Volume 65 Issue 3 January 2023

From the Commanders Desk:



By the time you are reading this Christmas season and New Year celebrations will be past, hopefully you all had a great holiday season. Ready or not the new year 2023 is here!!!

I have big plans for 2023, give away \$7500.00 to the winners of the Veterans Foundation of Indiana raffle, **make sure you have purchased your tickets**. Present the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners bigger checks than ever before. In case you haven't heard we are bringing the top three Patriot's Pen winners and all eleven District Voice of Democracy winners to the Spring Conference. They will arrive at the Marriott East on Friday afternoon/evening. We have a big day planned for them on Saturday: breakfast at the hotel, then a trip to the War Memorial. At the War Memorial they get a tour of the Memorial and weather permitting a tour of the grounds. Before leaving the War Memorial they will have lunch. Of course, Saturday evening is the annual Spring Conference Banquet where they will receive their awards, busy day.

MEMBERSHIP: Today we are over 91% in membership for the Department and ten Post are over 100%; Whiting, Martinsville, Clay City, Bremen, Paoli, Seymour, Batesville, Rolling Prairie, Speedway 1587, and Geneva. Congratulations to those Post, thanks for your hard work. We have another twenty-two Posts over 95%, one of those just needs one more member to be at 100%. Our lowest Post is at 61.73% but that Post Commander has promised me that come June 30, 2023, he will be above 100%, and I believe him! The number one District is the 8th at 92.95, congratulations to them and keep up the good work. It seems everybody is working hard. I know membership is hard, but it is essential. You have all heard it, but membership equals stronger advocacy for Veterans, more support for our communities, more opportunities for benefits for Veterans. When our leaders testify before Congress in Washington or even when we testify before the Indiana General Assembly the number of members behind our words influences the outcome of the legislation. Every Veteran Counts.

If you haven't looked over the Indiana Membership Program, do it now. There are many incentives for members, Post and Districts ready for the taking. IF you become a Legacy or move up a step you could win \$350.00. If you pay your dues by December 29th you could win \$100. If you are a good Recruiter your cash winnings could be \$1325.00. Post and Districts can win cash and Banquet tickets! There is something in the Membership Plan for everybody.

I hope and pray that 2023 is a prosperous year for all of us and our families. I plan to work hard so the Veterans of Foreign Wars can continue to help our Veterans and communities.

Yours in Comradeship,

Richard Leirer, Commander

Department of Indiana VFW









Greeting Comrades,

I hope this finds you well. The holidays are a great time. We are going to family events, work parties, and celebrations at our Post. Despite many myths, suicide rates drop during the holidays. However, after the holidays is when there is change. The weather is cold and dark, we are not as social, and we begin to isolate and the suicide rate starts to increase. Stay in contact with one another after the holidays.

If you notice your fellow veteran or family member is acting outside "the norm": If you know, or suspect, someone is wrestling with feelings of desperation, hopelessness, or <u>suicidal</u> ideation TAKE ACTION.

- Be direct—talk openly and matter-of-factly. Ask if they are thinking about suicide. This will not encourage
 anyone to think about killing themselves. In fact, knowing you are talking about it openly and directly can
 give that person encouragement and builds hope.
- Be willing to listen.
- Be involved and available.
- Take action. Do not leave them alone. Remove items, such as guns or stockpiled pills to reduce access to lethal means.
- Get help from professionals specializing in crisis intervention and suicide prevention. Get to know the resources available in your area.
- Ask them if they are thinking about killing themselves. As uncomfortable as it can be, you may end up saving their life.



Yours in Comradeship,

Sheila Corcoran

Sheila Corcoran Senior Vice Commander Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Indiana









Greetings Comrades,

I am sure you have all been very busy over the last quarter on membership and working towards All-State and All-American priorities. I commend you all on your hard work you have put in this far.

I hope that you were able to spend the holidays where you wanted to spend them. Family comes in all different forms and I hope that you were able to spend time with the ones you chose to. I know that for some of us the holidays are difficult but I hope you know that we are all here for each other.

If you have anything you need from me, please let me know and I will be glad to help you in anyway I am able. I am looking forward to finishing out this year as the best the state has ever been!

Yours in Comradeship

Cory Mahan
Department of Indiana
State Junior Vice Commander









Greetings Comrades,

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and let's look forward to a rewarding 2023.

I urge all Post and District Commander's to look at the Commanders Manual Award Section and start thinking about who in your Post and District deserve to be recognized. Award information will be in the February General Orders.

Keep working on membership and when you bring a new member in show them what the VFW does.

Again, if you need anything please give me call at the State Headquarters or send an email to adj@vfwin.org. Remember "Every Veteran Counts" and NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS than the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Yours in Comradeship,

Becky Murphy State Adjutant











Indiana Military & Veteran Legislative Day

Event Date Tuesday the 10th of January 2023
IMVLD Founder: State Representative John Bartlett
This Year's Legislative Sponsors:

State Representative John Bartlett | State Senator Michael Crider Planning Committee:

Don E Hawkins, Chair | Chad T. Woodburn, CoChair www.VeteransLegislativeDay.com

Vendors Tables Available

The next Indiana Military & Veterans Legislative Day (IMVLD) is Tuesday, the 10th of January 2023, at the Indiana State House

Veterans Service Providers can have their organization represented at this event.

To get a Vendor table, send me an email with your name, organization, email, and contact phone number.

Set up time is from 0730 to 0900 hrs. You must be open by 0900 Hrs.

The program runs from 0900 to 1300 hrs., with opening remarks at 1030 hrs.

We have free parking at the Indianapolis Zoo, and there will be free bus service to and from the State House starting at 0730 hrs. The last pickup from the State House will be at 1345 hrs.

Please get in touch with me at (317) 797-0870 or vscofindiana@gmail.com.

Larry Hearn, Vendors Chairman

Fall Conference 2022-2023

























Fall Conference 2022-2023































Fall Conference 2022-2023











































































































Indiana POW/MIA ceremony





























Indiana Veterans Home Visit



































Indiana Veterans Home Visit

























































Indiana Veterans Home Visit

















Big 10 Conference













Indy Fuel Event



















WinterCofA







































WinterC











































WinterCo































WinterCofA













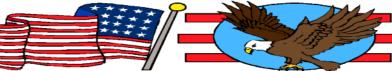
















AGE FROM THE COOK

Greetings Cooties and Cuties!!

Please keep our hospitalized Veterans in your prayers. Our ability to visit our brothers and sisters in the VA Hospital is still hampered by the strict visitation limits placed on us by the VA. We can still keep them "Smiling in beds of white" by donating items (or cash) to VA voluntary Services! Don't forget our Veterans in nursing homes!! I was able to participate in retiring a tattered flag at a Nursing Home on the west side of Indianapolis along with four fellow Veterans! We truly enjoyed the ceremony and visiting with the Veterans in the home.

We are still looking to get at least 2 more Pup Tents in our great State so we can once again get a Grand in Indiana! Keeping our promise to be fruitful and multiply our ranks and once again getting Indiana the recognition of our Supreme with our Grand established once again. Remember, the Military Order of the Cooties is not in competition with the VFW, but an important auxiliary to our great organization. Our membership in the MOC is one of pride in our parent organization and our members are active at the post, district and department levels!

Please notify the CCDB when you get new VFW members signed up! Signing up new VFW members is a primary goal of the MOC!

Recently I was able to conduct a Panty Raid at our MOCA scratch! While getting all the respect, and of course Boo's, I was able to present them with a \$100 donation towards their program goals. Our MOCA has been very active and I passed on our sincere appreciation for the support they offer to us and our Posts!

Please contact me if you would like to get a little fun in your area by starting your own Pup Tent! Either myself or one of my crummy officers would love to take a trip and help you get started!

Our motto "Closer than a brother, busier than a Bee" is so true! Our VFW family is a very special group who truly care for each other and our communities!



Yours in LOTCS,

Larry Patch, Seam Squirrel, Indy Racers Pup Tent 11

Email:lipatch@mail.com (317)450-9408









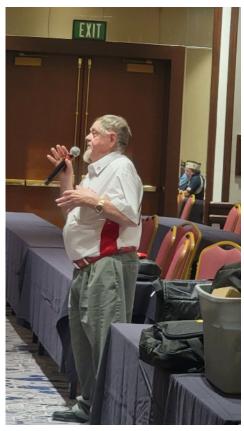


Sootie

Pictures

















MESSAGES FROM OUR AUXILIARY

Hello Indiana Combat Veterans:

It sure has been an exciting year so far. Busy times for sure and visiting Posts throughout the State has been very humbling. Our Posts are filled with so many artifacts and memories. It takes me back when I see some of the pictures, awards, and community acknowledgements.

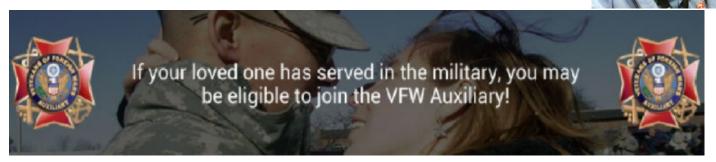
The Auxiliary has been busy! Our visits to the Indiana Veterans Home, and the National Home for Children, was very nice. Been a while since I had a shovel in my hand planting anything, let alone a beautiful tree that will be admired for many years to come. I do want to put this out to any of the "paper" posts in Indiana. If you are interested in

having an Auxiliary join your Post, please get in touch with me. We will be there to talk about the Auxiliary mission, and how we can work together to serve our Veterans, Youth and Communities. It would be so nice if we could install a new Auxiliary in Indiana for 2022/2023.

As you care for your Posts, we are actively working on expanding our Membership and getting those dues collected. As a reminder if Officers are not paid by December 31, 2022, they will be removed from Office. We cannot lose any member!

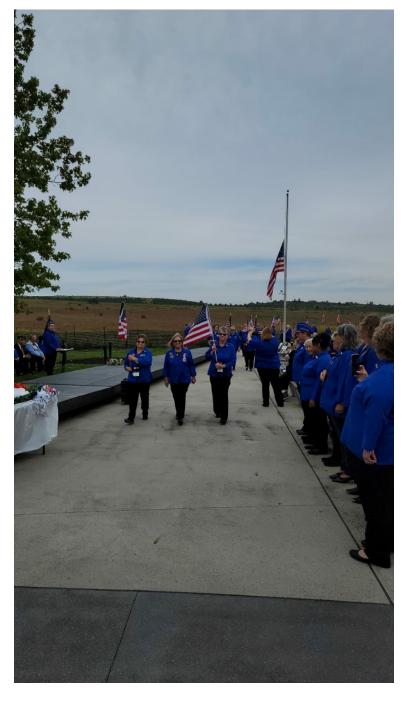
Attending the Military night at the Indiana Fuel Hockey game was exciting and well worth our time. I appreciate the invite for the Auxiliary to attend and look forward to future recruitment events. We all must work "together" to grow in membership. I try to recruit new members for the VFW, and I know that Commander Leirer actively recruits members for our Auxiliaries. We cannot do it alone and we have to work together! I hope you had a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Here's wishing you good times to come and I hope the rest of your winter months are not too hard to face and your days are filled with a lot of happiness and good health.

Harriet L. Figg, President VFW Auxiliary Department of Indiana "On the Road Again for Our Veterans"













Department Auxiliary Photos

















Department Auxiliary Photos























Department Auxiliary Photos









VFW Post 251

commander in Action







100th Anniversary of Post 988





Post 261



POW/MIA Indianapolis











Post 502

commander in Action









POW/MIA @ Post 1587 and @ the War Memorial, Indianapolis





commander in Action



Big 10 Conference



District 9 meeting at Post 1083



Post 1152









VFW National Home









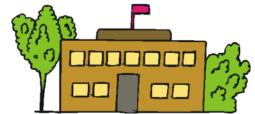
District 1 VFW at River Forest School in New Chicago, Indiana talking with seniors on 11/18/22.













District 1 VFW at River Forest School in New Chicago, Indiana talking with seniors on 11/18/22.





















District 1 VFW, at Hard Rock casino membership drive with Humana representative.





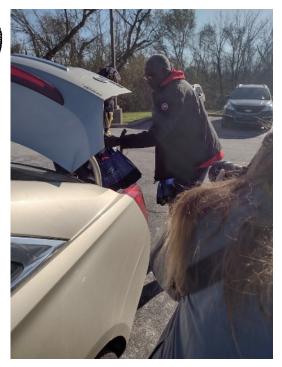












Post 2151 Helping Web House and Chicago Bulls volunteer distribute food for Thanksgiving on 11/22/22 in Merrillville, Indiana.

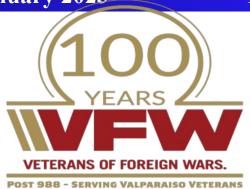








District 1 Poppy Fundraiser.



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 988 100th Year Celebration

On September 19th, 1922, a handful of World War 1 Veterans band together to form Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 988. They had no building to call their own. The National VFW issued them a temporary character VFW Post 988. Working together for years, as World War 2 and the Korean war veterans came home and joined them. They made enough to purchase the land on 705 Roosevelt Road and built our Post. By 1967 National VFW issued them their permanent charter. In that the members decided that the post should bear the name of the last Hoosier to give his life at the end of World War 2, Delbert Bob Hayes. Delbert was also from Valparaiso, Indiana. The permanent Charter was issued as Hayes VFW Post 988.

On September 17th, 2022, we held our 100th Celebration. The State Commander Richard Leirer and District Commander Jorge Perez presented Commander Post 988 Joe Garrison with a Century Award for 100 years servicing veterans and community.

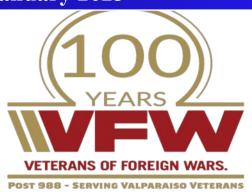




Left to right Post 988 Commander Joe Garrison, State Commander Richard Leirer, and District Commander Jorge Perez







We had our Popcorn Parade Float on display at the post as well.



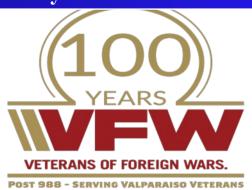




District, State, Post 988 Commander, and SR-Vice Commander center. Post 988 members that helped make this all possible.









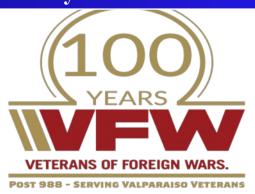
State Commander Richard Leirer and Wife Terry



Left to right District 2 Commander Jorge Perez, Post 988 Commander Joe Garrison, State Commander Richard Leirer, and Post 988 SR-Vice Commander Chuck Stokes











Celebrating VFW Post 988 100 years of serving our veterans and community

Joe Garrison

Joe Garrison

Commander, VFW Post 988

Valparaiso, Indiana 46383









Floyd County VFW Post 3281 recently had a 4 bathroom renovation. Many thanks to the Home Depot in both the New Albany and Clarksville stores for the work. They spent several days at the post putting in new toilets, painting, ceiling tiles, flooring and a few faucets and lighting. Our members had many great compliments. It's always a good thing to work with other businesses in the community.





























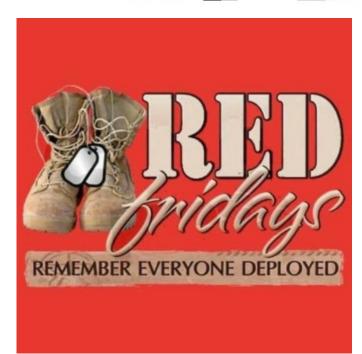


































VFW Post 7119 and it's Auxiliary VOD and Patriot Pen Awards

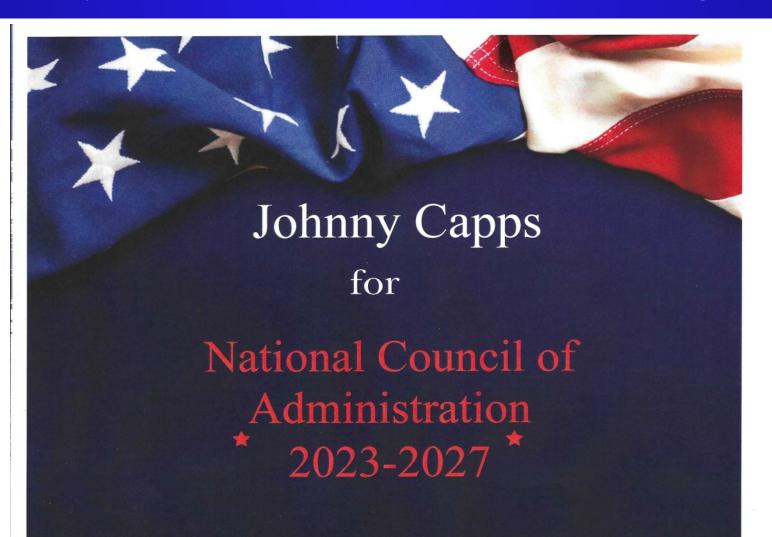








VFW Post 1587 and Auxiliary donated \$15,200.00 to C. A. V. for Suicide Awareness and Prevention!



National Council Member 2019-2023

National Commttee: Resolutions 2019-2020

Budget and Finance 2020-2023

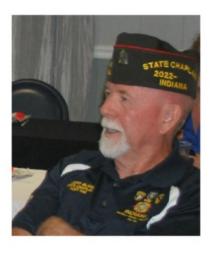


State Commander 2017-2018

All State Post and District Commander

Gold Legacy Life Member I think most of you know me already, but for those who don't My name is Jerry Blake and I am from post 1114 in the 8th District. I am attaching my Bio with more information.

I am running for National Council Member for Indiana against Johnny Capps. Johnny has been the National Council Member for the past four years and has done a great job. I am asking for your support and your vote to allow me to serve you and this great State as the next National Council Member. I also want to let everyone know that win or lose I will not be running for State Chaplain in June, so if your interested in this position please get your information out to the Posts and Districts so they know you want to run for the Chaplains position in June.



AGAIN PLEASE SUPPORT ME IN JUNE AS THE NEXT NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER FOR INDIANA

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

JERRY BLAKE

PAST STATE COMMANDER



Jerry O. Blake
Command Sergeant Major Retired

CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Jerry retired in 1974 after ten years of active military service in the United States Navy with two tours in Viet Nam. He returned to Evansville Indiana and joined the Army Reserves. He spent the next 30 years serving his country in the United States Army Reserves, serving in Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990-1991.

During this time, He worked full time, served as a citizen soldier and graduated from college at Oakland City University with his Organizational Management degree. His civilian career included 30 years as a Human Resources Manager at Indiana Tube Corporation and Flair Molded Plastics. In this role, he was able to help many Reserve and National Guard soldiers through their deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan and adjustments back to their civilian careers. Jerry has been recognized with the following awards for his service to his country and to veterans

- 1 Veteran of the year Award in 2008 for his work with area veterans
- 2 All American Post Commander for VFW Post 1114 in 2010 and 2012
- 3 VFW Dwight D. Eisenhower Award 2012
- 4 State Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars 2016-2017
- 5 Chairman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Big 10 Conference 2017-2018
- 6 Inducted into Indiana Military Hall of Fame November 2017
- 7 Governor Holcomb's Sagamores of the Wabash award January 2017

He also served on several National Committees, such as

POW/MIA committee - By-Laws committee Veterans Service committee - National Security committee









I am seeking your support for the High Office of Indiana Department Chaplain 2023-2024. I am a Gold Legacy Life member from Frank T Strayer VFW Post 1587. I earned my eligibility for the VFW serving as a USAF Security Policeman at Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN from 9/1967 – 9/1968. I retired from the USAF in 1986. I joined the VFW in 1986 and became a life member in 1987. I retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs with 21 years of service in 2007.

Below is a consolidated list of the offices and appointments I have held in our great organization: Prior to transferring my membership to Indiana in 2013, I held the following positions in Alaska: VFW Post 2509: Charter Commander (3 years), Quartermaster (2 years), Service Officer, Trustee, Department Surgeon, Judge Advocate, Jr Vice Commander and Commander (1987-1993) I earned All American AK State Commander (92-93). I was appointed as Department Inspector 94-95. I had multiple appointments to committees at National conventions & Washington conferences. I received an appointment as Vice Chairman for the National VFW Safety committee 93-94. Military Order of the Cooties Pup Tent 2, Artic Fox-1992-95.

Since I have been in Indiana, I have held the following offices at VFW Post 1587:

Commander, Service Officer (4 years), Chaplain (5 years), Trustee (3 years), Canteen Manager (4 years) Post Community Activities Chairman (8 years); National VFW Outstanding Community Service Post (2) I held the following positions in District 11:

District Chaplain 2015-2019; District Community Activities Chairman (5 years); District POW/MIA Chairman (3 years); District VOD/Patriots Pen Chairman

VFW Military Order of the Cooties Pup Tent 11, Indy Racers-Seam Squirrel 2020-2023 Indiana Combat Veteran newsletter editor

I have received 2 appointments as National Aide de Camp.

I have attended all of the VFW National Conventions as a delegate of my post since 2015. I have also attended all Indiana VFW Conferences and Conventions except 1 since 2015.

I have attended 6 Chaplain Workshops at National Conventions. Past National Chaplain Peter Hook put together an outstanding Chaplains Guide which I refer to frequently. I am now an ordained minister. Over the past 5 years I have been called on to perform several funeral services and many Celebrations of Life/Memorial Services. Additionally I have done many grief counseling's. I have the support of my family and my Post in seeking this position. If you have any questions please call or Email me. I am very proud of our organization, and have been active at the Post, District, State and National level. I believe I could be an asset to our organization in the role as your next Department Chaplain.

Yours in LOTCS, Larry J. Patch (317) 450-9408 (ljpatch@mail.com)



Let's share our special events to everyone! I will need all articles, pictures and special event fliers to me by April 21, 2023 for our May 2023 Combat Veteran newsletter! As far as format goes, articles can be in Microsoft word, Email text or Adobe PDF file. Pictures should be in JPEG but I have a pretty large selection of photography programs so I should be able to accommodate most formats. Fliers can be in Word, PDF or any Photo format. Please submit the items for the Newsletter to me at: (ljpatch@mail.com) or send to me at 9034 Eiderdown Way, Indianapolis, IN 46234. If you have any questions please Email me or call me (317)450-9408.

Yours in LOTCS,

Larry J Patch

Larry J Patch

Combat Veteran Editor

MILITARY HUMOR

