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Commanders Column

Greeting Veterans;

I hope all of you are doing well, Spring is here! Days are getting longer and we will soon be having fun in the sun. Elections were held on April 1st. I am Honored to have been Elected as your Commander once again.

Some of you may have noticed that our Website has changed a bit. It still going to contain the same information as our old site and is still being managed by the same person, and will know have access to the VFW.org for more information on the program and services the VFW offers. Our Facebook page is active so continue to check for what events and specials are happening.

Easter is April 20th so I hope everyone has a wonderful day with family.

On May 3rd our Officers will be volunteering In the VFW National Day of Service at the Blaine Veterans Memorial Park doing beautification projects.

Mothers Day is May 11th.

Buddy Poppy Distribution Day is May 23rd, we will be out at various locations in Blaine.

Memorial Day Is May 26th. Veteran's Memorial Park will hold their annual celebration.

The VFW State Convention will be held June 5th-8th in St. Cloud MN and I will be attending the event.

We are still short of our Membership Goal of 102% 4 members needed to make this goal. If you know a veteran, get them in contact with us.

Keep checking our social media site for upcoming events and specials.

I hope all of you have a wonderful spring. Stay safe and stay well.

Corky A Olson, Commander

ELECTED OFFICERS

Corky Olson - Commander	Joe Morse - Chaplin
Kurt Hollar - Sr. Vice	1 year trustee - Joel Frank
Pat Skluzacek - Jr. Vice	2 year trustee - Bob Helteme
Dick Killian - Quartermaster	3 year trustee - Ken Zepeda



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY - May 11th
2nd Sunday in May



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY - June 15th
3rd Sunday in June

History of Father's Day

Some attribute the first Father's Day observance to the 1907 West Virginia mining disaster that killed 361 men - 250 of them fathers and which left more than a thousand children without a dad. Grace Clayton, whose father was killed in the tragedy, suggested a service of commemoration but it never caught on as an annual observance. Two years later in 1909, Sonora Dodd of Washington heard a Mother's Day sermon and thought a similar day should be set aside to honor father's.

Greetings VFW Auxiliary Members!

Hello Brothers, Sisters, and Comrades,

Welcome to Spring. March brought the program year for 2024-2025 to a close. Thank you for your hard work and dedication throughout the year working with our Veterans and communities. Thank you to our Officers and Chairman and all the members for a great year.

Elections were held in April. Thank you for putting your trust in me once again. To those who accepted an Office and Chairmanship thank you. We must remember it takes the whole membership to make an auxiliary so we can continue to exist and work for our Veterans. Congratulations to Commander Corkie and his officers as we look forward to working with the VFW for our Veterans for another year. **Installation will be held May 6th , 6:30pm, prior to our meeting.**

April 17th we had the Veterans from the Minneapolis Veterans Home out to the Post for an Easter Lunch. Served ham with all the fixings and each Veteran received a small Easter basket with candy made by our members. Thank you to everyone who participated by cooking, serving, helping the Staff with the Veterans, etc. Great event with the VFW as we start the new year working together

If you have a special project you would like for us to participate in, bring it to our May meeting. We are always looking for new ideas for the Auxiliary.

Remember to let our Chaplain Carolyn, 612-245-1476, if you know of someone who has been ill or lost a loved one.

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

Happy Easter to all.

Doris Anderson
President

Auxiliary Election Results 2025 - 2026

President - Doris Anderson
Sr. Vice President - Mary Lou Michels
Jr. Vice President - Darlene Magnuson
Treasurer - Ann Asbury
Chaplain - Carolyn Puttin
Conductor - LeRoy Magnuson
Guard - Shirley Hagen
Secretary - Karen Jones
Patriotic Instructor - Nancy Waugh
1 year trustee - Joyce Pierret
2 year trustee - Carolyn Puttin
3 year Trustee - Mary Mikkelsen

Membership

Our Sympathies to the Saylor family on the loss of their mother, Lifetime Auxiliary member Marge Saylor. Our Ritual Team honored Marge at the Funeral home on March 29th.

Representing the Ritual Team were Jerry, Gina, Karen, Ann, JoAnn and Mary Lou. Rest in Peace, Marge.

We welcome new lifetime member and transfer Dwight Gibson to our Auxiliary.

If you know of someone who would like to join our Auxiliary and they qualify please call 763-434-6580.

JULY 4TH CELEBRATION AT THE POST

From 1776 to the present, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of America's Independence with festivities ranging from parades, family gatherings and barbeques. and ending the day with fireworks.

Join us on the 4th of July starting at 12:00 noon. Bring your family and friends and remember to bring your dancing shoes. Music will start at 2:00 p.m. We will have good food, cold drinks and a fun time.

The Auxiliary will have a bake sale starting at 12:00 noon.

GLORY

written by Past Commander Gary Exley

It's been said that glory
is in the deeds we do
but it must have been stated
by someone who didn't think it through.

For glory is fleeting
and rated second-best
when compared with the lives
of those who meet its test.

It is born in the minds
of the very young
who know no other way
of proving they are strong.

And ready to meet
glory's sometimes fatal test
For it is on the field of combat
where this fallacy is laid to rest.

When the moment arrives
that they have thought on so long
they wonder if it is possible
to remain resolute and strong.

In the face of such chaos
mayhem and pain
they rise to the moment
never to see their boyhood again.

The fear that grips them
in the pit of their gut
is diminished by the sight of
their comrades who fight bravely
but their fear is met
by a duty-bound sense
to rise to the challenge
and look for recompense,
in performing as trained
and to never look back
at the horror they have dealt
and wonder if they lack
the humanity that defined them
a time so long ago
when their sense of glory
was not so very old.

Now the memory of that moment
repeated time and again
is re-lived when they wonder
WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN
HAD THEY NOT ANSWERED THE CALL
TO DEFEND LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.

For FREEDOM is not FREE
or so I've heard them say,
But my God my God,
What a terrible price to pay.

We are "The Land of the Free, because of the Brave". THANK A VETERAN

SEWING

We meet
every Thursday at the Post from 1:00 to
4:00 and work on items for our Veterans
and Nursing Homes. Even if you don't
sew, we have other things for you to do.



Call JoAnn at 763-757-2471 with any questions

CONTINUE SAVING

Pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House (turned in
5 1/2 lbs.) Cancelled stamps, eyeglasses, and hearing
aids (turned in 20 pairs of sunglasses, 77 pairs of
eyeglasses, and 25 cases) one box of hearing aids. We
also take tattered flags.

VOLUNTEERS

Webster's Dictionary

A person who offers to help or work without expecting
payment or reward. Thank You to our volunteers who
give many hours of their time and talents to make our
organization the greatest. Our goal is to do whatever we
can for our Veterans. THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

ARMY
June 14th 1775



May 26th, 2025 - Last Monday in May

We pause to remember
Those who died
With so much courage,
So much pride.
They'll never come back,
But memories endure
To remind us of Freedom, fragile, pure
We're worthy of their sacrifice
If we pause everyday
Not just on the last
Monday in May

Memorial Day is a United States federal Holiday celebrated on the last Monday of May commemorating men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. The original name Decoration Day comes from placing flowers on the graves of the soldiers.

In Remembrance - Memorial Day Services will be held May 24th at 10:00 a.m. at Morningside Memorial Gardens and 11:30 a.m. at Bunker Hills Park.



BUDDY POPPIES

FREEDOM - many of us take for granted

FREEDOM - best product in the world - it will never rust or decay

FREEDOM - it will never be cheap - it will always be expensive in time, materials, and especially lives

FREEDOM - costs are very high, the white crosses, the stars of David in the cemeteries are grim reminders of the ultimate cost

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY

Honor the Sacrifices our Veterans have made - SHOW YOUR SUPPORT - WEAR A BUDDY POPPY

POPPY CARDS starting APRIL 19th

Poppy Distribution Days May 16th and 17th



BAKE SALES

THANK YOU to all who continue to support our Bake Sales each month. Our April Bake Sale is April 18th starting at 4:00 p.m. Our May Bake Sale is May 16th starting at 4:00.

Check out the goodies our Auxiliary bakes. Purchase extra to take home for your family to enjoy.

There is no bake sale in June, July and August BUT we will have a bake sale at our 4th of July Celebration starting at 12:00 noon. All monies received support our programs throughout the year for our Veterans.

Any questions, call Ann at 763-717-0641



BLOOD DRIVES

Thank you to all the donors at our April 15th Blood Drive. Our next Blood Drive is June 10th.

Thank you also to our volunteers Joyce, Ann, JoAnn, Eloise, Nancy and Shirley. You are appreciated.

Remember to give "The Gift of Life, Donate Blood". Every 3 seconds someone needs blood. Each unit of Blood collected can help three patients.



QUILTS OF VALOR

On March 29th 18 Veterans received their Quilt of Valor at the Blaine Veterans Park. Presenters from the Grateful Hearts Quilters of Anoka were Janet, Rita, Pam, Renee and Sandy.



Veterans receiving their Quilt of Valor (in no particular order) were Steven Cruikshank Army, Grady Kinghorn Navy, Michael Salley Air Force, Richard Ahlstrom Navy, Richard Zierhut, Jr. Navy, James Stier Air Force, James Cardwell Army, Delton Cardwell Army, Robert Quick Marines, Dave Fuerstenberg Army, John Shay Navy, Charles Neuhaus Navy, Matt Ortwan Army, Charles Gephart Navy, Donna Frisvold Army, James Zapf Navy, Roger Steen Army, Robert Levy Army.

Thank you for your service.

If you would like to nominate a Veteran, call Mary Lou at 763-434-6580.

COFFEE WITH OUR VETERANS

Mark your Calendar for the second Monday in each month starting at 10:00 a.m. and enjoy coffee and dessert with our Veterans. You DO NOT have to be a member of any VFW or Legion. Come meet other Veterans and share stories.

May 12th, 2025

June 16th, 2025

July 14th, 2025

Questions call Eloise at 763-755-4817



VETERANS CRISIS LINE

is number 988, then press 1

ST. PATRICK'S DAY GUN RAFFLE/BINGO

Carl Pierret wins second gun prize "Henry X Model 357 from K & L Surplus many other great bingo prizes.



IRISH STEW

A Traditional Irish Stew was served on St. Patrick's Day by members of the Auxiliary.

There is no bake sale in June, July and August BUT we will have a bake sale at our 4th of July Celebration starting at 12:00 noon. All monies received support our programs throughout the year for our Veterans.

Any questions, call Ann at 763-717-0641



CANCER GRANTS

Cancer grants are available for an Auxiliary member who needs one. Call 763-434-6580 and I will send out a form to you. All the information is confidential between you and your doctor.

REMEMBER ME

Some people call me OLD GLORY, others call me the STAR SPANGLED BANNER, but whatever they call me I am your Flag, the Flag of the UNITED STATES of America.

I remember some time ago people lined up on both sides of the street to watch the parade, and naturally I was there, proudly waving in the breeze.

When your daddy saw me coming, he immediately removed his hat and placed it over his heart, Remember? And you, I remember you standing there straight as a soldier. You didn't have a hat, but you were giving the right salute.

Remember your little sister? Not to be outdone, she was saluting the same as you, with her hand over her heart. Remember?

What happened? I'm still the same old flag. Oh, I have added a few more stars since you were a boy, and a lot more blood has been shed since those parades of long ago. But I don't feel as proud as I used to. When I come down your street, you just stand there with your hands in your pockets. I may get a glance, but then you look away.

I see the children running around and shouting. They don't seem to know I am. I saw one man take off his hat and look around. He didn't see anybody else with his hat off so he quickly put his back on. Is it a sin to be patriotic? Have you forgotten what I stand for and where I've been? Anzio, Normandy, Omaha Beach, Guadalcanal, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War and Middle East.

Take a look at the memorial honor rolls some time. Look at the names of those who never came back in order to keep this republic free. One Nation Under God. When you salute, you are actually saluting them.

Well, it won't be long until I'll be coming down your street again. So when you see me, stand straight, place your right hand over your heart. I'll salute you by waving back. And I'll know that you remembered.



FLY YOUR FLAGS HIGH - Freedom is not Free

MARGE SAYLOR

Marge Saylor June 22, 1937 - March 1, 2025

Marge joined Sgt. John Rice VFW Auxiliary September, 2007. She immediately became the Sewing Chairperson until 2019. Her sewing ability was unmatched by any other. Her commitment to the Auxiliary included, funeral luncheons, blood drives, flag bearers and rituals. A ritual was performed by fellow Auxiliary members.



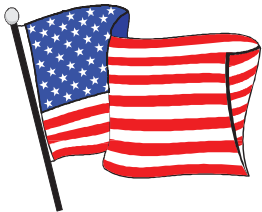
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May/June 2025

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.*

