



Sgt. John Rice VFW Post 6316

- **Weddings**
- **Parties**
- **Company Events**

**Reasonable Hall Rental
Accommodations for 250**

1374 109th Ave. NE • Blaine, MN 55434 • 763-757-4540



design . copy . print . mail

www.printcentral.com
9260 Baltimore St. NE (Hwy 65 and 93rd)
Blaine, Minnesota 55449
phone 763.780.3333 . fax 763.780.8728

*Accessible Construction and Products, dba
New Construction, Remodeling and Repairs*

Dave Regel

www.UniversalConstructionMN.com

620 Civic Heights Dr.
Suite 105
Circle Pines, MN 55014
Lic.# BC637017
Veteran Owned

Phone: 763-785-0833
Mobile: 612-328-2500
Fax: 763-785-0844
Email: daveregel@drcinc.com



763-450-5388



Kottkesbus.com

13625 Jay St. N.W. Andover, MN. 55304

If you or someone you know is looking for a great opportunity to help their community, look no further! Kottkes' is the answer!

We offer:

Paid Training	Competitive wages
Paid Holidays	Family Atmosphere
Sign on bonuses starting at \$2,500 and much more	

Contact us today for more information!
We look forward to hearing from you.

Commanders Column

Dear Comrades,

Greetings to all the Veterans. Hope you are all staying warm. Spring will be here soon. Warmer days ARE coming!

The gun raffle went good. Thanks to all who showed up to support it.

We had our Fishing Contest on February 12th. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the contest.

Our membership is at 97.5%. We hope to be at 100% soon. We welcome new members.

The bathrooms are scheduled to be remodelled and handicapped accessible on March 7th. We will be open during the construction.

Thirteen more Veterans received their Quilts of Valor on February 5th at our Post. Congratulations! To date 164 Veterans have received their Quilts of Valor here at the Post or at the Blaine Veterans Park.

ELECTIONS will be held at the April 5th meeting. All Post members are welcome to come and if you would like to hold an office, let us know.

We will have fish fries during the Lenten season on Fridays. Check our website for up dates.

We will be having doings on March 17th, St. Patrick's Day. Check our website for details.

Easter Sunday is April 17th. HAPPY EASTER to you and your family.

Thank you to our Volunteers. You are appreciated. 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 Auxiliary Members!

It is that time of the year already- elections and year-end reports! I cannot even express how hard this auxiliary has worked throughout this last year. We have 12 programs within the auxiliary organization, and we have participated in each one of them in some way. There were contests in the schools, community events, hospital work, blood drives, funeral luncheons, sewing projects, bake sales, legislative opportunities to advocate for our veterans, Patriotic events and so much more. It hasn't always been easy, and it hasn't always been fun, but as I look at each chairman's summary of events I am overwhelmed and so grateful for these hardworking and dedicated members. I am sure you have heard the statement that "membership is the lifeblood of the organization" and I am so proud that we were over 100% in membership by the end of December. Thank you, members and chairmen, for finding opportunities and figuring out ways to make things happen during one of the craziest and hardest years to date.

We lost Life member Loanne Schmid recently and our prayers go out to her family. We also extend our sympathy to Life member Eloise Beckman for the loss of her son and to Life member Lois Hawkins in the loss of her grandchild.

Welcome new Life member transfer Cynthia Lockwood. We are happy to have you aboard!

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

Happy Spring Everyone!

President Shelley Solheid



Dates to Remember

March

- 1 - VFW and Auxiliary meetings, 7:00 pm
- 13 - VFW State Hockey Tournament, Elk River
- 13 - Daylight Savings Time
- 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- 18 - Bake Sale, 4:00 pm
- 29 - National Vietnam War Veterans Day

April

- 5 - VFW and Auxiliary meetings, 7:00 pm. ELECTIONS
- 9 - 7th District Convention, Palmer Lake #3915, 10:00 am
- 12 - Blood Drive, 12-5
- 15 - Bake Sale, 4:00 pm
- 17 - Easter

May 3 is the VFW and Auxiliary meeting, which will include the joint installation of officers after the 7:00 pm meetings.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS - March 13th
Set your clocks ahead one hour (Spring forward)



March 20th - First Day of Spring

SPRING
is here

Quilts of Valor Presentation February 5th, 2022

On February 5th, Dave Gorski was presented with a Quilt of Valor by presenter Janet Knafla. Dave served in the Navy from 1961 - 1966. Thank you for serving Dave.

On February 5th twelve Veterans received their Quilts of Valor at the Blaine VFW. Presenters from the Grateful Hearts Quilters of Anoka were Janet Knafla, Karen Anderson and Rita Bode.

Veterans receiving their Quilts of Valor were R to L Joe Henry Army 1996 - 2005, Ken Langmade Navy 1944 - 1946, Michael Morinville Air Force 1966 - 2008, Ken Hoof Air Force/Army 1953 -1956, Gerald Johnson Army 1966 - 1967, William Mori Army 1968 - 1970, Joel Fischer Navy 1966 - 1972, Gary Geist Navy 1963 - 1966, Dennis Maddox Air Force 1991 - 2012, Marvin Mikkelsen Army 1965 - 1970, Lawrence Langmade Army 1974 - 1977, James Holder Navy 1967 - 1971

Thank you for serving. In a speech in 1945, President Truman said, "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."

In the words of Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger speaking at the Vietnam Memorial dedication: "When your country called, you came. When your country refused your honor, you remained silent. With time our nation's wounds have healed. We have finally come to appreciate your sacrifices and pay you the tribute you so richly deserve. "WELCOME HOME".



David Gorski Presented
at his home on 2/5/22



12 veterans who received their quilt at the Blaine VFW

Now Hear This Cooties:

We had our Election of Officers and I wish to thank all of you who continued your office for another great year 2022 - 2023.

We will have our installation of officers at the March 8th scratch with cake to follow after our 7:00 meeting.

I want to thank our MOC Auxiliary, especially MOC President Shelley, for bringing together such good food for the PotLuck late Holiday celebration.

Please read President Shelley's article for upcoming dates to remember.

Thank you to all who attended the C of A on February 12th at our Post Home.

HAPPY EASTER and enjoy the day with your family.

James "Smiley" Harvieux, Seam Squirrel
Call me with questions 612-789-8741

Election results:

Seam Squirrel - James "Smiley" Harvieux
Blanket Bum - Rich Asbury
Hide Gimlet - Bill Anderson
C.C.D.B. - Chad Solheid
Tight Wad 1 - Jerry Brletich
 2 - Dennis Maddox
 3 - Joel Frank
Sky Pilot - Rich Asbury
Provost Marshall - Richard Lein
Jimmy Legs - Joel Frank
Keeper of Lousy Records Chad Solheid
Hopital Chairman - James "Smiley" Harvieux

Dates to Remember

March

8 - MOC and MOCA meetings, 7:00 pm
with installation to follow
17 - St. Patrick's Day

April

12 - MOC and MOCA meetings, 7:00 pm
12 - Blood Drive, 12-5
17 - Easter

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

Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary

Hello Cooties! At our February meeting we held our elections for the upcoming new year

President- Shelley Solheid
Sr. Vice- LeRoy Magnuson
Jr. Vice- Eloise Beckman
Treasurer- Mary Lou Michels
Chaplain- Doris Anderson
Conductress- Darlene Magnuson
Guard- Andrew Magnuson
3 Trustees- JoAnn Nisbet, Shirley Hagen, Ann Asbury

Thank you for accepting these positions and congratulations! There will be a joint installation after the March 8th meeting.

The year end reports for the Cootie Auxiliary have been completed and turned in to the Grand Chairmen. If my math is correct, there were almost 60 hours and \$1,300 total donated in the Hospital program. That is a very big deal this year considering Minnesota's sometimes confusing hospital mandates and I just cannot thank you all enough for your ability to keep track of it all and somehow manage to make things happen. You are the lousiest (best) MOC Auxiliary! We were even 100% in membership by the end of November, which is another pretty big deal. Whether it was advertising the scholarship program, working hard on membership, or reaching goals within the hospital program, you did it- now let's do it again in the upcoming year!

On February 12th we were honored to host the MOC and MOCA Grand C of A. Thanks to everyone that helped and those who came to the meeting.

President Shelley Solheid

THANK YOU

to Frank Anderson and Dick Killian who hung all the Past Commander/Past President and Men's Auxiliary pictures in the dining area. It looks GREAT.



VFW Auxiliary Membership

Our sympathies to the family of Loanne Schmid, lifetime member who passed away, to Eloise Beckman and family on the loss of her son, Joey, and to Lois Hawkins and family on the loss of her Grandson, Brandon. Treasure the memories!

We welcome new transfer lifetime member Cynthia Lockwood. We reached 100% and thank all our annual members for paying their dues.

If you know of someone who would like to join our Auxiliary please have them call me at 763-434-6580 and I will get a form sent to them.

Mary Lou Michels,
Sr. Vice President and Membership Chairman

POW/MIA

According to a recent article in a VFW magazine, Sandra Johnson was deployed to Iraq in 2009 with the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery. As a medic, it gave Sandra the gift of bringing remains home instead of having to leave our dead on the field.

In 2019 Sandra joined the American Veterans Archaeological Recovery Team (AVAR) in Saratoga Springs, New York. Archaeological is the study of past human life. Fifteen to twenty-five veterans are chosen per trip for an all-expense paid archaeological dig with the AVAR project. The nonprofit group promotes the well-being of disabled veterans to rigorous archaeological fieldwork and career development.

A PEW Research Center created by Air Force veteran Stephen Humphreys in 2016, did a study on the positive holistic effects archeology has on veterans mental health. Humphreys has led veterans in digs throughout the world. Sandra has signed up for a second dig. Sandra has served more than 16 years in the Army National Guard and is helping the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency find the remains of U.S. troops at a World War II battlefield in Sicily, Italy.

We commend Sandra Johnson and Stephen Humphreys for their dedication to this program knowing they are helping our veterans and their families in so many ways. Note: Sandra Johnson is a VFW life member of the Department of Minnesota.

Keep our POW/MIA's and their families in your daily prayers!

Joanne Meyer, POW/MIA Chairperson

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION VIETNAM VETERAN LAPEL PIN - "A lasting memento of the Nation's thanks!"

There is a beautiful Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin with the following symbolism:

Front - EAGLE - The eagle represents courage, honor, and dedicated service to our Nation. As one of the most recognizable and notable American symbols, it is emblazoned on numerous military insignia.

BLUE CIRCLE - The color blue matches the canton of the American flag and signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice. The circle shape and blue color also match the official seal of the Commemoration.

LAUREL WREATH - A time-honored symbol representing victory, integrity, and strength.

Stripes - The stripes behind the eagle represent the American flag.

STARS - The six stars represent the six allies who served, sacrificed, and fought alongside one another: Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, and the United States.

Back - MESSAGE - "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You" is embossed on the back, closest to the heart of the wearer. The official name of the Commemoration is included to remind each veteran that this is a national initiative.

JOIN THE NATION...THANK A VIETNAM VETERAN





AMERICANISM

March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. It honors a generation of men and women who served and sacrificed during the longest conflict in US history. Although some troops remained until their final departure in 1975, March 29th marks the anniversary of when combat forces departed South Vietnam in 1973. On March 28, 2017, President Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Day Act, calling for US flags to be flown on March 29 for those who served.

Military Flags Order of Precedence

According to Department of Defense guidelines, military service flags, insignias, etc., should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard



VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

October 2020 was the first time that spouses have been able to file to receive benefits for being a caregiver to a veteran. Visit caregiver.va.gov for more information about this program and to access the form needed to apply. Caregivers often lose themselves in the care of others and this resource may help to alleviate some of the stress that occurs.

If you know of a homeless veteran, you can contact the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans at nchv.org or Help for Homeless Veterans at va.gov/homeless.



BLOOD DRIVES

Our February 15th Blood Drive was changed to February 16th. I do not have the results at this time but thank all the donors and our volunteers.

Mark your calendars for our next Blood Drive - Tuesday April 12th from 12:00 to 5:00 and June 14th from 12:00 to 5:00.



HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17th, the anniversary of his death in the 5th century.

St. Patrick, who lived during the 5th century, is the patron saint of Ireland and it's national apostle. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He escaped and returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people.

Patrick's death is believed to have been on March 17, 461. The legend of St. Patrick is that he explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the Shamrock.

Since the 9th or 10th century, people in Ireland have been observing the Roman Catholic feast day of St. Patrick on March 17th.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade was held on March 17, 1601 in St. Augustine, Florida. Parades are held across the U.S., New York City and Boston hold the largest celebrations. The New York City St. Patrick Day Parade is the largest in the United States. The parade takes more than 5 hours. In 2020 and 2021 the parade was cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Proudly wear your "GREEN" on March 17th.



SARAH DUCHARME SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

2021-2022 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





HISTORY OF EASTER

Easter is a Christian Holiday that celebrates the belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The holiday begins with Lent - a 40 day period of fasting, prayer and sacrifice and ends with Holy week and Easter Sunday.

Easter Sunday is on a different date each year. It typically falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the Spring equinox.

Non-religious Easter traditions include Easter eggs and games such as egg rolling, egg decorating and egg hunts. There is the annual White House Easter Egg roll. In many households the Easter Bunny delivers candy and chocolate eggs on Easter Sunday. The goodies arrive in an Easter Basket.

REMEMBER our Veterans with a card, a treat or even a call or visit. Put a smile on their faces. Make Easter and every day special for our Veterans.

BUDDY POPPY

We did not bring our entries to the Mid-Winter Conference. We are working on our next entry which is a "Sweetheart" costume for the 7th District meeting at the Coon Rapids VFW on February 26th.

Poppy Card sales April 15 - 24

Poppy Distribution days May 20 - 21

Show our Veterans you care by purchasing a card and by wearing a Poppy.

REMEMBER EVERYDAY IS A GOOD DAY TO THANK A VETERAN!

Mary Lou Michels, Poppy Chairman

SEWING COMMITTEE

Our sewing committee continue to make quilts for our Veterans. They made four ponchos for our Veterans.

They meet Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00. Call Marge with questions 763-757-1729.



SAVE, SAVE, SAVE

We continue to collect eyeglasses, cancelled stamps, and pop tabs. Just drop them off at the Post. Please drop off any 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.

BAKE SALES

Our Bake Sales are going good. Thank you to all who come and purchase goodies.

Mark your calendars for March 18th, April 15th and May 20th.

Questions call Ann @ 763-717-0641

POW/MIA PRAYER

Father, I pray for those who have been taken captive in war. Give them the courage to preserve and also the knowledge that they have not been forgotten.

May our nation find ways to rescue them safely and quickly.

When their freedom is restored, let our POW's walk with pride and dignity because of the suffering they have endured.

I pray for more efficient ways of tracing and identifying those who are missing in action. Let them not be forgotten, fill them with hope of freedom and the knowledge that their loved ones and comrades anxiously await their return.

Lord, I pray that you give each missing soldier courage and strength to preserve. Give them peace in knowing you'll never leave them.

Lork, I pray and believe you will bring each soldier back to safety.

Amen

Joanne Meyer, POW/MIA Chairperson



SGT. JOHN RICE VFW Post #6316
1374 109th Ave. NE
Blaine, MN 55434
Club Ph: 763-757-4540

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Twin Cities MN
Permit No. 4190

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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.



March/April 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.*

