

ISSUE #47 | JANUARY 2020

WVETERAN NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWS OF NEW

POST 10818



**VFW POST 10818
REMEMBERS FOUNDING
MEMBER AND PAST
COMMANDER, DON LIND**



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

OUR MISSION

TO FOSTER CAMARADERIE AMONG UNITED STATES VETERANS OF OVERSEAS CONFLICTS. TO SERVE OUR VETERANS, THE MILITARY AND OUR COMMUNITIES. TO ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF ALL VETERANS.

OUR VISION

ENSURE THAT VETERANS ARE RESPECTED FOR THEIR SERVICE, ALWAYS RECEIVE THEIR EARNED ENTITLEMENTS, AND ARE RECOGNIZED FOR THE SACRIFICES THEY AND THEIR LOVED ONES HAVE MADE ON BEHALF OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY.

The VFW is a dynamic United States combat veterans organization that serves, advocates and fosters camaraderie for ALL veterans, service members, their families and our community. The VFW harnesses its recognized authority, experience and resources to deliver comprehensive financial, educational, health and well-being programs and services at every stage of the veteran's military and civilian life.

ADDRESS

310 W N SHORE DRIVE

NEW RICHMOND, WI 54017

PHONE: 715-246-0226

EMAIL: ADMIN@VFWPOST10818.ORG

HOURS

MONDAY 9:00AM - 12:00PM

WEDNESDAY 9:00AM - 12:00PM

FRIDAY 9:00AM - 12:00PM

PUBLICATION AWARDS

- 1st Place 2019 Wisconsin VFW Publications Contest
- 1st Place 2019 National VFW Publications Contest
- 1st Place 2018 Wisconsin VFW Publications Contest
- 3rd Place 2018 National VFW Publications Contest
- 1st Place 2017 Wisconsin VFW Publications Contest
- 2nd Place 2017 National VFW Publications Contest

ALL-STATE POST

2018-2019	2012-2013	2000-2001
2017-2018	2011-2012	1998-1999
2015-2016	2007-2008	
2014-2015	2004-2005	
2013-2014	2002-2003	

ALL-AMERICAN POST

2018-2019	2012-2013
2015-2016	2011-2012
2014-2015	1998-1999
2013-2014	

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Every month our Post has a monthly membership meeting. This meeting is for **YOU**, our members, to find out the latest and greatest of what your officers are doing, volunteer opportunities, voice your concern about veterans issues, vote on new projects and ideas, and to tell us what you want out of your membership and the VFW. Share your ideas on how to improve your Post and get the most out of your membership. It is also a great opportunity to connect with friends and meet other veterans with similar goals.

When: 3rd Tuesday of every month

Time: 6 PM - Social Hour 7 PM - Meeting starts

Location: New Richmond Civic Center - 156 East 1st St, New Richmond, WI 54017
(located in the downstairs of the Civic Center)



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 10818

VFW Veterans Voice magazine is the official publication of the VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES POST 10818

OUR OFFICERS

Commander Ron Ramos 715-928-3606	Chaplain Mel Zehm 715-796-2915
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Sr Vice Cmdr Russ Donaghue 715-222-2659	Judge Advocate Dave Green 651-247-1801
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Jr Vice Cmdr Jasen Pomroy 715-377-6307	Surgeon Ben Anderson 715-245-6281
---	--

Quartermaster Mitch Cline 651-492-9634	Adjutant Mike Ragsdale 678-953-5954
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Service Officer
Ben Anderson
715-245-6281

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the VFW Veterans Voice may be submitted by email to: admin@vfwpost10818.org no later than the 25th of the month. If pictures are included, please provide names of all in the photo.

CONTACT THE COMMANDER

You can contact me by email at: commander@vfwpost10818.org or by cell phone at: 715-928-3606. If calling during the day, you may have to leave a voicemail as I do not have my phone while working. You can also text. I will try to answer as soon as I can after work.

VFW OBJECTIVES

To ensure national security through maximum military strength.
To speed the rehabilitation of the nation's disabled and needy veterans.
To assist the widows and orphans and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans.
To promote Americanism through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Whenever you move or have a change of address, please drop us a line at 715.246.0226 or shoot us an email at admin@vfwpost10818.org. Every time we get a Post magazine returned by the U.S. Postal Service because NO change of address was filed, the Post gets charged for the return postage. If you would prefer to receive your magazine by e-mail, let us know and we can get you on our e-mail distribution list. Please help us - we don't want to waste money.





**COMMANDER
RON RAMOS**

Greeting comrades. I want to apologize for not publishing our esteemed magazine for the past two months. Life got the best of me, and I fell behind. Because of my hectic school and work schedule, if anyone is interested in assisting with the graphic design part of putting this magazine together, please let me know. I have some assistance with the writing of the articles, but I need help from someone who is tech-savvy and knowledgeable about publishing programs or is willing to learn.

With that being said, October, November, and December have

been fantastic months for our Post. This month's magazine will recap everything from October to now.

In October, your Quartermaster and I went to the National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, MI, and had a fantastic time. We presented a donation on behalf of our Post to the National Home for Children. They recently opened up a museum which shows the history of the National Home. It was a great visit, and it's excellent to be able to see what our donations can provide to those in need.

November was a busy month with Veterans Day. We were as careful as can be to avoid triple booking our Color Guard for events, and I think we did fantastic in that regard. We attended quite a few programs throughout the county. New Richmond Middle School's Veterans Day Program was a big success. Army Veteran and double amputee Jason Church was the guest speaker and delivered a motivating and very moving speech. Our members stayed back afterward in the war rooms to talk about their experiences during the listed conflicts. Our Quartermaster had a successful Buddy Poppy Drive and raised quite a bit. We also received a very generous donation from one of our newer members, Jeff Rusinko, and his place of employment. Jeff helped raise \$500 at his job for the Buddy Poppy Program. Jeff, thank you for your outstanding initiative and dedication to the VFW's mission of helping veterans.

In December, our Auxiliary did a fantastic job assisting the families of the 128th Infantry Battalion in creating and sending out care packages. The response from the community was truly overwhelming. Great job, everyone. Let's remember that our mission first and foremost is to support our veterans, service members, and their families, and our Auxiliary did just that. We also provided lunch for the 652nd Engineer Company during their weekend battle assembly. Lots of toys were donated to the troops and their families. All toys were donated by the River City Street Rods Club in Hudson, WI. Thank you to Tim and Nancy Bauer for once again coordinating the toy donations. During the lunch, I spoke to the troops about who we are as a VFW and what we do for them. Our CVSO Phil Landgraf also spoke about the benefits they may rate. Past Quartermaster Ken House and I attended the 652nd Winter Formal that evening. We presented Captain Rodriguez with a skateboard, and many thanks for working with us and allowing us to be involved in the unit as it was his last night with his troops. Captain Rodriguez, we wish you fair winds and following seas on the next journey of your career. Our VFW Christmas Party was the following weekend, and it was a great time to get together and reflect on a fantastic year.

Thank you for an AMAZING year comrades. We've done outstanding as an organization, achieved All-American status once again, put in a record-breaking year of community service hours, and continued the mission of the VFW.

Our work has not stopped. While I may have been preoccupied

these past few months with school, we are still focusing on our membership drive. As of Jan 1st, we are sitting at 91.06% membership. We have 19 new members, and three reinstates. We're only 37 renewals away from 100% membership. If you are an annual member and have not paid your dues for the current year, be prepared to get a phone call and an email for renewal. You can renew by sending your annual dues to the Post or by renewing online. If you know of a veteran who may qualify for the VFW, give them an application. If you need some, please let us know. We just ordered another 25 packs.

As we take the next few months to recuperate from a busy VFW year, please keep in mind that we have nominations and elections for Officers coming up in March 2020. If you are interested in serving the Post as an Officer, we'd love to have you on board. We will also be getting our summer committees together (Fun Fest, Park Art Fair, St. Croix County Fair, etc.) and will need chairpersons for these events. Thank you to Jerry Simon and Dave Sharretts for volunteering to chair the Park Art Fair.

We are proud to announce our winners for Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year. Voice of Democracy, Claire Pommier, a freshman at St. Croix Central High School, took first place and the \$1,000 award. You may recognize Claire's name as she was our winner for the 2017-2018 Patriots Pen Essay Contest in which she took 1st Place in the entire state of Wisconsin.

The second-place winner, Riley Henk, will be awarded \$750 for her audio essay. Riley is a senior at St. Croix Falls High School.

Third-place this year is New Richmond's very own Katelyn Moeller, a senior at New Richmond High School. Katelyn will be awarded a \$500 scholarship for her audio-essay.

2019-20 first-place winner for the Patriots Pen competition is eighth-grader Jada Altena from New Richmond Middle School. She will receive a \$300 award due to her winning essay on this year's theme, "What Makes America Great."

The second-place winner is eighth-grader Cole Trosen, from New Richmond Middle School. Cole will receive a \$250 award, while third-place winner sixth-grader Kaylin Brandt, from Glenwood City Middle School, will receive a \$200 scholarship.

Our Teachers of the Year are:

Elementary School: Heather Mitchell (Trinity Academy of Hudson)
Middle School: Corey O'Keefe (Hudson Middle School)

Congratulations to our winners, and you can expect to meet them at our January meeting.

Before I finish my thoughts, I'd like to honor and remember our Past Commander and Founding Member Don Lind. I had the fortunate privilege of meeting and honoring him for his contributions to veterans in our community just a couple of months ago. Don was a man of action and helped everyone he could. Let us always remember our comrade, who made such an impact in our community.

Comrades, thank you for a fantastic year! We are now six months into our current VFW year and still doing fantastic. We're still on track to achieve the goals we set out at the beginning of the year. Thank you for all of your hard work.

Let's keep moving our mission forward and continue doing what we do best: **NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS!**

OUR BEST HOLIDAY GIFTS



CHAPLAIN
MEL ZEHR

I hope you all had a fantastic Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday with your family and friends, and for the deer hunters out there, I hope you were successful. What a joy it has been to be able to spend some much needed time with family and friends. It was especially joyful to enjoy God's Great Outdoors with our son. To have the

ability to pass down family traditions and lessons is something to be cherished and honored, and what a wonderful experience to be able to do that this past week. As we go through this month, it's always great to look back at what we've accomplished, and to look forward to what lies ahead of us in 2018. We also need to cognizant of the challenges that we've faced and how God has been an instrumental source of energy, patience, strength, and encouragement for us and our family. We also need to celebrate "the reason for the season," that is the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is through the birth of God's son that we can enjoy the freedoms we have and the opportunities to serve one another. The story of Jesus' birth is told in the book of Luke where he was the first and only child to be born of a virgin woman whose primary purpose was to save sinners like you and me. Jesus' Father is God, and God so cared for our future that he sent his Son to Earth to be born, to live as a testimony of His Father in character and compassion, to be brutally sacrificed, and to give us hope for eternal life with him. As you go through the gospel books, there are many parallels to the joys and challenges we face today. While the details are different, the issues are very similar. There are many stories of illness, conflict, successes, failures, family dynamics, social dynamics, and political challenges. These stories

can be used for our benefit. Let's look at one of the stories, and see how it relates to us.

Mary was the mother of Jesus and she was a virgin that got pregnant. Well that sounds strange for a woman to get pregnant by herself. In reality, She got pregnant through the Holy Spirit- in-other words, God got her pregnant. All the while this happened, she was engaged to Joseph. Now Joseph was a just man in that when he found out she was pregnant, he wanted to secretly divorce her, but the Angel Gabriel intervened and told Joseph what had happened and why. The "why" is that Jesus would save us all for the forgiveness of our sins. After Jesus was born, Joseph indeed married Mary and they had additional children.

So what does this have to do with Veterans, and how about those serving abroad? Keep in mind that Jesus was the ultimate warrior, friend, brother, and example for righteous living. He set forth the perfect example of how to be bold within our circumstances, how to be clean in our conduct and speech, how to differ without getting excited, and ultimately to love one another without boundaries or reciprocity. He went to many places knowing his life was in danger, but went anyway knowing that it was for a greater purpose. He fought for our very lives, he befriended those who might otherwise be shunned, he related to our struggles, and still pressed on to show us the best way.

While we gave thanks and enjoyed the fruits of our labor, all of this was founded on Jesus and his sacrificial love. He was firm yet compassionate. He cried yet enjoyed time with his family and friends. He honored his father and mother yet was intent on accomplishing his work. He was excellent in every endeavor to which he engaged. All the while he loved us though it all. My hope for you all is to remember this Jesus, thank Him for every gift we have, and to serve others well. God bless you all this and I hope you all had a fantastic holiday season.

VETERANS & FAMILIES IN NEED & ON SICK CALL

- John Heulling

If you would like a name added or removed from the list, please let me know.

“Please remember to pray for our comrades & their families & any we may have missed.”

Almighty God, we, Your servants, turn to You for the continuance of Your blessings upon us. You who have spared us veterans from the grasp of our enemies, grant us the full understanding of Your precious comfort. We thank You for the privileges of life and the blessings we enjoy through Your graciousness in our country, the land in which we are given freedom of speech, religion and the pursuit of happiness. Assist us to know You better and the wisdom to acknowledge You as the God of the universe and our ideal. In Your mercy, may we the living find our peace. Grant us from above, this day, the challenge of high endeavor, the beauty of a humble spirit, the steadfast courage and will, without exertion, to continue to glorify You; to praise You, and to love You to the end of time.



Created by Maximilian Uriarte © 2018



October is Talk About Your Medicines Month. Topic: Opioid Prevention Throughout All Ages

Coughing, runny noses and sore throats are common this time of year and many people want to begin antibiotics as soon as symptoms of a cold appear. Unfortunately, antibiotics do not help kill viruses that cause the flu, colds, many sore throats, or bronchitis and in fact can do more harm than good when taken unnecessarily. Most infections are caused by either bacteria or viruses; bacteria are organisms that can be found everywhere throughout the human body while viruses are organisms that cause disease by invading healthy cells in the body.

Antibiotics should only be used to treat bacterial infections, not viral infections, as they will not work against upper respiratory illnesses caused by viruses. Taking antibiotics for illnesses such as colds, flu, runny noses, or most coughs will not make you feel better, cure the infection, nor keep others from catching the infection.

In fact, taking antibiotics for viral infections will increase the risk of antibiotic resistance later. When someone takes antibiotics, weaker bacteria are killed, but stronger germs may be left to grow and multiply. The repeated, improper use of antibiotics are a major cause of an increase in the development of drug-resistant bacteria. The problem with this resistance is that when antibiotics don't work, the consequences can include longer-lasting illnesses, more doctor visits, extended hospital stays and the need for more expensive medications.

Some resistant infections can even cause death.
To prevent antibiotic resistance there are some good practices to keep in mind:

- Do not take an antibiotic for a viral infection like a cold or the flu.
- Take necessary antibiotics exactly as the doctor directs and do not skip any doses.
- Don't take someone else's prescription.
- Talk to your healthcare provider about antibiotic resistance. Ask whether an antibiotic will be effective in treating your illness.
- Do not demand antibiotics for your children if their healthcare provider has decided they are not needed.

Be smart when using antibiotics. Remember that colds and flu are caused by viral infections that cannot be treated by antibiotics. Children and adults with viral infections will recover when the illness has run its course. The spread of viral infections can be reduced through frequent hand-washing and by avoiding close contact with others. Since viral infections can sometimes lead to bacterial infections, healthcare providers need to know if an illness gets worse or lasts a long time.



SERVICE OFFICER

This word is closely guarded by all men and women who have donned the uniform. Not only is it a essential part of our Core Values as brothers and sisters at arms, but it is also the life-blood of who we are. The theme for this year's Veterans Day Poster was "Service." We all dedicated our lives to this great country, and to each other during our tenure in the military. However, we carry this duty forward and beyond the call to action throughout our daily lives. Veterans continue to "Service" this country in many ways. Veterans are active within the community, and we take the lessons we have learned and experiences gained forward to help strengthen our community.

I encourage you all to continue this great work we have embarked in, as the days continue to shorten. While we served, we all had to figure out how to condense time. We adapted and overcame obstacles. We can always do more, and we have consistently shown the ability to do so. Ask yourself what else you can do to make your community better. I think it is an important trait to never be satisfied with where you are at, to strive to be better.

As we celebrate this holiday season, remember to keep "Service" close by. Many Veterans continue to struggle, and can use our support. Veterans are also proud people as well, and aren't accustomed to asking for help. We need to be cognizant of this and ask them how we can help. There are many of us who want to help, and there are also many in need of help. If we ask the tough questions, we can ensure no one gets left behind.

Use the resources available to you, as there are many out there. We are all in this together, and no one should have to go through a winter, cold, hungry, or in any other need. If you need assistance, contact me at 715-245-6281 or email me at andersonbenji4@gmail.com. I can help point you in the right direction.

VFW AUXILIARY ★ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our October meeting included a presentation from Walk On, Therapeutic Riding Programs, Inc. We thank you for all that you are doing to help our area vets. Please visit their webpage for information. They're doing great things! Thank you for your presentation!

The Post Pancake Breakfast, along with the Auxiliary Bake Sale, was again a success.

Auxiliary members assisted the parents of deployed soldiers in collecting and packaging items for Troop Care Packages. Thank you to the businesses and people who donated to the troops!

I want to welcome our newest member, Donelle Fisk, to our Auxiliary. We are happy to have you join us.

November was very busy with Veterans Day programs at various locations. Everywhere you ladies were, you assisted and supported our post beautifully!

Our November meeting was our annual inspection. Thank you to District President, Sue Carlson and District Treasurer Patty Jansky for attending our meeting. It was a pleasure to see you!

I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday season. Just a reminder that we **DO** have an Auxiliary meeting this month: January 21, 2020.



**PRESIDENT
JEN DONAGHUE**



**UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR
UNCOMMON HEROES**

OUR OFFICERS

President	Secretary
Jen Donaghue	Gayle House
715-222-9868	651-770-6429

Sr Vice	Chaplain
Rhonda Rimarcik	Wanda Viellieux
715-246-4334	715-246-6867

Jr Vice	Guard
Kathy Berends	Pat Cunningham
715-246-4843	715-246-3598

Treasurer	Conductress
Karen Cline	Kerri Casey
715-381-6567	715-377-6860

Patriotic Ins.
To Be Appointed

CONTACT US

You can contact us by email at:
auxiliaryvfw10818@gmail.com

WHAT IS THE VFW AUXILIARY?

Established 1914, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary set out to serve the veterans of this country and our communities in honor of the sacrifices and commitment of every man and woman who has served in uniform.

Through our National Programs, we assist the VFW pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families, provide nearly a million volunteer hours in the VA medical system, conduct patriotic programs with thousands of students and offer hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for our nation's youth.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Every month our Auxiliary holds a monthly membership meeting to inform our members what is going on with their Auxiliary. This is your time to vote on projects and make this Auxiliary your own.

When: 3rd Tuesday of every month

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: New Richmond Civic Center
156 East 1st St
New Richmond, WI 54017
(located in the downstairs of the Civic Center)



Your actions could save a life.

Showing you care can make a big
difference to someone in crisis.

VeteransCrisisLine.net



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



YOUNG
AMERICAN

creative

PATRIOTIC ART
CONTEST

DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2020



VFW Hosts Wounded Warriors Dinner:

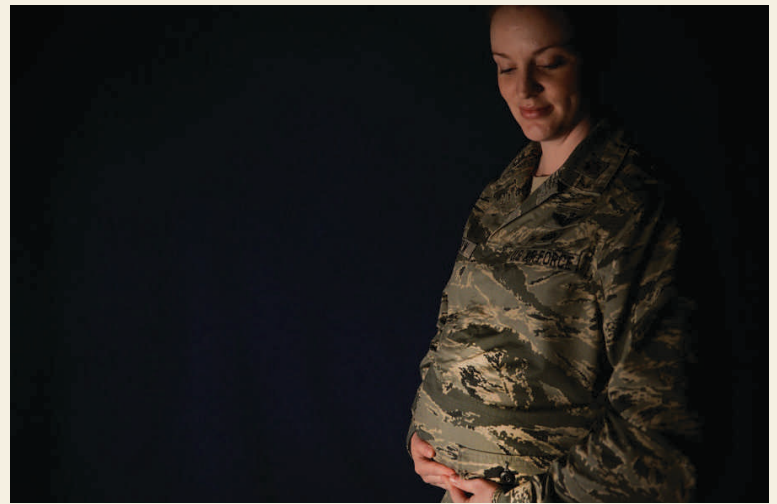
In December, the VFW hosted 60 wounded warriors, their families and caregivers and staff from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center at The Capitol Hill Club for the yearly Aleethia Foundation's Friday Night Dinner. The VFW-hosted event gives VFW members an opportunity to connect with service members and help the healing process of service members who are receiving treatment at Walter Reed. "This is an event that I truly look forward to and cannot miss," said VFW Washington Office Executive Director B.J. Lawrence. "The bonds built – the conversations shared – nothing beats the feeling you receive when you dine with these patriots and their families."

Legislation Introduced to Expand the Veterans Legacy Program:

Senator Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Senator Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) introduced VFW-supported S. 3058, a bipartisan bill to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program (VLP). Under the current program, the VLP awards contracts to universities, colleges, and institutions to develop educational programs to teach students and others about the veterans interred in national, state, or tribal cemeteries in their communities. Transitioning to a grant-based program would broaden the reach of the VLP beyond large universities to smaller groups that wish to engage with VA in memorializing veterans. "Perpetuating the memory and history of our dead is one of the VFW's founding principles," said VFW National Legislative Service Director Carlos Fuentes. "The Veterans Legacy Program ensures the memories and stories of the brave men and women who have worn our nation's uniform are preserved in perpetuity." The VFW thanks Sen. Tester and Sen. Rounds for their support of this important program that promotes civic engagement and fosters respect for service and sacrifice.

Congress Passes NDAA Conference Agreement:

Congress passed the finalized version of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (NDAA). The Conference Report includes a 3.1 percent pay raise for troops and improving occupational license portability for relocated military spouses. Other important VFW-supported provisions include expanding Arlington National Cemetery, granting full military honors for Medal of Honor and Prisoner-of-War Medal recipients, directing DOD to conduct post-deployment medical assessments for burn pits, toxic airborne chemicals, and other airborne contaminants, and incorporating blast exposure history into service members' medical records. The bill now goes to the president's desk, who has indicated he will sign it.



Air Force Awards \$50K Grant to Help Treat Infertility:

The Air Force is investing \$50,000 in a progesterone-testing kit company that could help service members who are trying to conceive. One year after a study estimated 37 percent of women currently serving report fertility issues, the Air Force awarded a Small Business Innovation Research grant to Proov, a company that makes \$40 kits for women to test their hormone levels. With the grant, Proov will provide free kits to Air Force couples who request them, and connect them with doctors specializing in fertility who may help them conceive naturally. The company said this five-minute at-home test is used by women to self-diagnose low progesterone levels and gain information about possible infertility factors. Progesterone is a necessary hormone for pregnancy, causing women to ovulate.



Congress Axed the Widow's Tax:

The Senate joined the House in voting to pass the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, which included the elimination of the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset. The VFW would like to thank Congress and all the individual advocates who joined the Axe the Widow's Tax movement and worked vigorously to terminate the unjust Survivors Benefits Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset.



Three-Digit Suicide Prevention Number Approved:

The Federal Communications Commission has been approved to move ahead with a new three-digit phone number, 988, that will connect callers with the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. A report released this year, showed that creating a three-digit number, similar to 911, would improve access for people in crisis. Once 988 is working, calls to 988 will be routed to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, where veterans can already call 1.800.273.TALK, and press 1 for specialized support.



How Veterans Can Access Commissaries and MWR Facilities:

Starting Jan. 1, 2020, there will be expanded access for Commissaries, Military Service Exchanges, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities for newly eligible veterans. Veterans who received a Purple Heart, were former POWs, or veterans with a service-connected disability rating will be able to physically access on-base facilities that were previously off limits to those veterans. Veterans seeking access to military installations will require identification. Veterans can use their current VA-issued Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC). If a veteran is ineligible for a VHIC, DOD will temporarily accept the VA Health Eligibility Center Form H623A that indicates Priority Group 8E and an acceptable identification credential, like a REAL-ID-compliant driver's license or a U.S. passport.

National Guard Border Duty to Count Toward GI Bill Benefits:

Defense Secretary Mark Esper signed a memorandum stating that the National Guard troops who are stationed at the U.S. border will have their time there counted toward their GI Bill benefit. Currently National Guardsmen need 90 days of active-duty time to qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill at forty percent of the full benefit, and they need three years of active-duty time to qualify for the full 36-month benefit.

Citizenship for Children of Military Members and Civil Servants Act Passed:

The House passed H.R. 4803, Citizenship for Children of Military Members and Civil Servants Act. This bipartisan legislation was introduced by Representatives Doug Collins (R-Ga.) and Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) to ensure that children of deployed military and government families benefit from provision of U.S. law that confers automatic U.S. citizenship and are not disadvantaged because their parents are serving our country abroad.



FOR MORE INFORMATION about specific legislation or VA benefits, contact VFW's Washington Office at vfw@vfw.org. A member of VFW's National Veterans Service staff will respond as soon as possible.

30 YEARS OF THE VFW

October 30, 1989 - October 30, 2019

Written By: Tom Lindfors | Oct 14th 2019 - 3pm.

BALDWIN -- It was rarefied air on recent Friday night at The Phoenix Bar & Grill when the members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10818 New Richmond / St. Croix County gathered to celebrate the Post's 30th anniversary.

On Oct. 30, 1989, 27 combat veterans founded Post 10818. In the ensuing years, the post has grown to over 400 members making it one of the largest veterans service organizations in western Wisconsin. A tradition of exceptional leadership has garnered the Post state awards and national acclaim.

"I consider it an honor to be in the presence of those with such dedication and commitment to supporting our service members, veterans and their families. On behalf of the more than 400 members of VFW Post 10818 and its auxiliary, I want to extend congratulations for all you've done to improve the lives of individuals, children and families across New Richmond and beyond these past 30 years," Post Commander Ron Ramos said Oct. 4.

Ramos sighted specific legislative accomplishments in which post members played significant roles. In 2015, Commander Dave Green and Quartermaster Ken House played central roles in the writing and passage of Wisconsin Senate Bill 153 which allows veterans organizations to receive vehicles from law enforcement agencies that cannot be auctioned off. The statute allows those vehicles to be sold or scrapped with at least 50% of those proceeds going directly to help veterans in need. Past Commander Jasen Pomroy lobbied on behalf of Post 10818 for passage of the Wisconsin Green Alert Bill which prompts an alert to be sent out statewide for veterans who go missing and may have mental health concerns. In 2019, Ramos lobbied for the passage of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act which allows thousands of Vietnam veterans to receive the care they have earned.

When Ramos paused for a moment mid address, overwhelmed in the moment by the memory of his homelessness, and maybe to by his salvation, we were all reminded of how tenuous life is from day to day, and how precious.

There is no living without them, ghosts, memories of battle, brothers lost, it is a fact of war. A lot of times, in a room like this filled with veterans and their wives, it feels like they're just holding on behind the smiles and handshakes and bear hugs, a thin, ever so fragile truce between the living and the dead.

They shouldn't have to do any more, their service was enough, yet they do. Last year, members of Post 10818 volunteered over 12,000 hours of service in our community.

"The VFW exists to care for those who selflessly fall and sacrifice to protect the American way of life, a mission that won't change any time soon. Every member of the VFW has served our incredible nation and we understand the sacrifices every veteran has made and what is needed when they return home. We understand because we've been there. We will never stop fighting for veterans because we are an organization that shares the bond of battle and what it means to put your life on the line for our nation," said Ramos.

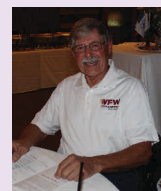
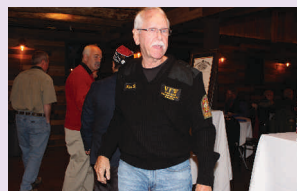
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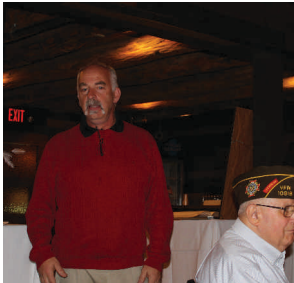


VFW Post 10818 New Richmond / St. Croix County recognized four of its founding members with Meritorious Service Awards during a celebration of the Post's 30th Anniversary. (L-R) Quartermaster Mitch Cline, Founding Members: Donald Siler, Donald Lind, Harry Oldenburg and Richard Larson, Post Commander Ron Ramos. Tom Lindfors / Rivertowns Multimedia



Past Commander Dave Green brought along the ORIGINAL charter of VFW Post 10818 to the 30 Year Celebration







IT'S YOUR CALL

**Confidential help for
Veterans and their families**

The confidential Veterans Crisis Line, online chat, and text are available, and we are here for you.

If you're a Veteran in crisis, or are the family member or friend of one, VA offers help that can make a difference. The Veterans Crisis Line is staffed by caring, qualified VA responders — some of them Veterans or family members of Veterans themselves — who understand what Veterans have been through. The Veterans Crisis Line, online chat, and text are available to all Veterans and their families and friends, even if they are not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care.

VA responders are standing by **24** hours a day, **7** days a week, **365** days a year to provide confidential support by phone or online chat. Assistance is only a phone call, click, or text away. You've served us. Now let us serve you.

• • • • Confidential chat at **VeteransCrisisLine.net** or text to **838255** • • • •





VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

October 25-27 was a jam-packed weekend for the VFW Dept. of Wisconsin. The Departments National Home for Children representative Michele Rathke organized a trip to the National Home for their Annual Meeting and Fall Party.

More than 30 representatives from Wisconsin VFW's and Auxiliaries attended the weekend festivities. Our Post Commander Ron Ramos, Quartermaster Mitch Cline, Auxiliary Sr Vice President Rhonda Rimarcik, and Auxiliary Treasurer Karen Cline represented Post 10818 and donated \$125 to the National Home for Children.



VFW and Auxiliary members head to the National Home for Children

After the Annual Meeting, representatives from Wisconsin went on a tour of the facilities as well as had the opportunity to tour the Wisconsin house. As of now, the Dept. Of Wisconsin is currently raising funds to install a backup generator at the house which is occupied by a family of six. It was very humbling to see how our hard work, dedication, and donation was put to use by families in need on the campus.

The Wisconsin VFW assisted with the Fall Halloween Party this year which was hosted by the VFW Dept. of Missouri and what a party it was. It was an excellent experience to be able to see the kids and families in costumes having a great time. Our theme this year was the Peanut Gallery in honor of State Commander Don Lynch's love for Snoopy. The VFW Dept. of Minnesota also made their way out to the festivities this year and had a great time.

Thank you to the State National Home Chairman Michele Rathke for putting together a wonderful weekend. We look forward to next years festivities!



Representatives from Wisconsin VFW's and Auxiliaries present donations to the National Home for Children during the Annual Fall Meeting







Local family to be featured on 'Military Makeover'

STRUM, Wis. -- Since 2010 Steve Wojcik, his wife Terri, and their three daughters have lived in their Strum house.

But for the Wojcik's, their story began in 1998 right after Steve finished his time with the United States Marine Corps.

"The Marine Corps obviously number one. You want to be the best you can so I ended up joining," said Steve.

Following his service, Terri and Steve started a family but then 9/11 happened.

"I just felt the need, I had to get back in. You know we had two kids at the time and Terri said 'okay if this is something you have to do I stand by you' and she allowed me to go back in and serve," explained Steve.

He joined the army in late 2002 and served in Iraq.

In 2004, a vehicle convoy he was a part of was hit by an IED.

A year later he was given an honorable discharge and medical retirement.

"Getting into the army and getting into the Marine Corps, he obviously went into that not expecting anything out of it and just doing it to help out his country. And then still he'll help out anyone who needs help. So he's just a very selfless person," said their 16-year-old daughter Amberlee.

In 2010, now with three daughters, the Wojcik's moved to Strum where Steve continues to serve. This time as a Wisconsin State Trooper. "I think it's just service to the community. It's wanting to help out to make a difference," he explained.

It's a fellow trooper who nominated Steve and his family to be a part of 'Military Makeover'. The Wojcik's found out in January they were going to get the home makeover.

"Why our family, why is all this money going towards us cause we've never really had that before. I don't know how to say how it feels," said 14-year-old Alyson.

Steve asked himself the same question, saying there are many more deserving veterans out there.

But there's a reason, or four, he agreed to go through with the makeover.

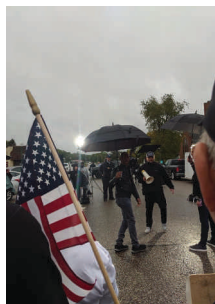
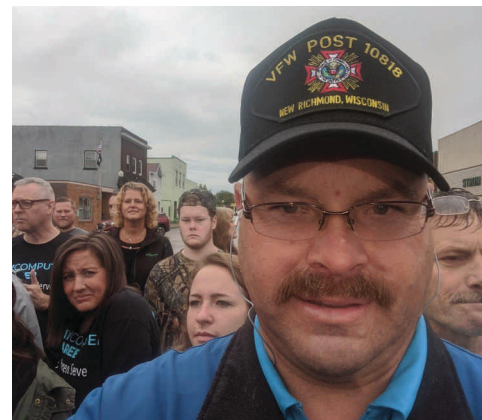
"Knowing that the whole family was going to be affected, that's really the only reason I decided that I would accept to go through this process," he said.

And there are definitely parts of the renovation the family is looking forward to. "Absolutely it's going to be the basement," said Steve. "I'm also super excited to see what they do with the basement," added Amberlee.

"Yeah I'm excited to see the basement," agreed Alyson.

They will be the 20th family featured on 'Military Makeover'. One of the hosts of the show told WEAU one of the reasons they picked the Wojcik's was because of Steve's dedication to service.

Our very own, Chaplain Mel Zehm, represented VFW Post 10818 well when he traveled up to Strum. He and several of his employees of his Squeegie Squad business, based out of Hudson, WI, put in many man hours of labor to assist with the home renovation project. VFW District 9 also showed up to support our fellow veteran. Great job comrades!





Auxiliary members making heart pillows for veterans at the VA Medical Center



Commander Ramos presented a "Certificate of Appreciation" to the members of American Legion Post 111 for their support of our fundraising efforts for our new building. It's always a great sight to see different Veterans Service Organizations working together



During our October Membership Meeting, Past All-American Department of Wisconsin Commander Gundel Metz presented the Post with the All-American Citation our members earned for an outstanding year



VFW member Jeff Rusinko and his coworkers at Horwitz raised and donated \$500 from Buddy Poppies to go towards our relief fund which is used to assist veterans and service members in need. Outstanding job and fantastic initiative Jeff!

We Remember Don Lind, a Founding Member of VFW Post 10818



Donald Russell Lind of Baldwin, was a man of great faith and had a great love of life. His positive attitude and belief that “every day is a good day” carried throughout his 92 plus years. Don and his twin sister, Doris, were born on December 21, 1926 in rural Roberts, WI, to Harry and Florence (Bader) Lind. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith. At age 18, just days after his high school graduation from Baldwin, he entered the U.S. Army in 1945. His service in World War II took him to North Africa, France, Belgium and Germany. On April 15, 1950, he was united in marriage to Delores Newton at the Woodside Church in Baldwin, and the couple were blessed with seven children: Steven, Robert, Kathryn, Debra, Cynthia, Judith and Lori. Don had a strong work ethic and took pride in a job well done. He had a knack for diagnosing and fixing anything mechanical. He worked as an auto mechanic for many years, retiring as a custodian with the Baldwin-Woodville School District.

Faith, family and friends are all words that summarize the things in life that Don held dear. He was quick to offer a helping hand and always greeted friends and strangers alike with a warm smile and friendly hello. His kind and gentle soul was ever present and his door was always open to anyone. For Don, there never was a day without laughter. He had the ability to find humor even during the most difficult of times. He took pleasure in attending and being actively involved with his church family at Gethsemane Lutheran. He made quilts for each of the grandchildren upon graduation from high school, and baby quilts for each of the great-grandchildren at birth. He looked forward to morning trips out to McDonalds to meet and joke with his friends, and occasional afternoon jaunts out to “Harold’s Garage” where the men would tinker and work on projects, followed by an afternoon refreshment of hot tea and cookies. Don took great care in keeping things tidy and neat. His car was polished and clean inside and out, and his shirts were always neatly pressed. He was fond of fishing, hunting, and relished in the memories of family camping trips. Don was a charter member and former Commander of the New Richmond/St. Croix Post 10818 where he was recently recognized for his commitment to the VFW. In September 2008, he took part in the Never Forgotten Honor Flight, enjoying the camaraderie of other veterans and experiencing a hero’s welcome like none other.



Past Commander Don Lind giving a speech during our recent 30 yr Anniversary and made a donation to the VFW Building Fund



Don Lind giving Commander Ramos and Quartermaster Cline a warm hug after being honored as a Founding member of the Post



Our illustrious Honor Guard presented final honors to our Past Commander and presented his family with the American Flag in his honor. The Auxiliary also presented the family with a Quilt of Honor for his legacy as a veteran and his work helping veterans in the community.



652nd Engineer Company Celebrations

During the battle assembly for the 652nd, our Post provided lunch for the troops and presented presents for the families of the 652nd and their kids. The toys were generously donated by the River City Street Rods in Hudson. Afterwards, Commander Ron Ramos and Past Quartermaster Ken House attended their Winter Formal. Commander Ron Ramos presented Captain Rodriguez with a skateboard as a going away gift as he jokingly asked if adults can pick out toys as well.





SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- ✧ **January 2 - Drill Team:** Drill Practice at 6:30PM. This will be for those in the Color Guard and Honor Guard.
- ✧ **January 10 - VFW Meat Raffle:** Meat Raffle held at Cedar Creek Inn. Starts at 6:30PM. Chairperson: Mitch Cline 651-492-9634
- ✧ **January 16 - Finance Committee:** Finance meeting starts at 6PM. The management meeting will begin shortly after the closing of the finance meeting. The management meeting will **only** consist of the Post Officers unless invited by an Officer.
- ✧ **January 21 - Post & Auxiliary Meeting:** Social hour begins at 6:00PM. Auxiliary meeting starts at 6:30PM. Post meeting promptly begins at 7:00PM. Every month at our Post Meeting, we have a drawing for some very neat prizes. ***Post meetings will take place in the downstairs of the New Richmond Civic Center, 156 East First Street (across from the Fire Department).***
- ✧ **January 29 - New Richmond Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Gala:** At Ready Randy's from 4:30PM - 8:30PM
- ✧ **January 31 - February 1 - Mid-Winter Conference:** Mid-Winter Conference held at Comfort Suites in Green Bay, WI.
- ✧ **February 6 - Drill Team:** Drill Practice at 6:30PM. This will be for those in the Color Guard and Honor Guard.
- ✧ **February 13 - Finance Committee:** Finance meeting starts at 6PM. The management meeting will begin shortly after the closing of the finance meeting. The management meeting will **only** consist of the Post Officers unless invited by an Officer.
- ✧ **February 14 - VFW Meat Raffle:** Meat Raffle held at Cedar Creek Inn. Starts at 6:30PM. Chairperson: Mitch Cline 651-492-9634
- ✧ **February 18 - Post & Auxiliary Meeting:** Social hour begins at 6:00PM. Auxiliary meeting starts at 6:30PM. Post meeting promptly begins at 7:00PM. Every month at our Post Meeting, we have a drawing for some very neat prizes. ***Post meetings will take place in the downstairs of the New Richmond Civic Center, 156 East First Street (across from the Fire Department).***
- ✧ **March 1 - Scout of the Year:** Nominations due to the Post by midnight on March 1st.
- ✧ **March 1- 5 - National Legislative Conference:** Legislative Conference held in Washington D.C.
- ✧ **March 5 - Drill Team:** Drill Practice at 6:30PM. This will be for those in the Color Guard and Honor Guard.
- ✧ **March 12 - Finance Committee:** Finance meeting starts at 6PM. The management meeting will begin shortly after the closing of the finance meeting. The management meeting will **only** consist of the Post Officers unless invited by an Officer.
- ✧ **March 13 - VFW Meat Raffle:** Meat Raffle held at Cedar Creek Inn. Starts at 6:30PM. Chairperson: Mitch Cline 651-492-9634
- ✧ **March 17 - Post & Auxiliary Meeting:** Social hour begins at 6:00PM. Auxiliary meeting starts at 6:30PM. Post meeting promptly begins at 7:00PM. Every month at our Post Meeting, we have a drawing for some very neat prizes. ***Nominations for Officers Post meetings will take place in the downstairs of the New Richmond Civic Center, 156 East First Street (across from the Fire Department).***
- ✧ **March 28 - Spring District 9 Meeting:** District Meeting hosted by our Post. Held at WITC New Richmond. 9AM - 3PM. Auxiliary may be hosting 50/50 raffle. Point of Contact: Ron Ramos 715-928-3606.
- ✧ **April 2 - Drill Team:** Drill Practice at 6:30PM. This will be for those in the Color Guard and Honor Guard.
- ✧ **April 10 - VFW Meat Raffle:** Meat Raffle held at Cedar Creek Inn. Starts at 6:30PM. Chairperson: Mitch Cline 651-492-9634
- ✧ **April 16 - Finance Committee:** Finance meeting starts at 6PM. The management meeting will begin shortly after the closing of the finance meeting. The management meeting will **only** consist of the Post Officers unless invited by an Officer.
- ✧ **April 21 - Post & Auxiliary Meeting:** Social hour begins at 6:00PM. Auxiliary meeting starts at 6:30PM. Post meeting promptly begins at 7:00PM. Every month at our Post Meeting, we have a drawing for some very neat prizes. ***Election of Officers Post meetings will take place in the downstairs of the New Richmond Civic Center, 156 East First Street (across from the Fire Department).***
- ✧ **April 25 - State Loyalty Day Parade:** State Loyalty Day Parade in Wauwatosa, WI. Commander Ron Ramos and Quartermaster Mitch Cline will be attending.
- ✧ **May 7 - Drill Team:** Drill Practice at 6:30PM. This will be for those in the Color Guard and Honor Guard.
- ✧ **May 14 - Finance Committee:** Finance meeting starts at 6PM. The management meeting will begin shortly after the closing of the finance meeting. The management meeting will **only** consist of the Post Officers unless invited by an Officer.
- ✧ **May 19 - Post & Auxiliary Meeting:** Social hour begins at 6:00PM. Auxiliary meeting starts at 6:30PM. Post meeting promptly begins at 7:00PM. Every month at our Post Meeting, we have a drawing for some very neat prizes. ***Swearing in of Officers Post meetings will take place in the downstairs of the New Richmond Civic Center, 156 East First Street (across from the Fire Department).***
- ✧ **June 4 - Drill Team:** Drill Practice at 6:30PM. This will be for those in the Color Guard and Honor Guard.
- ✧ **June 5 -6 - Park Art Fair:** More info to come
- ✧ **June 6 - June Bug Days Parade:** More info to come
- ✧ **June 10 - 13 - State Convention:** Convention held at Holiday Inn at Rothschild, WI
- ✧ **June 15 - Finance Committee:** Finance meeting starts at 6PM. The management meeting will begin shortly after the closing of the finance meeting. The management meeting will **only** consist of the Post Officers unless invited by an Officer.



VFW POST 10818

P.O. Box 233
New Richmond, WI 54017



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.