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## Commanders Column

Dear Comrades,

Greetings to all the Veterans. Fall is right around the corner, enjoy the rest of summer and the Labor Day weekend.

The July 4th Celebration at our Post was a HUGE success. It could not have been done without the 35 + Volunteers. You were Great! We had a nice crowd of people enjoying good food, drinks and listening to the Band.

The dates for the Fall Conference are Sept. 22 - 25th at the Crowne Plaza in Plymouth.

Congratulations to our newly elected officers.

By the time you get the newsletter our parking lot should be black topped. Also the new water softener should be installed.

The Post is doing very well thanks to our Veterans and all who come to show your support.

Bruce is our Membership chairman. We reached 100% in membership and have 5 + new members.

The bands start in September.

Check our Jr. Commander's website for upcoming events.

Below are some dates to remember:

September 5th Labor Day

6th Post & VFW Aux. meeting 7:00 p.m.

9th Color Guard Presentation of Colors

Football Game Minnetonka vs Blaine

11th Patriot's Day - Honor Our Heroes

16th POW/MIA Recognition Day

18th Air Force Birthday September 18, 1947

22nd - 25th Fall Conference at the Crowne Plaza, in Plymouth

23rd Color Guard presentation of Colors

Football Game Homecoming

St. Michael-Albertville vs Blaine

October 4th Post & VFW Aux. meeting 7:00

6th Color Guard Presentation of Colors

Football Game Centennial vs Blaine

8th 7th District mtg. Forest Lake VFW 10:00 a.m.

13th Navy Birthday October 13, 1775

31st Halloween

31st VOD - Patriot's Pen Contest deadline to Post

Stay healthy and safe. God Bless You and all our members. If you have any questions or concerns call me at 651-285-5459.

Your Commander

Randy Monson

## Greetings VFW Auxiliary Members!

Hello Sisters and Brothers of the Auxiliary,

Our summer is closing in on us and before we know it, it will be fall. Vacations are coming to an end and soon school starts.

September 11th is Patriot's Day, A day to Honor Our Heroes

September 16th is POW/MIA Recognition Day

October 8th is the 7th District meeting at the Forest Lake VFW

My Officers and Chairman are working the programs so we are off to a good start. We have Department Fall Conference on September 22nd - 25th at the Crowne Plaza in Plymouth.

Thank you to Jeanne Engelsmeier for setting up the date (August 13th) for Feed My Starving Children, and Jeanne will be setting up the date and time to do Christmas caroling at White Pines Care Facility in Blaine in December.

Check out the article on Contests coming up, Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen chaired by Andrea Wildenberg in this newsletter. We encourage the students to enter these contests. All entries MUST be to our Post by October 31st, 2022.

Mark your calendar for our Veterans dinner on November 6th. Social 4:00 p.m. Dinner 5:00 p.m.

We only have 8 annual members to pay their dues. We would like to be 100% reporting as soon as possible.

Our Auxiliary and VFW meetings are the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Come and join us if you can.

To everyone who has been ill, we wish you a speedy recovery, to those who have lost a loved one, our sympathies are with you and your family.

Doris Anderson, Auxiliary President

# NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

September 16, 2022

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is an observance that honors those who were prisoners of war (POW) as well as those who are still missing in action (MIA).

National POW/MIA Recognition Day was established in 1979 through a proclamation signed by President Jimmy Carter. Since then, each subsequent president has issued an annual proclamation commemorating the third Friday in September as National Recognition Day.

A national-level ceremony is held on every National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Traditionally held at the Pentagon, it features members from every branch of military service and participation from high-ranking officials.

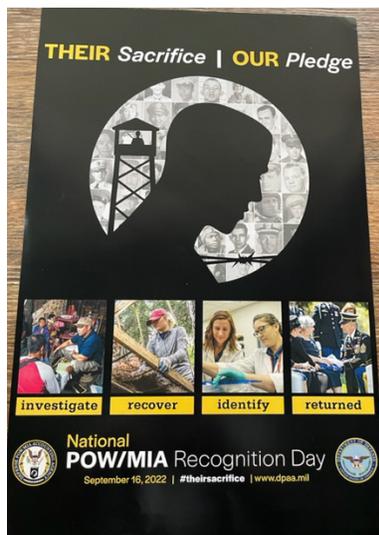
In addition to the national-level observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installation ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities. On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, the flag is flown on the ground of major military installations, veterans memorials, government agencies, federal national cemeteries.

The POW/MIA Flag should be no larger than the United States flag. It is typically flown immediately below or adjacent to the national flag as second in the order of precedence.

No matter where they are held, these National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies share the common purpose of honoring those who were held captive and returned, as well as those who remain missing.

Since 1999, The POW/MIA Accounting community has created a poster commemorating National POW/MIA Recognition Day. The 2022 edition of the poster continues to honor this tradition.

Joyce Pierret,  
POW/MIA Chairman



On July 30th three more Veterans received their Quilt of Valor at the Blaine Veterans Park.

Presenters were Karen Anderson and Rita Bode. Receiving their Quilt of Valor were L to R: Andrew Kreyer Army 2006 - 2011, Martin Liserio Air Force 1986 - 1998, and Bradley Nelson Army 2007 - still active in Reserves. Thank You for serving



Sgt. John Rice VFW Auxiliary members Jeanne Engelsmeier & Joyce Pierret & Sons of Norway members along with 45 others- Packed Meals for Various Countries on Saturday 8/13/2022



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Sunday, November 6th, 2022

Veterans Day Dinner 4:00 Social, 5:00 Dinner

We will also recognize membership and our Past Commanders/President

You will need to RSVP me @ 763-434-6580

## Now Hear This Cooties:

This fall and winter months Lucky 11 Pup Tent is increasing its need for more members to replace those who have left us.

We will be participating in the Fall Conference in Plymouth this year and I wish to thank all of our officers for continuing in our programs.

Special thanks to all our Auxiliary members of the MOC for making us look good while they do the important work for the Veterans especially playing Bingo at the Nursing Homes.

Look up President Shelley's article for Dates to Remember.

Call me at 612-789-8741 with any questions.

James "Smiley" Harvieux,  
Team Squirrel



## Dates to Remember

### September

13 - MOC and MOCA meetings, 7:00 p.m

### October

11 - MOC and MOCA meetings, 7:00 p.m.

### November

12 - Grand C of A, Isanti

MOCA members, your dues are due. Please mail a check made out to MOCA in the amount of \$18.00 to treasurer Mary Lou Michels,

928 Constance Blvd. NE

Ham Lake, MN 55304

We would like to be 100% in membership as soon as possible. Thank You

LeRoy Magnuson, Sr. Vice President

## Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary

Hello Cooties

Supreme Convention has come and gone, and we are officially off to the start of the new MOCA year. In the Supreme Convention book there are reports from various chairmen and I am happy to announce that the Grand of Minnesota MOCA donated \$5,231.00 in gifts.

The Grand Convention at Thief River Falls will also have happened by the time you read this, so I will give you an update in the next newsletter.

Thank you to the members that go out to Benedictine for bingo with the residents. I know they appreciate your visits whenever possible.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) now has a new name: VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE).

With many facilities still in and out of lockdowns due to Covid, The National Advisory Committee is trying to come up with new ways to help keep volunteers active in the different facilities. Please go to thelotcs.org website for future updates.

Our sympathies to those who have lost a loved one and our prayers to those that are ill.

MOCA President Shelley



Twenty-four arrangements were made by Blaine VFW Auxiliary member Mary Lou Michels for the banquet following the golf tournament at Majestic Oaks Golf Course on August 10th. Money raised went to families of National Guardsmen so the children could go to Camp.

## VFW Auxiliary Membership

Annual members, your dues are due. PLEASE send me a check in the amount of \$18.00 made out to VFW Auxiliary and mail to me:

Mary Lou Michels  
928 Constance Blvd. NE  
Ham Lake, MN 55304

OR Consider going with a life membership and avoid the hassle each year. Below is a list of life membership fees:

Through 20	\$253.00	56 - 60	173.00
21 - 25	242.00	61 - 65	161.00
25 - 30	230.00	66 - 70	150.00
31 - 35	219.00	71 - 75	132.00
36 - 40	213.00	76 - 80	109.00
41 - 45	201.00	81 - 85	86.00
46 - 50	196.00	86 - 90	69.00
51 - 55	184.00	91 and over	58.00

Thank You  
Mary Lou Michels

In recognition of 25 years of Outstanding Leadership and Service to Ft. Snelling National Cemetery Memorial Rifle Squad Award was given to Rich Asbury in June 2022, for his service as Quartermaster. Rich has been a member of the "Wednesday Squad" for 27 1/2 years representing the Sgt. John Rice VFW in Blaine. He has over 1,874 volunteer hours. Rich has also held the position of the longest ever held there as an officer for the rifle squad.



Rich was given the Golden award for time and participation.

Rich joined the Blaine VFW and held many positions, was on Housing and Finance and was commander from 2002 - 2005.

Rich was in the Color Guard for ten plus years.

Rich enjoys woodworking, camping and fishing.

Rich and his wife, Ann have lived in Blaine for 29 years. Rich says "Ann has changed alot but he hasn't".

THANK YOU Rich for your dedication to the Rifle Squad and your dedication to the Blaine VFW.

## NATIONAL PURPLE HEART DAY

Purple Heart Day is August 7th and is the kind of day created to give back. It is a day for Americans to remember and honor the men and women who bravely represented their country and were wounded or killed while serving. These people are decorated with a Purple Heart in the name of the President and this day is for remembering them and their sacrifice.

Purple Heart Day was first observed in 2014 and has been observed every year since. It's a chance to reflect on the bravery of those who have fought for the U.S. and to ensure that their courage is never forgotten.

The date has passed but please join us as we honor those that have been given a Purple Heart.

### Veteran Spotlight

Mike Strout - born in Mpls. on July 15, 1944 - on April 16, 1962 at the age of 17 he enlisted in the army 10151 airborne. He received his basic training at Fort Leonardwood in Missouri. While stationed in Ankha, Vietnam in the Central Highlands. He earned his Purple Heart (Combatwounded) by "being in the wrong place at the right time." The purple heart was pinned on him while in the hospital at Yakoda, Japan! He was honorably discharged on Aapril 15, 1965 as a Sargeant E-5.



After returning from service Mike attended Dunwoody and became a pipefitter for 15 years. Worked at Hoffman Engineering until his retirement in 2001.

He and his wife Margaret have a blended family of 6 children and 4 grandchildren. They have made Blaine their home for 30 years.

Mike joined Sgt. John Rice VFW and has held offices such as Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice, Trustee & Finance Committee.

Joyce Pierret,  
Americanism Chairperson





## POW/MIA PRAYER

Pray that our live men are returned.

Pray that God will give them strength & faith to endure until they are returned.

Pray that those who died are recovered.

Pray that God will help us persevere until we have a resolution to this situation.

Pray that future generations who serve will have the security of knowing that should they become missing their government will be committed to returning them home.

Remembrance Day in September

I pray that our Heavenly Father may comfort the anguish of your bereavement and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid such a costly sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Joyce Pierret, Americanism Chairman

## VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Many of our Auxiliary members are caregivers to their Veteran. Did you know that there is a VA program that may offer assistance to those caregivers? The Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) is for "eligible Veterans who have incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975, or on or after September 11, 2001. This program provides resources, education support, a financial stipend, health insurance (if eligible) and beneficiary travel (if eligible) to caregivers of eligible Veterans". To find out more about this program, visit [caregiver.va.gov](http://caregiver.va.gov). You can help support caregivers by sending a card, calling just to chat, drop off a meal, or offer the caregiver a break. In caring for their Veteran, which may include challenges that come with disabilities, the caregiver may not even realize that they need a break.

## BAKE SALES

We're back! Our bake sales start again the third Friday in September and will continue on the third Friday each month until in May.

Stop in and check out our baked goodies starting at 4:00 and going until sold out.

Call Ann at 763-717-0641 with questions

## SEWING COMMITTEE

We continue to sew for our Veterans. We meet on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. If you have any questions, call Marge at 763-757-1729



## BLOOD DRIVES

We had a Blood Drive on August 16th. The American Red Cross collected 43 units. Thank you to all the donors and to our Volunteers.

Mark your calendars for the following dates:

October 18th	12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
December 20th	12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
February 14th	12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
April 11th	12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
June 13th	12:00 - 5:00 p.m.



## SAVE, SAVE, SAVE

Continue saving eye glasses (turned in another 7 pair to the Ham Lake Lions), Canceled stamps, (turned in 1500 to Linda for the Wounded Warriors Project), Pop tabs (turned in 23 lbs to Ronald McDonald House). Just bring all the items to the VFW and we will have a place that needs them.

Also, bring your tattered flags to the Post.

## CANCER GRANTS

All Auxiliary members are entitled to apply for a cancer grant if needed. You have to be a member for a year and can receive two grants in a lifetime, the grants must be a year or more apart. The form is filled out by the member and the doctor. If you need a form call me at 763-434-6580 and I will mail it to you.

# SCHOLARSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP

## VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

The 2022 - 2023 Voice of Democracy Theme is "Why is the Veteran Important?"

Student Entry Deadline is October 31st, 2022 to the Blaine VFW Post

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9 - 12 who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the U.S.

Record your original 3 - 5 minute audio essay on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, typed essay and the completed entry form. You must be the sole author of your essay. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. NO music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin) although the recording & typed essay should be labeled with your name to show ownership. The deadline for your entry is Oct. 31st to the Blaine VFW Post.

### Judging Criteria

Originality is worth 30 points: treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Content is worth 35 points: Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to the other.

Delivery is worth 35 points: Speak in a clear and credible manner.

With questions or to request an entry form contact Andrea Wildenberg @ 612-481-3180

## PATRIOT'S PEN

The 2022-2023 Patriot's Pen Theme is "My Pledge to Our Veterans".

Student entry deadline is October 31st, 2022 at the Blaine VFW Post

The Patriot's Pen contest is open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students enrolled in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S. Home-schooled students also are eligible.

All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics and 300 - 400 words in length. The essay must be the contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking.,

The body of the essay must not identify you in any way (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin).

### Judging Criteria

Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points: You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.

Theme development is worth 35 points: Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.

Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points: Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

With questions or to request an entry form contact Andrea Wildenberg @ 612-481-3180

# SARAH DUCHARME SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

## 2022 - 2023 MOCA Grand Scholarship

The purpose of this program is to assist in furthering the education of a student who wishes to obtain a post high school education to earn a technical undergraduate degree in a medical field. These fields include but are not limited to areas in Nursing, Pharmacology, Radiology, Dental Assisting, Laboratory Technician, Dietician and degrees in Veterinary Science.

The scholarship program is not for graduate level or degree advancement. Auxiliary members are eligible for this scholarship.

If you would like a scholarship application, call Joyce Pierret at 763-913-7269

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# September/October 2022

## SGT. JOHN RICE VFW





**SGT. JOHN R. RICE**  
**US Army World War II - Korea**  
**Killed in Action Tabu-Dong, Korea on 6 September 1950**

*A career soldier who gave his life for his country.  
Denied burial in Sioux City, Iowa, because of his race.  
Through the intercession of President Truman,  
Sergeant John Rice was buried with honors at  
Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.*

