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Commanders Column

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter with your family and I hope you are enjoying our SPRING. It was a long winter and I think most of us are glad to see the snow go.

On April 1st, our Commander Randy was injured when he was run over by a plow truck. Please keep Randy in your prayers as he recovers from his injuries. At this time Randy is at a rehab care facility in Fridley.

Also on April 1st, we had the Gun Raffle event. Despite the 8 inches of snow we had a good turnout. Congratulations to the winners of the gun raffles. We completed 14 of 20 scheduled raffles. We netted \$3,500.00 which was donated to the Community. A BIG Thank You to all who attended the event and to our many volunteers. You are appreciated.

Our next gun raffle will be the 2nd or 3rd Saturday in August.

On April 10th ten Veterans met at our Post for coffee and goodies. We meet the second Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome to join us. You do not have to be a member of our Post. We just would like all Veterans to come and visit with each other.

Poppy Card Sales are starting Wednesday April 19th. The cards will be in the bar area. Stop in and sign a card and make a donation. All monies go into the relief fund to help a Veteran in need.

Distribution of Poppies is May 19th and 20th. There will be a sign up sheet with the names of the businesses we will be at. We need lots of volunteers. Again, all monies received will go into the relief fund to help Veterans in need.

Memorial Day Services will be at Morningside Memorial Gardens on May 27th starting at 10:00 a.m. and then at Bunker Hills Park at 11:30 a.m. Take time to remember all the fallen who have sacrificed their lives for our Freedom.

Memorial Day, Monday May 29th, our Color Guard will do the Presentation of Colors at the Blaine Veterans Park across from Blaine City Hall at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

June 14th is FLAG DAY. Fly your flag proudly.

Mark your Calendar for Tuesday, July 4th. We will have a band playing your favorite music to listen to and dance to, and also Good Food, Drinks, and the Auxiliary will have a bake sale.

This is always a big hit with the community. All are welcome to attend. Plan your day around it.

Volunteers are needed so sign up or contact Bruce (612-245-7477) or a staff member with your name & phone number.

Blaine Blazing 4th days are June 23rd & 24th. There will be shuttle service for the elderly from the parking lot to the festivities. On the 24th the parade starts at 12:00 noon.

The District Convention is April 22nd at the Palmer Lake VFW. Bruce has delegate cards. Call Bruce at 612-245-7477 with questions.

REMINDER: INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS will follow the meeting of the Post and Auxiliary on May 2nd. Look for a list of the newly elected Officers for the 2023 - 2024 year in this newsletter.

Congratulations to the new officers.
God Bless you and all our members.

Commander Randy Monson

Acting Commander Bruce Niemi - questions call
612-245-7477



Greetings VFW Auxiliary Members!

Hello Sisters, Brothers, and Comrades,

Spring has finally arrived. Year-end reports are done and sent unto District and Department. As I am writing this article I am thinking about our District and Department Conventions and looking forward to accepting the awards on your behalf for all you have done this year. Thank you. I look forward to serving as your President once again in 2023-2024 as elections were held April 4th. I look forward to another great year as we work together, Auxiliary and Post. Installation will be May 2nd following the meetings. We are in need of **Program Chairman** for Auxiliary Outreach, and Historian/Media Relations. If you would like to Co-Chair a program please let me know. Being a Co-Chairman is a wonderful way to get to know the programs.

Upcoming Events:

May

- 2nd Auxiliary and Post meetings, 7pm,
Installation to follow meeting
- 8th Coffee with the Veterans, Post Home, 10am
- 14th Mother's Day
- 16th Park River Nursing Home 2pm
- 19th and 20th Poppy Distribution
- 19th Bake Sale, baked goods to Post Home 3pm
- 24th Benedictine Nursing Home 5:30pm
- 27th Morning Side Services 10am, Bunker Hills Activity
Center 11:30am Memorial Day Services
- 29th Blaine Veteran's Park, Memorial Day Service

June

- 6th Post and Auxiliary Meetings 7pm
- 8th-11th Department Convention
- 12th Coffee with the Veterans
- 13th Blood Drive 12-5pm
- 13th Mpls. Veterans Home 2pm
- 18th Father's Day
- 20th Park River Nursing Home 2pm
- 24th Blaine Parade
- 28th Benedictine Nursing Home 5:30pm

Sewing ladies meet every Thursday from 1-4pm at Post Home. Their projects are quilting and sewing whatever the Veterans Homes, VA Medical Centers and Nursing Homes needs are. Everyone is welcome and they are in need of quilters and sewers. Contact Joann Nesbitt or Eloise Beckman for more information.

Remember to always check your calendars. We are continuing to collect postage stamps and pop tabs. You can bring them to the meeting or drop them off at the Post and we will give them to either Linda Waite (stamps) or Mary Lou Michels (pop tabs). We will be having a **Bake Sale** at the 4th of July celebration as in the past however **no bake sale in June or August** to resume in September.

We are a very busy Auxiliary, always looking for new projects and ideas. If you have a project you would like us to do please bring it to our meetings or contact the Officers so we can bring it to the members. Volunteers are always welcome. For more information contact Doris Anderson, President, (763) 370-4664.

Those who have been ill we wish you a speedy recovery and to those who have lost a loved our prayers and sympathies are with you.

Doris Anderson
Auxiliary President



Sgt. John Rice VFW Post Officers for 2023 - 2024

Commander - Randy Monson
Sr. Vice Commander - Bruce Niemi
Jr. Vice Commander - Corky Olson
Quartermaster - Dick Kilian
Chaplain - Kurtis Hollar
1 year trustee - Jesse Davis
2 year trustee - Patrick Skluzacek
3 year trustee - Kurtis Hollar
Adjutant - Jeremy Kutzke
Service Officer - Rich Asbury
Judge Advocate - William Kocur
Surgeon - Joel Frank

VFW Auxiliary Officers for 2023 - 2024

President - Doris Anderson
Sr. Vice President - Mary Lou Michels
Jr. Vice President - Darlene Magnuson
Chaplain - Andrea Wildenberg
Conductress - LeRoy Magnuson
Guard - Shirley Hagen
Patriotic Instructor - JoAnn Nisbet
1 year trustee - Darlene Magnuson
2 year trustee - Karen Jones
3 year trustee - Joyce Pierret
Secretary - Shelley Solheid
Treasurer - Ann Asbury

INSTALLATION of Officers will follow the May 2nd Post
& Auxiliary meetings

VFW Auxiliary Membership

Our Sympathies to the families of life members Donna
Stoddard and Anita Jacquemart who passed away. Anita
was the last surviving Charter Member of our Auxiliary.

We welcome new life member Judy Wirtz.

Starting July 1st, dues for our annual members will be
due again. Where does the time go!!

If you have questions, call me at 763-434-6580.

Mary Lou Michels Sr. Vice President & Membership
Chairman

Dates to Remember

May 14th

Happy Mother's Day

May 15th

Armed Forces Day

June 14th

Flag Day

June 14th

Army Birthday June 14th 1775

June 18th

Happy Father's Day



MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

will start at 10:00 a.m. on May 27th at Morningside
Memorial Gardens and 11:30 a.m. at Bunker Hills Park.
Remember the fallen who sacrificed so much.

THE BLAINE PARADE

is Saturday June 24th starting at 12:00 noon.

TUESDAY, JULY 4TH CELEBRATION AT OUR POST

Live Music

Good Food & Drinks

Auxiliary Bake Sale

Plan to Join Us





Remember to bring your torn & worn flags to the Post.

FLAG DAY

Folding The Flag

1. Two persons, facing each other, hold the Flag waist high and horizontally between them.
2. They fold the lower striped section lengthwise, over the blue field. Hold bottom to top, edges together, securely.
3. Then fold the Flag again, lengthwise, folded edge to open edge.
4. A triangular fold is started along the length of the Flag from the end to the heading, by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open edge.
5. Outer point is turned inward parallel with the open edge forming a second triangle.
6. Repeat the triangular folding until entire length of the Flag is folded.
7. When the Flag is completely folded only the triangular blue field should be visible.

Joyce Pierret, Americanism Chairperson



BUDDY POPPY

Poppy Card Sales start Wednesday April 19th - Stop in the bar area, sign a Poppy Card and make a donation. Monies received go into the relief fund to help our Veterans in need.

Poppy Distribution Days are May 19th and 20th. We have contacted Businesses in the area and have received permission to stand by their doors and ask people to wear a poppy. We will have sign up sheets for you to sign for a time that is convenient for you. We need lots of volunteers.

If you have questions, call Bruce at 612-245-7477.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR VETERANS
WEAR A BUDDY POPPY



POW/MIA FLAG PRESENTATION

Mel Meyer was presented with a POW/MIA Flag. Served in the Army 1954-1956 - Became a Member of Sgt. John Rice VFW in 1988. Married to Joann the former POW/MIA Chairperson. Mel was a City Truck Driver for 38 Years & A Security Guard at Menards for 24 Years! They have 3 Children, 9 Grandchildren & 11 Great Grandchildren.



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 16th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. for Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids. Call Jeanne Engelsmeier at 763-258-9093 with questions.





AMERICANISM

Loyalty Day- May 1- A Day set aside for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and for recognizing the heritage of American freedom. On May 1, 1930, 10,000 VFW members staged a rally at New York's Union Square to promote patriotism. In 1958, Congress enacted Public Law 529 proclaiming Loyalty Day a permanent fixture on the nation's calendar.

V-E Day- May 8th is Victory in Europe Day. It marks the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces, therefore marking the end of World War II.

Armed Forces Day- The third Saturday in May (this year on May 21) is a day to honor Americans currently serving in the branches of the U.S. military as well as the National Guard and Reserve units. It was created on August 31, 1949, following the unification of the armed forces under the U.S. Department of Defense.

Memorial Day- May 30 (Traditionally observed the last Monday in May). It is a day to honor the men and women who died while serving in America's Armed Forces. It was originally called "Decoration Day" and originated after the Civil War to commemorate those who died in the war by decorating their graves. It was declared "Memorial Day" by federal law in 1967 and was extended to include honoring all Americans who died while serving in America's armed forces.

Flag Day- This day, June 14th, celebrates the adoption of the flag as the official symbol for the United States. This day was first recognized by Congress on June 14, 1977 and became known as Flag Day. The colors used in the Flag give special meaning: Red for valor and zeal, white for hope and cleanliness of life, blue for reverence and loyalty.

Joyce Pierret, Americanism Chairperson

SEWING COMMITTEE

The Sewing Committee meet every Thursday at 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. We have been busy making quilts, and other items for our Veterans. If you would like to join us or if you have questions, call Marge at 763-757-1729



CANCER GRANTS

Members: If you are in need, we do have a cancer grant form you can fill out with your doctor.

Call Mary Lou at 763-434-6580 and request the form.



SAVE SAVE SAVE

Continue to save your pop tabs (turned in 8 1/2 pounds to Ronald McDonald House), eye glasses (turned in 30 and cases to the Lions Club) and cancelled stamps (Wounded Warriors). Bring to the Post and we will have a place to take them. Thank you in advance for saving them.



ATTENTION VETERANS

Come to the Post the second Monday of each month for coffee and goodies. We meet at 10:00 a.m. You do not have to be a member. This is your time to leave the house, meet other Veterans and visit.



BAKE SALES

Our April Bake Sale is April 21st starting at 4:00 p.m.

Our May Bake Sale is May 19th starting at 4:00 p.m.

NO JUNE BAKE SALE

Our JULY 4th Bake Sale starts at 12:00 noon

Questions, call Ann @ 763-717-0641



VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

There are a variety of resources available to assist veterans who may be experiencing mental health issues. Please assist a veteran who may need help by sharing the following options with them:

VFW Mental Wellness Campaign
vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness

The Campaign to Change Direction
changedirection.org

Give An Hour
giveanhour.org

Patients Like Me
patientslikeme.com/join/vfw

One Mind
onemind.org

The Elizabeth Dole Foundation
elizabethdolefoundation.org

Help Heal Veterans (Therapeutic Craft Kits)
healvets.org

Veterans Voices Writing Project
veteransvoices.org

**Please remember that these resources are for all veterans and families even if they are not members of the VFW or other organizations.



BLOOD DRIVES

On April 11th the American Red Cross collected 41 units of blood. The goal was 35 units.

Thank You to all the wonderful and dedicated donors and to our volunteers, Eloise, Joyce, Ann, JoAnn and Shirley.

Our next blood drive at the Post will be June 13th. You can sign up online or you can call me and I will register you. Give the Gift of Life!

Mary Lou Michels 763-434-6580
Blood Drive Coordinator



POW/MIA PRAYER

Dear Father,

I come into the Throne Room of Grace and bring with me every POW/MIA from every war that America has fought.

Father, You established this Country under the Blood Covenant.

These men have fought to keep it free, have been obedient and have paid a high price for their loyalty to this nation. They have not come home.

Father, I ask in the name of Jesus, that you bring these Prisoners of War and the Missing in Action home to the families that love them and to a Country that appreciates them.

Father, please make the path before them open and free for their return.

Please bless each and every POW/MIA. Give them grace and mercy, protect them, give them strength and cover them with the Precious Blood of Jesus.

Bless their families.

Keep them strong and keep the flame of hope burning within them.

Thank you for bringing each and every Service man, woman and Civilian home. To you Father all praise, honor and glory in Jesus's name.

Amen.

Joyce Pierret POW/MIA Chairperson



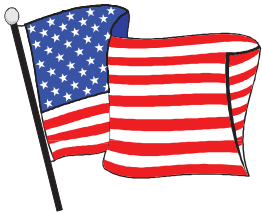
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VFW Chartered November 10, 1959 • VFW Auxiliary Chartered December 14, 1969
Sgt. John Rice VFW Post 6316 Newsletter is Published Bi-Monthly with a circulation of approximately 625.



May/June 2023

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.*

