sharing with Sheridan
Food Pantry

FOOD DRIVE



ITEMS NEEDED:

- Canned foods (Spagetti Sauce, Canned Fruit, Tuna, Soups, Beans, Canned Chili, Canned Tomatoes - Whole & Sauce, Canned Vegetables)
- Box or Dry Goods (Stuffing Mix, Mac & Cheese, Crackers, Popcorn, Cake/Muffin Mixes, Rice, Instant Potatoes, Pasta, Dry Beans)
- Personal Items (6oz Shampoo, 6oz Body Wash, 6oz Lotion, Toothpaste, Mouthwash, Small Bars Soap, Hand Soap, Baby Wipes)
- Household Items (6oz Dish Soap, Toilet Cleaner, Liquid Cleaner, Disinfectant Sprays, Window Cleaner, Clorox Wipes)

FEB 13 - APR 15

VFW POST 9644

2680 W HAMPDEN AVE
SHERIDAN, CO 80110



Robert Derrera
VFW Post 9644
Chaplain

The Chaplain's Corner:

As we transition from the crisp embrace of Winter to the blossoming warmth of Spring, let us take a moment to appreciate the beautiful cycle of renewal that unfolds each year. This season serves as a gentle reminder of the interconnectedness of life that we all share.

Behold the wonders of Spring as nature undergoes its magical transformation. Witness the graceful return of birds to their nests, their melodies filling the air with the promise of new beginnings. Look around and marvel at the earth beneath your feet as it awakens, adorned in brilliant shades of green, and the trees unfurl their leaves in a majestic display.

For those fortunate enough to call Colorado home, let us bask in the awe-inspiring symphony of colors that paint the sky during magnificent sunrises and sunsets. These breathtaking moments serve as a reminder of the beauty that surrounds us and the privilege of living in such a remarkable place.

"New Chaplain Warranty"

It has come to our attention that the new Chaplain you received was shipped with a slight defect, it turns out he is not psychic. Because of this, you must observe certain procedures to ensure optimum performance and longevity.

It is necessary to inform him of any hospitalized or sick members.

If someone you know is in need of prayer, the Chaplain must be told, or he won't know.

If you are in need of a visit from our Chaplain, you will get the best results if you ask him directly.

We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

(Borrowed and revised from a good friend!)

Meet The Man Who Survived The Kamikaze Attacks Below Deck On The USS Bunker Hill. They were the greatest generation, indeed.

Francois Joseph Richer was a regular guy, a teenager from New Bedford, MA when WWII broke out. Like so many of his peers, he entered the Navy to join the cause. He went through boot camp at Newport, RI, and was trained to be a Water Tender, producing the steam to drive the huge turbine engines of

the ships of that era. After training, he was assigned to the aircraft carrier, USS Bunker Hill (CV-17) and he served aboard that mighty ship for his entire enlistment. I had the chance to interview him personally at his home in Carson City, NV recently, and this is his story, and the story of the Bunker Hill, which was hit by two kamikaze fighters while she was supporting the battle for Okinawa.

Read the entire account of Richer's experience on The Veterans Site.com at: <http://blog.theveteranssite.com/frank-richer/>

This is the first of what will be an ongoing series from Chaplain Rob Derrera's Veterans Blog each month.

Hope you have a healthy and safe start of Spring!

Rob-
Chaplain – VFW Post 9644



TRIVIA

By the time of World War II, American servicemen were consuming 32.5 pounds of coffee per capita, per year, with the Army Quartermaster Corps going so far as to roast, grind, vacuum pack, and ship its own beans overseas. Meanwhile, legend has it that when soldiers in Italy encountered espresso, they watered it down to make a concoction similar to the coffee they drank at home. There are many competing accounts, but some people surmise that these were the humble beginnings of the drink we now know as an "Americano."

In Vietnam, soldiers and Marines would burn C4 explosive to make their coffee in the jungle. In Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army and Air Force Exchange System (AAFES) had Green Beans coffee stands so servicemen and women could get their espresso and Frappuccino fix.

and then, there's Navy coffee



Where'd I learn to make coffee? Navy. Why?



John Whisler
VFW Post 9644
President

Hello all VFW and Auxiliary members of Post 9644.

Another month has gone by and we are getting closer to elections for the 2024-2025 year. I have been asked if I will run for Auxiliary President and my answer has been "If you nominate me than I will say yes".

I am asking for all Auxiliary members to think what is one way I can help the Post and Auxiliary of 9644 in the next year. If you would like to find out about the line officers or if you would like to be a chair for one the many programs that the Auxiliary uses to help. Please ask a current officer and we can help you with those questions.

An a different subject I can never tell everyone how much I have learned or thank everyone for supporting the Verle Huffman VFW Post 9644 this pass year. Every award we earn is because you have helped in some way. We are an organization that has been around for along time in this neighborhood and we will still be here for a long time to come. We need to embrace the chance to try new things and expand and adapt to the new while preserving the legacy and history of Verle Huffman Post 9644.

Thank you
 John Whisler
 Auxiliary President



CLEAN UP THE PRESIDENT FUNDRAISER

Shaving the President will be
 April 6th at Post/Aux Meeting

Fundraising for the Auxiliary Embroidered
 Flag (cost \$1,400)

Raffle Tickets - 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5
 Winner will have rights to trim President
 John's beard

See Bartender for tickets



Deb Blesh
VFW Post 9644
Treasurer

May the Luck of the Irish, the blessings of Easter and fun of the children be with you all for the Month of March.

I want to take this opportunity to talk about leadership. I heard a speech today that hit home and could be pertinent to everyone in this organization. Leadership should embody humility above all else.

A leader should be a guide, mentor, and all exhibit integrity. A leader has the ability to direct what needs to be accomplished, trust in those to carry it forward, and monitor the progress to a successful conclusion. A leader is a guide to what is needed to accomplish a goal and the workers accomplish the task. A leader must trust in the workers and only intervene as is necessary. Personality aside, trust is vital to success.

I hope it will influence everyone here to look at their role and learn that being in charge is not a dictator, but the leader of a working machine that needs all its parts to be successful.

Our Auxiliary membership is growing and we have over 104% membership and over 106% dues paid. We have 350 members to date.

As many of you may not know, we have contributed and supported our Service Officers, Community Living Centers, Senior Care Centers, VFW band, Scout troops, Honor Guard, Honor Bell, Veteran Assistance via different fund raising and relief funds. We also supported Suicide Prevention, Department Blood Cancer Fund, National Home, National needs for Veterans and many other entities. I hope this information gives you as much pride in our mission as it does me.

Our bingo supports holiday events, and other functions allowed under our bingo rules.

Many of you have been away since being accepted at a meeting this year, I hear the reasons are plenty. I am hoping you will give us another shot and offer any ideas, volunteer or just participate in our events. I would love to see you again. Our next meeting is Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 11:00am

We have been saddened by the loss of 7 members this year. They will be recognized at the Memorial on Sunday March 24, 2024

The rest of our events and happenings are posted by our newsletter editor for you.

Have a productive and enjoyable month and we all hope to welcome a beautiful spring.



Rachel Rodgers
VFW Post 9644
Jr Vice President

Hello VFW 9644!!

Thank you to everyone that has been so supportive and volunteered your time!

We have a few things coming up in the next few months.

- We have a fundraiser occurring through our April Monthly Meeting to Clean up the President (this will pay for a new Auxiliary Flag—\$1400)
- Corned Beef & Cabbage with Irish Dancers on March 15th from 5pm to 7pm (Dancers at 6:30pm)
- VFW Department COA is March 16th & 17th at VFW Post 1
- Easter Egg Hunt on March 23rd starting at 11am

Elections are coming up soon. Elected Officers shall be nominated and elected at a regular business meeting in April. Then in May the new officers will be installed. The fiscal year for the officers is June to May. If you want to see change in the meetings and at our Post then we

need you to become a leader. We are happy to mentor anyone that is interested.

Elected positions include:

- President
- Senior Vice President
- Junior Vice President
- Treasurer
- Chaplain
- Conductor
- Guard
- Trustees

Appointed positions include:

- Secretary
- Patriotic Instructor
- Program Chairmen

We would love to have fresh faces and new ideas to help shape VFW 9644 Auxiliary! Please consider running for a position. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask!

Rachel Rodgers
Jr Vice President



Elizabeth Whisler
Boy Scout Troop 42
Scoutmaster

You've heard that "a scout is helpful", but have you considered how many times this concept of helping others is woven throughout our scouting ideals? Care to guess?

We already mentioned that helpful is the third point of the Scout Law. Secondly, we are to be helpful to other people at all times as stated in the Scout Oath.

Our Motto, "Be Prepared" also speaks to being ready to give assistance to others, and our slogan "Do a Good Turn Daily" tops off the urgency of being mindful of other people's situations and opportunities to intervene in a positive, productive manner.

You know, even the Outdoor Code and the concept of Leave No Trace have a lot to do with serving others and being helpful.

Helpful is defined as "giving or being

ready to give help" or "being of service or assistance to others".

So the real questions that we must face are these:

- Do I help other people at all times?
- Am I prepared to intervene?
- Do I act upon recognizing an opportunity to provide help, or wait to be asked?
- Have I been thrifty with my resources (i.e. money, physical health/strength, skills, mental alertness, faith practices) so that I'm able to help others?
- Have I done my Good Turn for the day?
- Am I concerned for the welfare of others?
- What more could I have done?
- What can I do differently tomorrow?

The 1911 BSA Handbook states: A scout is helpful. He must be prepared at any time to save life, help injured persons, and share the home duties. He must do at least one good turn to somebody every day.

MILESTONE EVENT!

Congratulations to Clyde "Bud" Payne, Lifetime Post member who will be celebrating his 100th Birthday this month! We will be celebrating this momentous occasion on March 16th at VFW Post 9644!

During his tour of service as a radioman aboard the USS Prince George, a cargo ship, he made thirteen trips from Pearl Harbor to the South Pacific carrying troops, their equipment and supplies, in support of that theater. He says he joined the Navy because he slept in dry beds and had warm meals.

Today he enjoys the company of family, Bingo, and a game of Rummikub.



The Salute to Seniors was a huge success. We had roughly 100 to 135 seniors that came for a great lunch and bingo. The King is a World War II Veteran and was so happy to be crowned:

FROM THE KING:

I wanted to thank the VFW and all the volunteers for a wonderful tribute to seniors. It was a great civic event and required much effort on part of all who put it together and performed it.

Thank everyone for a day well enjoyed by seniors. Sorry I was a little late but thanks Frank for the tribute. I feel that I am a symbol that represents all those who never made it.

It was a great day!





PLEASE JOIN US
FOR A

BABY SHOWER

HONORING

ASHLEY CAMARILLO

During dinner Friday, March 8th, 2024
5pm to 7pm

Scan the code for Ashley &
Joe's Baby Registry



EASTER EGG HUNT HOST BY VFW POST 9644 & AUXILIARY

SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD

11:00AM TO 2:00PM

Enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt starting at 11:30am with
a round starting every 30 minutes.
Followed by Lunch, Crafts and Egg Dying!
Lunch is Hot Dog, Chips & Drink

2680 W HAMPDEN AVE, SHERIDAN, CO 80110



March 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1 Friday Night Dinner	2 Finance Meeting 10am Post/Aux Meeting 11am
3 US Navy Reserve Birthday Sunday Breakfast	4 Hug a GI Day	5 Dinner/Bingo	6	7	8 Friday Night Dinner	9
10 Daylight Savings Sunday Breakfast	11 Participation Meeting at 6pm	12 Dinner/Bingo	13	14	15 American Legion Birthday Friday Night Dinner	16 Karaoke 6pm
17 St Patty's Day Sunday Breakfast	18	19 Dinner/Bingo	20	21	22 Friday Night Dinner	23
24 Palm Sunday Sunday Breakfast	25 Medal of Honor Day Participation Meeting at 6pm	26 Dinner/Bingo	27 Home Board Meeting 6pm	28 America Says	29 Good Friday National Vietnam War Veterans Day Friday Night Dinner	30
31 Easter Sunday Breakfast						

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

For an updated/detailed calendar please visit ~
vfw9644.org/calendar

Monthly Happenings:

1st Saturday - Finance Meeting at 10m, Post/Aux Monthly Meeting at 11am

3rd Thursday - America Says at 6pm

3rd Saturday - Post Opens at 4pm; Karaoke at 6pm

Last Wednesday - Home Board Meeting at 6pm

Upcoming Events:

St Pattys Dinner - March 15th

Dept of CO COA - March 16th & March 17th @ VFW Post 1

Easter Egg Hunt - March 23rd at 11am to 2pm

District 10 Memorial Service/Meeting - March 24th at 11am



Post

Cory Brett	March 1
C D Draper	March 1
Steven Fabrizio	March 1
Stanley Gimlin	March 1
Troy Hofslie	March 1
James Rose	March 1
Mark Nickell	March 2
Joseph Plant	March 2
Don Lightfoot	March 4
David McCune	March 4
Alton Donnell	March 5
Michael Leary	March 7
Juan Romero	March 8
Donald Sanchez	March 8
Ernest Swanson	March 9
Scott Denison	March 10
Gary Mullins	March 10
Robert Smith	March 11
Bill Binet	March 12
Edward Hendrick	March 12
Jason Neely	March 13
David Tongish	March 13
Donald Douglas	March 15
Terry Jones	March 15
Robert Thornley	March 15
Marvin Garcia	March 16
Dennis Strecker	March 16
David Hill	March 17
Clyde Payne	March 18
Gary Ronning	March 18
Richard Glaggett	March 19
Dane Hofslie	March 19
Louis Ruggeri	March 22
Richard Hohenberger	March 23
Leo Bonacci	March 24
Chris Madril	March 25
Troy Hess	March 30
Dana Srdoc	March 30

Auxiliary

Edrie Burley	March 1
Pearl Ann Lowe	March 1
Debra Blesh	March 4
Sherry Lynn Ehrman	March 5
John Kamens	March 5
Sue Reichert	March 6
Cheryl Snyder	March 6
Patricia Trujillo	March 6
Trudy Insalco	March 9
Judy Bowen	March 10
Andreas Simoneau	March 12
Elizabeth Flanagan	March 12
Helen Prien	March 12
Sonia Blesrud	March 14
Tina Mason	March 16
Guadalupe Ruiz	March 16
Susan Andrews	March 17
Patricia Watkins	March 17
Megan Mason	March 18
Ronald Bick	March 21
Dorothy Waufile	March 23
Concetta Kile	March 25
Mary Makries	March 25
Dennis Johnson	March 28
Pamela Estrada	March 30
Greg Italiano	March 31

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 negotiate 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 paintless 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

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