

CHECKPOINT INT

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VFW's Sport Clips Help A Hero scholarship program received a record-breaking donation in December.

Organized 100 Volunteers Per Day

VFW Posts Provide Relief During California Wildfires

As wildfires raged along the coast of California in October, VFW Posts throughout the state provided relief in their communities.

Glenn Ross, commander of VFW Post 1929 in Petaluma, Calif., opened his Post for 12 days as a shelter for displaced members of the community.

"I love this community, and I love Sonoma County," Ross said. "I realized there were going to be people who were displaced."

Ross, who served during the 1991 Persian Gulf War as a tanker with the 2nd Armored Division, said the Post had the second largest evacuation facility in the city, housing 430 people. When the Post's shelter closed, Ross said, there were four people remaining and all of them had other housing arrangements.

There was no damage in Petaluma, according to Ross, but he added that everybody knew somebody who lost

a home or a business in Santa Rosa, roughly 20 miles north.

Julia Sutton, commander of Post 768 in Windsor, Calif., roughly 30 miles from Petaluma, set up her Post as a "central hub" for supplies and distribution to more than 14 evacuation sites and shelters. The Post provided medical supplies to the Red Cross and worked with other Posts in California's District 16 to distribute supplies.

"We also used social media and local media to put the word out for requested donations of the different shelters, and organized over 100 volunteers a day to run the distribution center," said Sutton, who served during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars from September 2002

to May 2003 aboard the *USS Abraham Lincoln* as a dental technician and then a hospital corpsman.

She said the Post members helped with relief efforts because it's their job.

"We have a responsibility to the community as a veteran service organization to meet the needs of our veterans by providing resources," Sutton said. "First, we take care of our family, and then we look at our local veteran family and community to serve. This is our mission."

While Post 768 did not sustain any damage, Sutton said one of its members, who was in his 90s, died "as a secondary effect of the fires."

Email: kwilliams@vfw.org



A fire burns out of control along a ridge during the California wildfires in Rough and Ready, Calif., Oct. 12, 2017. CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO



Volunteers at VFW Post 1929 in Petaluma, Calif., sort through donations for California wildfire victims. Volunteers wore face masks due to the extent of smoke in the area. The Post was open to the public for 12 days as a shelter. PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENN ROSS



VFW Post 768 Commander Julia Sutton holds a puppy that was rescued from California wildfires. Sutton's

Post, located in Windsor, Calif., did not receive any damage, but she said one of its members, who was in his 90s, died "as a secondary effect of the fires."

PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIA SUTTON



A view of scorched houses, buildings and a park in Santa Rosa, Calif., Oct. 13, 2017, one of the hardest hit areas during the northern California fires. CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO

Montana Post Lends Support to Summer Wildfire Relief

VFW Post 7886 in Jordan, Mont., opened its doors in July for the community to house donations when wildfires ripped through the state.

Post Commander Joe Murnion said as donations came in for those affected by the fires, the town of 350 people, located about 170 miles northeast of Billings, didn't have a usable facility large enough to house the items – other than the Post's building.

Murnion, who served in Vietnam in 1968 with the 191st Assault Helicopter Company as an airframe repair instructor, said donations started coming in July 19, and the Post collected items for two weeks. Post service officer Mike Downs volunteered six to eight hours per day for those two weeks.

"He really excelled during this whole effort," Murnion said.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

CAPITOL HILL HOSTS VFW

This year's VFW Legislative Conference is March 3-8 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Va. Reservations are now open. We encourage you to make reservations online at: <https://aws.passkey.com/go/VFWHyatt2018>. Reservations also can be made by calling 1-888-421-1442. Remember to identify yourself with VFW. For the complete schedule, visit: <https://www.vfw.org/news-and-publications/events/vfw-legislative-conference>.

Here is an abbreviated, tentative agenda of the Legislative Conference:

March 3

- Arrival for Appeals Committee.

March 4

- Arrival of all attendees.
- Foundation board meeting.
- Committee on Appeals meeting.
- Life Member Committee meeting.
- Briefing for **NEW** Legislative Committee members.
- Commander-in-Chief open house for Department commanders.

March 5

- National Veterans Service Advisory Committee.
- Budget and Finance Committee.
- Legislative meeting (all attendees).
- National Council of Administration.
- Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners.

March 6

- Capitol Hill visits.

March 7

- Commander-in-Chief's testimony.
- Legislative reception.

March 8

- Departure.



PUBLICATIONS CONTEST DEADLINE IS APRIL 2

The deadline for entries in the 2018 VFW National Publications Contest is April 2. Carefully read the information emailed to you in January. If you require further information, call (816) 756-3390 ext. 113, or email kwilliams@vfw.org.

HONOR FELLOW VETERANS WITH A MEMORIAL GIFT

One way to honor your brothers and sisters-in-arms is by supporting future generations of veterans with a memorial gift to the VFW in your will or trust. Learn more about estate planning and contact the VFW Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119, email plannedgiving@vfw.org or visit www.vfw.org/plannedgiving for our **FREE** Personal Estate Planning Kit.

LIFE INSURANCE: ESSENTIAL TO YOUR FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

Financial well-being for your family starts with the basics, such as having a steady income, a safe place to live, reliable transportation and savings. Life insurance might not seem necessary, but protecting your family if something happens to you ensures that the financial foundation you're building is protected.

VFW is proud to align with USAA to offer life insurance options and tools to choose the right coverage for your family. For more information, call USAA at 1-800-274-8839.

Empathetic Representatives

Member Service Center Offers Top Quality Attention

At VFW National Headquarters in Kansas City, Mo., a team of 21 makes up the Member Service Center. According to Member Service Center Deputy Director Ken Romine, the mantra among his employees is: "We give our all because of all that our veterans have given."

A member can call one number (1-800-963-3180) and place an order from the VFW Store. He or she also can pay membership dues, request an address change, a back issue of VFW magazine or a new membership card, all without being transferred to another employee, Romine said.

"The quality of phone calls has vastly improved, as well," said Romine, who retired after 20 years in the Army and has a background in human resources and business management. "Our representatives are really listening and being empathetic to the caller's needs."

Prior to the establishment of the Member Service Center in 2017, the average phone call was 2.5 minutes. Today, the average call is four minutes, which means VFW representatives are spending more time with members, Romine said.

"I want them to answer every call and identify the caller's needs," Romine said. "We never know what the person on the other end of the phone has been going through."

Some 400 to 500 calls come in each day. Member Service Center employees recently set a record of 670 calls fielded in one day.

In addition to the calls, Romine said there are emails

and physical mail that need to be resolved each day. Some 6,800 pieces of mail come in each week, with about 350 emails to be answered in any given week.

The employees recognize their role in the importance of the Member Service Center, as well.

"We have more people who are knowledgeable about what VFW offers," said Kathleen Reffitt, administrative assistant/quality assurance. "Members aren't on hold as long, and the transfer rate is less."

Reffitt, who has been at VFW for 13 years, further noted that morale among employees is better.

"We know what valuable service we are providing to our members, and that means a lot to us," she said.

To reach the Member Service Center, call 1-800-VFW-VETS (1-800-839-8387) or email MSC@vfw.org.

Email: jdyhouse@vfw.org



CONNECT

COMMUNICATE

COLLABORATE

"We know what valuable service we are providing to our members, and that means a lot to us."

Kathleen Reffitt —Administrative assistant/quality assurance, VFW Member Service Center

Deputy Director for the Member Service Center Ken Romine and one of the Member Service Center supervisors, Mary Helbock, review procedures in October at VFW National Headquarters in Kansas City, Mo. The other three supervisors are LaDonna Miles, Melodi Dailey and Ross Crutcher.

PHOTO BY LAUREN GOLDMAN

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Correspondence can be sent to the editor at VFW National Headquarters.

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VFW Department of Pennsylvania Works with Lawmakers to Eliminate Smoking

VFW's Department of Pennsylvania is working toward eliminating smoking from member organizations such as VFW to help protect members, employees and their families from preventable health risks.

Department Commander Dwight Fuhrman has been contacting legislators to encourage the support of bills that would eliminate all smoking in private member-based clubs in the commonwealth.

Member-based groups, such as VFW, are exempted from Pennsylvania's *Clean Indoor Air Act* (CIAA), which was passed a decade ago. Fuhrman said some of his Department's Posts have shown interest in becoming nonsmoking establishments but fear losing business to other groups if the Department makes it a policy.

"Rather than putting our vital community service organizations at risk from any negative business impact from halting smoking, state lawmakers should create an even

playing field by removing the CIAA exemption," Fuhrman said.

Fuhrman said getting rid of the exemption will help member-based organizations improve



health among its patrons "without creating a competitive disadvantage that financially hurts" the groups.

"While the Pennsylvania VFW respects the rights of veterans to smoke, we also respect the rights of the many more veterans who do not smoke," said Fuhrman, a member of Post 8896 in East Berlin, Pa. "We want to attract and support not only veterans of all ages but also their family members."

Fuhrman said he believes that creating a nonsmoking environment at Post canteens will have a positive effect on membership numbers and that he has already seen it firsthand at Post 8896.

"We went nonsmoking about 15 years ago, and we have a family-friendly environment," Fuhrman said. "Everyone loves coming here. People bring their kids, and the Post is doing great."

"We are only 10 members short of 100 percent membership for the year," he continued. "And we plan on getting there soon."

Email: dspiva@vfw.org

A 'Straight-Forward' Process

Learn How to Support VFW Programs by Donating Your Vehicle

The VFW Foundation's vehicle donation program makes it easier than ever to help those in need. The program allows a hassle-free way of helping fund VFW's services and programs by donating any vehicle, such as a car, truck, motorcycle, trailer or boat.

VFW Foundation Manager Richard Freiburghouse said 80 percent of the vehicle's value, after expenses, goes toward the VFW Foundation, VFW's official 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization.

"These vehicles can be used as a tax-deductible contribution to support VFW programs and services," Freiburghouse said.

It's simple – call 1-844-839-4438 (1-844-VFW-GIFT) or visit vfw.careasy.org to schedule a free and convenient pick up. Every vehicle, running or not, is considered. Donors also will receive a tax receipt for the donation.

As of November, Freiburghouse said, some 40 VFW members have donated vehicles to the program. One of those members is Kenneth Aponte, a member of the VFW Department of Texas. He said it was a "straight-forward" process.

"It was very smooth from start to finish," said Aponte, an Army veteran who served as a satellite systems technician from 1986 to 1991.

Aponte, who served in Panama from 1990 to 1991 with the 1109th Signal Brigade during *Operation Just Cause*, said he found out about the program through a web search for ways to support veteran programs.

"I'm always looking for ways to help veterans in any way I can – through donations or volunteer activity," Aponte said.

Aponte also said the donated 2002 Jeep Liberty was valued at a "comparable price" to what he could have sold it for.

"One of my worries was not getting the right price for it," Aponte said. "They knew the value of the vehicle, and it made an impact because of that."

For more information, go to: vfw.careasy.org.

Email: dspiva@vfw.org



For a 'Bike-Friendly City'

Minnesota Post Improves Trails with Repair Stations

Minnesotans now can repair their bicycles on the go thanks to VFW Post 1676 in Detroit Lakes, Minn.

Post members partnered with the city of Detroit Lakes and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) last year to install two bicycle repair stations along local trails.

Kohl Skalin, a member of Post 1676, said Detroit Lakes is a “bike-friendly city” that has many trails for residents to use.

“We thought [the repair stations] would be a good addition for the city,” said Skalin, a Bosnia and Iraq War veteran who served in the Minnesota Army National Guard from 2000 to 2009. “We thought this would be a great way to impact the community considering how much bike activity we have in the city and area.”

Post 1676 purchased the materials for two repair stations, and the city and MnDOT installed the stations on multiuse trails, which are used for bicycles, scooters and pedestrians. City leadership agreed to install a repair station if VFW provided the repair stations. MnDOT, where Skalin is a project manager, installed the second station. The repair stations have an air pump, wrenches, tire remover and stands to repair bicycles and other transportation equipment.

“You could fix a wheelchair or a motor scooter,” Skalin said. “[The stations] are on a multiuse trail – so this can impact more than just people with bikes.”

Skalin said his Post has volunteered for and provided financial support to other community groups, such as local hockey and baseball teams, but decided to work with the city and MnDOT for a new project.

“All levels of government can help VFW [Posts] deliver projects that impact the public in different ways than supporting an individual organization,” Skalin said. “We always try to do community outreach [projects], and this is an avenue that is something different that we haven’t tried.”

Skalin added: “When VFW works with other entities, it allows for opportunities to serve the public in ways not conventionally thought of.”

Email: dspiva@vfw.org



ABOVE: Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) installed the shown repair station, and the city of Detroit Lakes installed the other. Post 1676 provided both stations, each of which has an air pump, wrenches, tire remover and stand for residents to repair bicycles and other transportation equipment on the go.

RIGHT: (From left to right) Shiloh Wahl, from MnDOT; Justin Knopf, Post 1676 member and MnDOT employee; Nick Elijah, Post 1676 member and MnDOT employee; Dan Josephson, Detroit Lakes (Minn.) City Councilman and Park Board member; Brad Green, Detroit Lakes (Minn.) Public Works Director; and Kohl Skalin, MnDOT employee and Post 1676 member, with one of the newly installed bicycle repair stations. Post 1676 partnered with MnDOT and Detroit Lakes to install two repair stations on city-owned trails.

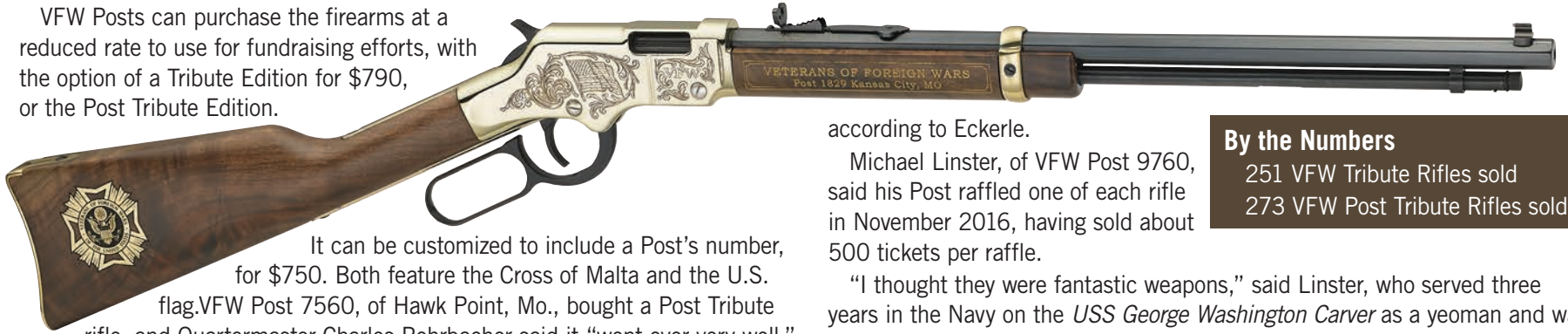
PHOTOS COURTESY OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Henry Repeating Arms Offers Rifles for Post Fundraisers

Henry Repeating Arms has sold more than 500 VFW tribute rifles since the company started creating them last January.

VFW Posts can purchase the firearms at a reduced rate to use for fundraising efforts, with the option of a Tribute Edition for \$790, or the Post Tribute Edition.



It can be customized to include a Post's number, for \$750. Both feature the Cross of Malta and the U.S. flag. VFW Post 7560, of Hawk Point, Mo., bought a Post Tribute rifle, and Quartermaster Charles Rohrbacher said it "went over very well."

Rohrbacher, who served in the Air Force in Vietnam in 1964 with the 5040th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Group as an aircraft maintenance technician, said raffle ticket sales were good, and the Post raised nearly \$1,000.

"Everybody kind of fell in love with it," Rohrbacher said.

VFW Post 7356 in Parkville, Mo., purchased two rifles from Henry Repeating Arms – one Tribute Edition and one Post Tribute Edition – to raffle off.

Post 7356 Quartermaster Robert Eckerle, who served in Vietnam from 1966-67 in the Air Force's 412th Munitions Maintenance Squadron, said the Post held the raffles between January and May 2017. Tickets sold for \$20 each, with a limit of 200 available.

Eckerle said the Post members' response to the fundraising effort was "very favorable because they're beautiful rifles." The raffle brought in about \$3,200,

according to Eckerle.

Michael Linster, of VFW Post 9760, said his Post raffled one of each rifle in November 2016, having sold about 500 tickets per raffle.

"I thought they were fantastic weapons," said Linster, who served three years in the Navy on the *USS George Washington Carver* as a yeoman and was deployed to Rota, Spain. "I looked at both of them after they were won, and it's a great opportunity to purchase one of those, especially with the VFW [logo] on it. I thought it was fantastic."

Kevin Jamison, assistant director of corporate relations for the VFW Foundation, said the raffles could be year-long, rather than a "one-time" event.

"You can raise more money over that time frame," Jamison said.

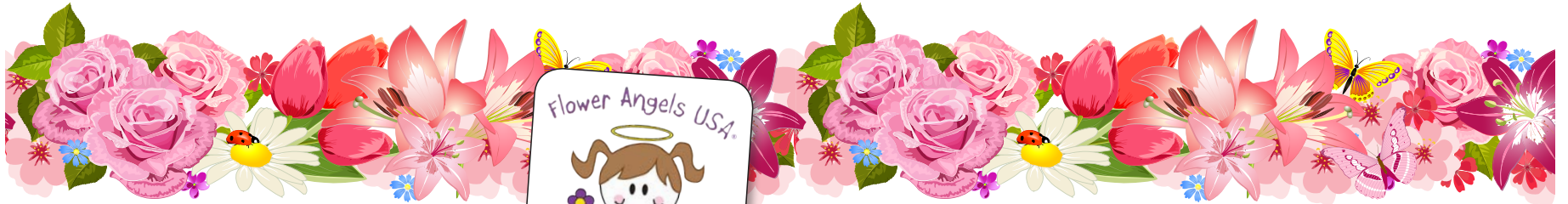
Sandra Thomas, a customer service representative with Henry Repeating Arms, said the company started creating the tribute rifles in January 2016. Henry Repeating Arms will continue to provide the rifles, according to Thomas, "for as long as they keep being requested."

To purchase a tribute rifle, visit www.henryusa.com/rifles/buy-direct-new-henry-vfw-tribute-rifles/.

Email: kwilliams@vfw.org

By the Numbers

251 VFW Tribute Rifles sold
273 VFW Post Tribute Rifles sold



'A Real Heart-Tugging Experience'

VFW Members Partner with Flower Angels

More than 40 veterans partnered with a Cape Cod, Mass., nonprofit to deliver flowers to fellow veterans last year.

Flower Angels USA provides flowers to residents of nursing homes and hospice facilities year-round. But in the week leading up to Veterans Day, volunteers delivered flowers exclusively to veterans.

In 2016, Flower Angels representatives and about 35 veteran volunteers visited 325 veterans. At least 45 veterans volunteered in 2017, making more than 400 deliveries.

Butch Banis, a member of Post 9917 in Brewster, Mass., volunteered with

Flower Angels for the first time in 2017, visiting four facilities. The last location Banis visited had a "large number" of veterans with dementia, and some were "passive" when Banis and others tried to engage them in conversation.



Veterans and Flower Angels USA volunteers, including VFW Post 9917 member Butch Bannis (back row, center), display flower bouquets that are delivered to veterans on Veterans Day. Flower Angels is a Cape Cod, Mass., nonprofit that presents flowers to residents of nursing homes and hospice facilities year-round.



Flowers Angels USA volunteers create arrangements to deliver to residents of nursing homes and hospice facilities. For the past two years, volunteers and veterans have delivered the flowers to veterans in such facilities around Cape Cod, Mass.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DEBORAH O'CONNOR

"When we started to sing, 'God Bless America,' almost all of them became alert and sang correctly along with us," said Banis, who served 22 years on active duty, including a tour in Vietnam from December 1971-72 and four-and-a-half months during *Operation Desert Storm*. "That is a real heart-tugging experience."

Roy Thomas, a member of VFW Post 2578 in Hyannis, Mass., has volunteered with Flower Angels since 2016. Thomas, who served during the Korean War from September 1952 to September 1953 as a high-speed radio operator with the New York National Guard's 101st Signal Bn., said he thinks the veterans they delivered flowers to were "pleased to see another veteran take time to recognize their service."

Deborah O'Connor, a member of the Flowers Angels USA board of directors, said the veterans delivering flowers introduced themselves, stated their branch of service and spoke about their service. In turn, some residents discussed their own military careers.

"It was really so moving because a lot of these veterans don't want to talk about their service," O'Connor said.

Over a three-day period leading up to Veterans Day — Nov. 7, 8 and 10 — more than 20 stops were made.

O'Connor and founder Suzanne Carter identified all of the veterans in their partnering facilities and reached out to local veterans to assist with deliveries.

For more information about Flower Angels USA, visit flowerangelsusa.org.

Email: kwilliams@vfw.org



Veterans Bill King and Butch Banis, Flower Angels volunteer Irene Chausse, veterans David Halvorsen and Tom Quill deliver flower arrangements on Veterans Day in Cape Cod, Mass.



VFW Post 2578 member Roy Thomas, Flower Angels Founder Suzanne Carter and veteran Shawn Mullins deliver flowers to veterans in Cape Cod, Mass.

\$4,000 Raised

Minnesota Post Sponsors 5K for Suicide Awareness

When VFW Post 3915 Senior Vice Commander Jim Williams heard psychologist and VFW life member Dr. Jim Tuorila talk about the rate of suicide among veterans, he knew his Post needed to do something.

Williams approached Post members with the idea of sponsoring a Veteran Suicide Awareness 5K Run to benefit 23rd Veteran. Founded by Iraq War vet Mike Waldron, 23rd Veteran assists vets struggling with transitioning to civilian life.

On Sept. 16, more than 55 race participants and 20 volunteers turned out to raise awareness about veteran suicides – they also raised \$4,000.

Located in Brooklyn Park, Minn., the Post received donations from Post 425, Post 7051, Post 6690 and American Legion Post 334. Furthermore, the city provided the race permits at no cost to the Post.

“We have a good relationship with the city

of Brooklyn Park,” then-Post Commander Scott Hanson said.

Former All-American Post 3915 Commander Scott Bill said the 5K turned out to be more than an awareness event.

“It provided the catalyst to engage younger Post members, build stronger connections with neighboring veteran organizations and interface directly with the community,” he said.

Post Commander Jarrod McReynolds called the race a “win-win for all involved.”

Members already are planning the 2018 5K, Bill said.

Email: jdyhouse@vfw.org



ABOVE: Flanked by VFW Post 3915 members, Mike Waldron, executive director and founder of 23rd Veteran, speaks to participants in the Post-sponsored 5K run on Sept. 16 in Brooklyn Park, Minn.

LEFT AND BELOW: More than 55 runners turned out for the 5K Run benefitting 23rd Veteran. Some carried sandbags, while others hauled logs along the path. Sponsored by Post 3915 in Brooklyn Park, Minn., the event raised \$4,000. PHOTOS COURTESY OF SCOTT BILL





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Tennessee Post Becomes a 'Museum'

Tom Buck wanted to "make a museum" out of VFW Post 6496 in Jackson, Tenn. So when he became commander, that's exactly what he did.

The Post's walls are filled with newspaper clippings, mementos and more dating back to World War I. In addition to the war displays, there also is space dedicated to veterans who served overseas but not in a combat zone, photos from combat and a "patriot wall" for those who support veterans.

"Now we're collecting pictures of people who served so it becomes an honor [wall]," Buck said.

The items began filtering in last summer with displays ranging from World War I to present-day conflicts, topped off with mannequins donning Army and Navy uniforms from various wars.

Buck, who served in Vietnam from 1968-69 with the 101st Airborne as an infantryman, said plastering wartime memories throughout the Post is something he has always wanted to do.

"It takes up every wall in the entire Post out there in our dance hall," Buck said. "This has been a dance hall and a bar, and now it's back to being the Veterans of Foreign Wars."

The intent, according to Buck, is to keep heritage alive. Schools and churches have started bringing groups to view the display.

"Vietnam veterans have this thing in their heart about never being forgotten," Buck said, "and this is what it's all about."

Buck said visitors usually spend about an hour looking at the display.

Contributions to the displays have been brought in from Post members and the community.

Email: kwilliams@vfw.org



Photos and memories from World War I are showcased at VFW Post 6496 in Jackson, Tenn. The collection is just one part of a larger display featuring wars and conflicts up to the present-day, and is the brainchild of Post Commander Tom Buck, who served in Vietnam from 1968-69 with the 101st Airborne as an infantryman. PHOTOS BY WOODY WOODWARD



VFW Post 6496 in Jackson, Tenn., has displays ranging from World War I to present-day to honor the nation's veterans. Featured items vary from Army and Navy uniforms to newspaper clippings. "This has been a dance hall and a bar, and now it's back to being the Veterans of Foreign Wars," said Tom Buck, Post 6496 Commander.

VFW Departments Work Together to Help Wounded Marine

Daniel McMahon received the call from his brother while out for his morning bike ride. McMahon's nephew had been wounded in an accident at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Jake McMahon was one of 14 Marines and one sailor from the 3rd Assault Amphibian Bn., injured when an amphibious assault vehicle caught fire in September.

Daniel, who served in Vietnam from 1969-70 with the 9th Inf. Div., said he didn't know how serious Jake's wounds were.

"I was really devastated," said Daniel, VFW Department of New York inspector. "I didn't know what was going on."

So Daniel contacted VFW's Department of California and connected with District 1 Commander Doug Scholl.

"I knew if I could get somebody from the VFW to go there and see what was going on, I would get some straight information," Daniel said.

Scholl said he went to the hospital and met Jake.

"He had suffered burns on his face and hands," said Scholl, who served in the Navy from 1988 to 2008, with tours during *Operation Desert Shield* and *Operation Iraqi Freedom*. "And his hands were wrapped up like mummies. So he had no use of his hands."

Scholl offered his cell phone so Jake could speak with his parents and other family members.

"That was very calming to them to know that he was talking in a normal voice," Scholl said. "There was no panic. There was no fear. I think that helped them a little bit."

Scholl stayed with Jake until an uncle arrived later that evening.

"If I can make it easier for the next sailor, soldier, airman or Marine so they don't have to go through some of the stuff I [had to] go through – if I can introduce them to an organization that does so much, like the VFW, that helps me deal with what I went through in my career," Scholl said.

When receiving a call like he did from Daniel, Scholl said, "you can't say no to that."

"That's how this organization is supposed to work," Scholl said, "that [when] we have people in need, we get the phone call and we react. We don't ask questions, we react."

Scholl also reached out to his District to organize a home-cooked meal for the families of those wounded in the accident.

Email: kwilliams@vfw.org



Jake McMahon is one of 14 Marines and one sailor who were injured in September when a vehicle caught fire at Camp Pendleton, Calif. VFW members in California worked to keep McMahon's family updated on his condition until they arrived.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAN MCMAHON

VFW Members Meet with Members of Congress

Carmelita and Bob Jones, of Rexburg, Idaho, review VFW's 2017 Priority Goals with Sen. Jim Risch (R-Idaho) in Washington, D.C., in September. Bob, a past All-American Department commander and National Legislative Committee member with the Department of Idaho, was in the nation's capital for VFW's fall legislative conference. Carmelita, past president of the VFW's Department of Idaho Auxiliary's, attended the conference as a National Legislative Ambassador for the VFW Auxiliary.

Bob said he spoke with Risch specifically about sequestration, but also spent time explaining VFW's Priority Goals.

VFW members are preparing to convene on Capitol Hill for VFW's 2018 Legislative Conference March 3-8. Be sure to schedule time with the lawmakers from your state to review the 2018 Priority Goals. Email your meeting photos to jdyhouse@vfw.org for possible publication.



PHOTO BY REBECCA COTTON

JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2018

CHECKPOINT

VFW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS • PUBLICATIONS
406 WEST 34TH STREET, KANSAS CITY, MO 64111

Posts with the Most

VFW POSTS OF 1,000 MEMBERS OR MORE AS OF DEC. 15, 2017

Rank	Post No.	Location	Members	Rank No.	Location	Members	Rank No.	Location	Members
1	1503	Dale City, VA.....	2,861	11	76 San Antonio, TX.....	1,588	28	9399 Apache Junction, AZ.....	1,176
2	27	Wiesbaden, Germany.....	2,621	12	7968 Apache Junction, AZ.....	1,560	29	56 Leavenworth, KS.....	1,159
3	1114	Evansville, IN.....	2,175	13	10047 North Las Vegas, NV.....	1,445	29	2111 Chula Vista, CA.....	1,159
4	9972	Sierra Vista, AZ.....	2,162	14	6506 Rosedale, MD.....	1,444	31	549 Tucson, AZ.....	1,152
5	392	Virginia Beach, VA.....	1,996	15	4647 North Highlands, CA.....	1,416	32	1512 Lemon Grove, CA.....	1,120
6	8862	Vicenza, Italy.....	1,907	16	63 Boise, ID.....	1,368	33	3282 Port Orange, FL.....	1,105
7	10692	Grafenwoehr, Germany.....	1,829	17	4809 Norfolk, VA.....	1,366	34	2503 Omaha, NE.....	1,098
8	4709	Conroe, TX.....	1,807	18	9342 Ansbach, Germany.....	1,357	35	972 Terre Haute, IN.....	1,093
9	9785	Eagle River, AK.....	1,742	19	628 Sioux Falls, SD.....	1,343	36	7686 Alamogordo, NM.....	1,089
10	2485	Angeles City, Philippines.....	1,672	20	2391 Saint Augustine, FL.....	1,335	37	10281 Radcliff, KY.....	1,075
				21	7234 Ocean View, DE.....	1,328	37	1170 Middletown, KY.....	1,075
				22	6873 Abilene, TX.....	1,261	39	7564 West Fargo, ND.....	1,063
				23	4372 Odessa, TX.....	1,245	40	969 Tacoma, WA.....	1,035
				24	10097 Fort Myers Beach, FL.....	1,244	41	2866 Saint Charles, MO.....	1,029
				25	10216 Songtan-Si, Korea.....	1,218	42	1273 Rapid City, SD.....	1,027
				26	1146 St Clair Shores, MI.....	1,209	43	1326 Bismarck, ND.....	1,025
				27	8951 West York, PA.....	1,194	44	10436 Kitzingen, Germany.....	1,003

Sport Clips Donates \$1.25 Million to VFW

Sport Clips Founder and CEO Gordon Logan presents VFW Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman with a check for \$1.25 million at VFW National Headquarters in December. The donation exceeds the company's \$1 million goal and is used to fund VFW's Sport Clips Help A Hero scholarship program. To date, more than 900 scholarships have been awarded to active-duty military and veterans who wish to pursue college degrees and vocational certifications.

"It's exciting to see these service members and veterans using Help A Hero scholarships," Logan said. "Many have used this scholarship to complete their education and are already reaching their personal and professional goals."

As part of this year's fundraising endeavors, Sport Clips partners John Paul Mitchell Systems, American Crew, Nioxin, Sexy Hair and Gibs Grooming also contributed to the Help A Hero program. Also pictured at right are Amanda Palm, Sport Clips corporate communications manager, and Martha England, vice president of Sport Clips marketing.



PHOTO BY REBECCA COTTON