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Commanders Column

Dear Comrades,

Thanks to all the Veterans and guests who continue to patronize our Post.

All the new officers have been installed.

The bathrooms are done and look GREAT! Thanks for your patience during the construction process.

Memorial Day Services at Morningside and Bunker Hills Park were a success. Wreaths were placed at both.

Plans are being made for a BIG celebration on July 4th at the Post. The Post will open at 11:00 with the celebration starting at 12:00. A BIG thank you to the volunteers who help get everything ready for the July 4th celebration. There will be good food, and drinks available. The live band, Blue Dream, will start at 2:00 and play until 6:00. Theme is the 70's so dress back to the 70's if you would like to.

Good Food, Corn on the Cob with Marcie Cameron and Rich Asbury in charge. Smoked pork ribs by Phil and also serving Hamburgers, Hot dogs and Brats. Top it all off with yummy goodies made by the VFW Auxiliary inside the hall. There will be a meat raffle in the afternoon.

Congratulations to newly elected Auxiliary President Doris. And a Big thank you to Past Auxiliary President Shelley for her dedication as President for six years.

Look for McArthur in the Blaine Parade. I will be waving to you.

On Thursday, June 16th, I presented a special bike to Elias from Blaine. Elias has some medical issues and his mother approached our VFW with a proposal for a bike for him. Thanks to all who support our VFW we were able to fill this request. We contacted a business in Scotland who specialize in making special bikes. The bike arrived and was presented to Elias.

We made one little boy VERY happy. Look for the article and picture in this newsletter.

We will be meeting to put together the calendar for the coming year.

Stay Healthy and Safe. Enjoy your summer, it goes by too quickly.

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,

Hope everyone is enjoying the summer. Thank you for putting your trust in me as your Auxiliary President for 2022 - 2023. I want to take this opportunity to thank President Shelley for the last six years as our Auxiliary President. President Shelley did an outstanding job and with everyone's help I hope to follow her example and do the same. Thank you President Shelley.

Department Convention was June 9th thru June 12th. The Auxiliary Training Sessions on Thursday were excellent. The VFW Parliamentarian gave a class on how to make and amend motions, etc. We did role playing and hopefully will be able to use the information in our Auxiliary meeting. We also had the Service Officer from St. Paul visit and gave good information as to what we all need to know for our Veterans. I hope to have both of them visit us this year at either the District meetings or our own Auxiliary. The VFW received 2nd place for our newsletter, editor Mary Lou. Thank you Mary Lou. We received other awards from the Auxiliary which I will have at our July meeting. Hope to see many of you there as President Shelley will be presenting them.

We had Draping of the Charter for lifetime member Gloria Kraabel who passed away in May. Our sympathies to the Kraabel family.



June 16th was a very special day for 6 year old Elias from Blaine. Elias has Global Developmental Delays, Autism, Sensory Processing Disorder, Chromosomal 3 P Genetic Deletion, Hypotonia, etc. Elias's mother, Naomi contacted Commander Randy at the Blaine VFW and asked for help in getting a specialized bike made for Elias. Commander Randy did some checking and contacted a business in Scotland. The bike arrived and on June 16th was presented to Elias. After explaining all the safety features on the bike, it was time for Elias to go for a little ride. Elias was hesitant but once he was buckled in and felt safe, he was able to go for a ride in the VFW and then outside. His mom, Naomi said "It is a Dream come true." Enjoy riding your new bike Elias!



Commander Randy said "We were able to do this because of all the caring Veterans and guests who come to the VFW and show their support. Thank you".

Pictured L to R Uncle Nicholas, Father Josh, Mother Naomi, Commander Randy, Auxiliary President Doris and Elias on the bike.

The 2021 - 2022 year for Membership is coming to a close. Thank you to everyone for paying your continuance dues and welcome to the ones who have joined us throughout the year.

However a new year is beginning and as of July 1st membership dues are due again. Thank You.

Remember to fill out the reports for volunteering throughout the month and I will be sure the VFW gets a copy of them for their reporting. You can either call, text or email me, Doris Anderson, 763-370-4664, dorisanderson363@yahoo.com or call or send them to Mary Lou and we will see that they get to the Post. Thank you.

Upcoming events are, Blaine Parade Saturday, June 25th, District meeting June 25th at the Post, 10:00 a.m., 4th of July Celebration, and Fall Conference, September 20 - 23, Plymouth, Crown Plaza. Our Auxiliary and VFW meetings are always the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

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



Now Hear This Cooties:

We, as a Pup Tent, attained 100% in our membership and in our inspection report last month in May.

Thanks to Jim Baziell for his leadership and our new Grand Commander Len Gudmunson and new Jr. Vice Commander Tim Arnold.

We will have our next C of A in Thief River Falls on August 20th and next Grand Scratch in Bloomington in 2023.

Thanks to Chad Solheid and Dennis Maddox for representing us at our Cootie and VFW Conventions coming up.

Get well wishes to all who have been ill and deepest sympathy to those who have lost a loved one.

Read President Shelley's article for Dates to Remember.

Jim "Smiley" Harvieux,
Seam Squirrel
612-789-8741



Dates to Remember

July

- 4 - Joint Bake Sale with the post Auxiliary
- 12 - MOC and MOCA meetings, 7:00 pm
- 20-24 - Supreme Convention, Kansas City, MO

August

- 16 - MOC and MOCA meetings, 7:00 pm

**Please see the Auxiliary news for more dates to remember.

Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary

Hello Cooties! We welcome new member Samantha Maddox to our Lucky 'Leven Auxiliary! At this time of the year, we are in a state of limbo as the Supreme Convention is not held until July 20-24. With that being said, the programs will still be the same, even if the new chairmen add their individualized touch to a program. That means we will continue doing what we do best-taking care of our veterans.

For those that may not know what the Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary (MOCA) is all about, here is a list of the programs in our organization: Chaplain, Hospital/Blood, Membership, National Home for Children, Scholarships, and the Supreme and Grand President Special Projects. The list may seem small, but the work and dedication it takes to maintain it is great. If you would like to learn more, you can go to lotcs.org for more information on each program.

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

President Shelley

VFW Auxiliary Membership

Our Sympathies to the family of lifetime member, Gloria Kraabel, who passed away in May.

Annual members, your dues of \$18.00 are due. Time goes by so quickly, consider going with a life membership. Our Auxiliary deducts \$25.00 off a life membership. Send me a check made out to VFW Auxiliary in the amount of \$18.00 and send to Mary Lou Michels, 928 Constance Blvd. NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304. If you have any questions, call me at 763-434-6580.

We received 2nd place from the Department of Minnesota for our Newsletter. Thank you for all the articles and to Print Central for a job well done.



Quilts of Valor Presentation on May 21st at Blaine Veterans Park

On May 21st at the Blaine Veterans Park, 12 Veterans received their Quilts of Valor. Presenters from the Grateful Hearts Quilters of Anoka Paul Evenson, Linda Novotny and Janet Knafla.

Receiving their Quilts of Valor Bernadette Laniskey Army 1966 - 1968, Ron Holmgren Air Force 1969 - 1973 Reserves 1979 - 1997, Pete Lahood Navy 1966 - 1969, Jesse Davies Army 1987 - 2010, Corky Olson Army National Guard 1998 - 2019, David Bachler Army 1966 - 1969, Donald Bridges Marine 1969 - 1973, Darrell Ritzema Air Force 1972 - 1994, Michael Hodet Air Force 1989 - 1999, Tim Rice Air Force 1980 - 2013, Michael Mensen Army 2002 - 2008, Ervin Lewandowski Marines 1954 - 1957.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

On Wednesday, May 25th. three more Veterans received their Quilts of Valor at the Blaine Veterans Park. Presenters were from the Grateful Hearts Quilters of Anoka, Janet Knafla, and Jayne Knowles.



Receiving their Quilts of Valor were Judith Bross Navy 1986 - 2010, Larry Bross Air Force 1960 - 1964, and Edie Eisenschenk Army 1986 - 1989.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



On Wednesday, May 25th, Janet Knafla of the Grateful Hearts Quilters of Anoka presented Ken Miller with his Quilt of Valor. Ken served in the Army from 1980 to 1985 and in the Air Force from 1985 to 1995.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

FOURTH OF JULY REMARKS

July 4th, 1776 Independence Hall, Philadelphia. It is worth remembering that all the celebration of this day is rooted in History. It is recorded in History that shortly after the Declaration of Independence was signed in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, celebrations took place throughout the land, and many of the former colonists (they didn't call themselves Americans yet) set off canons and marched in fife and drum parades.

Earlier, fifty-six men had come forward to sign the parchment. They knew that they were pledging their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor, King George had let it be known that anyone found to be engaged in insurrection, would be hanged. It was Benjamin Franklin who had said, "We must all hang together, or assuredly, we will all hang separately". It is said that John Hancock wrote his signature in such large script that King George would be able to read it without his spectacles. They were all brave men and they remained brave throughout the hardships of the coming years. Their courage and

fortitude created a nation built on the principle that all men, women and children had a right to freedom.

For a moment, remember those immigrants who came to this country sailing past the Statue Of Liberty in search of the very same freedom that was demanded by those fifty-six men who represented every colonist in the early years of this great country. They knew there were no guarantees for success, only that they now had the right to pursue their dreams and that their freedoms would be part of a heritage they could pass on to their children for generations to come.

As the central government of this country continues to grow at an alarming rate, the present administration must be reminded that the citizens of this country are not beholden to the government for their very existence, but rather that we remain, and shall always remain,

"A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE,
BY THE PEOPLE
AND FOR THE PEOPLE".



AMERICANISM

At our June 7th meeting, we had a flag folding presentation. Pictured are Auxiliary members Andrea, Joyce and Beverly.

Andrea and Beverly volunteered to fold the flag as Joyce, Americanism Chairman, presented the instructions.

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.



JULY 4TH CELEBRATION AT THE POST

Join us on July 4th for good food, Smoked Pork Ribs, Corn on the Cob, Hamburgers, Hot dogs, Brats, etc. and Cold Drinks starting at 12:00 noon. We will have a live band "Blue Dream" for your listening and dancing pleasure. Theme is the 70's. Dress like they did in the 70's if you would like to. There will be a meat raffle. Check out the tables of baked goodies made by the VFW Auxiliary. Enjoy some to go with your meal and buy extra to take home to enjoy later.

Enjoy your 4th of July and Stay Safe.



MEMORIAL DAY WREATHS

These wreaths were placed at Morningside Memorial Gardens and Bunker Hills Park at the services on May 28th.



SEWING

We continue to meet from 1:00 to 4:00 on Thursday's, at the Post, and work on sewing items for our Veterans. There is always a great need for different items. Thank you to those who recently donated some material. We make good use of all of it.



Any questions, call Marge at 763-757-1729

BLOOD DRIVES

At our Blood Drive on June 14th, the American Red Cross collected 34 units of blood. The goal was 32 units. THANK YOU to all the dedicated donors. Our next Blood Drive will be Tuesday, August 16th from 12:00 to 5:00. Thank you also to our volunteers. You are appreciated.



BAKE SALES

We will have a Bake Sale at the July 4th Celebration, starting at 12:00 and going until we have sold everything. Stop by our table and check out the yummy treats made by the Auxiliary. All monies go toward our programs.

Questions call Ann at 763-717-0641



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

POW/MIA PRAYER

Heavenly Father, hold our Troops in your loving hands.

Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in this, our time of need. These things I humbly ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Lord, we ask that you comfort and protect our fellow Americans, both missing and held captive. In your Divine way let them know that they are not forgotten.

Amen

Joyce Pierret, Americanism Chairman

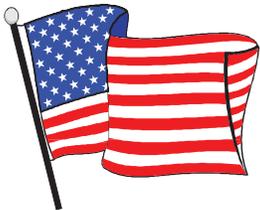
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July/August 2022

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.*

