



*United We Stand*



# Indiana Combat Veteran

Volume 65 Issue 1

May 2022

Greetings Comrades,

I want to personally thank Larry Patch for taking over as editor and resurrecting our Combat Vet. Well done, Larry!

I can't believe how fast a year has gone by and its summer already. At times it doesn't feel like it, but welcome to Indiana!

It has been a distinct honor and privilege to serve you as your Department Commander and I thank you. The people I have met, the new friends I have made and the memories I will always have will be priceless.

As we close out a successful year, State VFW having its own license plate available around January 2023 and the signing of the memorandum of agreement with the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) so county veteran service officers (CVSO's) will be accredited VFW service officers (SO's) just to name a few. As we start a new year, I want to wish all the new incoming officers the absolute best for a successful year.

I also want to thank Sr Vice Commander Richard Leirer, Jr Vice Commander Sheila Corcoran, Surgeon Cory Mahon, Adjutant Rebecca Murphy, Quartermaster John Reischman, Judge Advocate Johnny Capps and all our district commanders and post commanders for all their hard work this past year.

We have some fantastic speakers for our summer convention, so please plan on attending. I look forward to seeing everyone throughout the convention in the fantastic district hospitality rooms as we support each district and at our awards banquet.

Yours in Comradeship,

Dick Lineberry

Commander

Department of Indiana  
VFW



As I anticipate the start of my year as your Commander I want us to finish strong for Commander Lineberry. His membership team is getting closer everyday, remember Commander Lineberry's duties as Commander are transferred to me on June 4<sup>th</sup> but his membership year continues all the way till the end of June. The Department can make 100% but it will take all of us working doing those buddy checks and talking to those Veterans that are not members, it's never easy but it is very doable.

Just the other day I came across some data that may surprise many of you, we have talked about the 400,000 plus Veterans who live in Indiana but I never realized that close to 300,000 of those Veterans served in a combat zone, making them eligible for the VFW. What it boils down to is we haven't ask enough Veterans to join this great organization. The Department has approximately 26,000 members, that means there are another 274,000 combat Indiana Veterans who are not members!

By the time you are reading this the Department Convention should just be a week or two away, I hope you plan to attend. Commander Lineberry has invited several great speakers and you don't want to miss the Joint Memorial Service where we Honor those who are no long with us, this is a great tradition of the VFW and it is always very touching.

If you haven't heard the price for banquet tickets has been reduced to just \$20.00 per person, that's the lowest I can ever recall! This reduced price is thanks to the sponsorship of Humana of Indiana, and a member of the Auxiliary, Lisa Ward who is the Sales Manager for Humana in Indiana. Thanks Lisa.

Look for a VFW state wide raffle in the mail. The Department is working on the details of bringing back the state wide cash raffle. The raffle was a great fund raiser for many years allowing us to help Veterans in need.

May is a big month in Indiana, the Indy 500 and all the events and celebrations that surround this unique racing event. The race always coincides with Memorial Day one of our most somber holidays, the day we honor and remember the United States military personnel that died in service to our great country. I know most Post have a ceremony in observance of Memorial Day but do you invite your local community, do you involve the children in your community. I believe part of our duty is not only to observe these kinds of holidays – Memorial Day, Veterans Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July but we need to use these events to educate the children in the community as to what they mean and what they represent to our great country.

Have a great summer, be safe. Hopefully we will see you at the convention, June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.

Yours in Comradeship,

Richard Leirer  
Senior Vice Commander  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Indiana



Greetings Comrades,

Spring has sprung and the VFW has been busy! Our Spring conference was a huge success. The VOD and Patriot Pen awards banquet was great. Our VOD winner Elijah Johnson from Spencer placed 15<sup>th</sup> nationally. Thank you to all the chairmen and members for all the hard work to make this happen.

District 1, is at 95.65% in membership, which puts them in 1<sup>st</sup> place for membership in the State. District 9 is in 2<sup>nd</sup> place at 94.88%. Our top two recruiters are Ken Lange from Post 10003 at 24 new members and Steve Milbourn Post 5864 with 23 members. Currently we are at 93.58%, we are down 1806 members from last year. If each of us would recruit, just one member we would make our goals.

When do you stop applying for VA benefits? Hellen Holder Guthrie, originally from Spencer, Indiana was just 24 years old when she joined the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) of the US Navy. After training Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> class headed to Washington, DC where she worked as a cryptographer in the Japanese section until the end of WWII. After the war she moved back to Indianapolis. This year at the age of 104 Hellen was enrolled in VA healthcare. Please don't wait 75 years to apply for your benefits.

For additional information Helen Guthrie please go to <https://www.in.gov/dva/newsroom/the-indiana-vet-view/posts/104-year-old-navy-veteran-recalls-world-war-ii,-life-in-the-waves/>

Get out and get involved in your communities. Please contact me if I can be of service.

Sheila Corcoran  
Junior Vice Commander  
[scorcoran.vfw@gmail.com](mailto:scorcoran.vfw@gmail.com)





Greetings Comrades,

I am often asked to provide various write ups from time to time. As some of you may have noticed, I don't always write for the general orders. I feel like, many times, the same information is stated over and over, and in an effort to reduce that regurgitation, I try to make sure I have a reason for my write ups. With this being a newly revived publication, I wanted to try something a little different.

### **WHAT WE SAY ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING**

I was once a part of a flag retirement ceremony that was being held in conjunction with a local Scout group. The function was great! It involved the local community, and many of the Scouts' parents and even grandparents were in attendance. I firmly believe this is something the VFW should do more often because it makes our organization more visible in the community and shows we are more than just a building for veterans to gather in. While at this event, one of our veterans, while wearing an honor guard uniform, walked in front of a group of Scouts and their parents while smoking. I quickly asked the Comrade to please excuse themselves away from the guests while smoking, or to put the cigarette out. Even though he complied, the veteran was upset because "he had every right to smoke wherever he wanted and he smoked in front of his kids their whole lives, and they turned out fine!" While all of this may be true, we also have to consider the image this conveys to the public.

A Comrade once told me that when they enlisted, they were not asked whether they wanted a smoking barracks or not – they were all smoking. I didn't say anything at the time, but I can also say that I was not asked whether I wanted a smoking barracks or not – they were all NON-smoking. During my time in the military, we were not allowed to walk and smoke while in uniform and were constantly reminded to be very aware of what we do in uniform as it affects the whole organization. The military has changed their rules throughout the years, and I feel our organization needs to change as well. There is nothing wrong with smoking, and each individual has the right to make that decision for themselves. But when we are in public representing the VFW, how we appear, and the image we convey affects more than just the person wearing the shirt or uniform. What if there was a mother who was eligible in the crowd that day? Could seeing this prevent her from becoming a part of our organization? Or what about the



children at the event? Will that image forever be what they associate the VFW with? The VFW is not a chain of bars that do not care about the communities they are in. The VFW is a great organization that supports veterans throughout our communities – and that is the image I hope we all want to portray.

When I'm out in public, I constantly try my hardest to consider what I may be saying while I am silent, and I know I am definitely not perfect – I catch myself doing stupid things pretty regularly. But when I am representing the VFW, I always try to ensure I'm giving the organization the best image I can. The story I used above is just one of many instances where we may be setting an image unintentionally. My goal with sharing this is that when you are out representing the VFW, you take an extra second to ask yourself "how will this look to the community?" And if ever approached to make a change or adjustment to help this image, you don't take it personally. We are all in this together!

Cory Mahan  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Department of Indiana  
State Surgeon



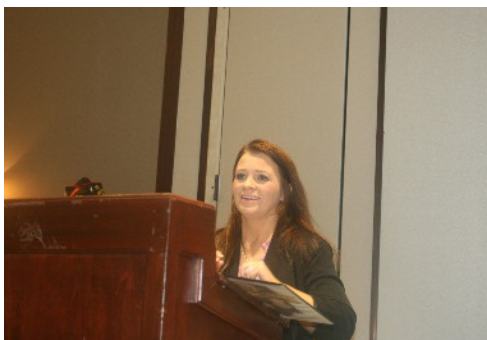


# Commander Lineberry's Testimonial





# Spring Conference Photographs



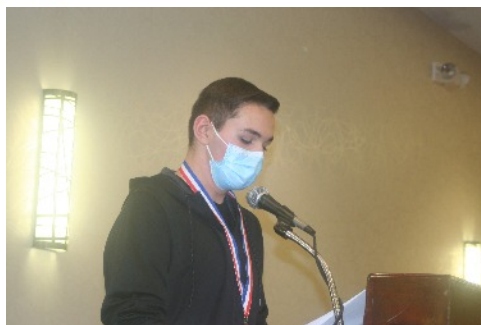


# Spring Conference Photographs





# Spring Conference Photographs





# In Memory of State Chaplain Keiston Holloway

## Home Going Celebration of Keiston R. Holloway



August 19, 1963 ~ January 18, 2022

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run,  
and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."  
Isaiah 40:31

Tuesday January 25, 2022  
11:00 AM  
Goodwin-Sievers Funeral Home  
Vincennes, Indiana

*In Memory*



Keiston R. Holloway, 58, passed away at IU Methodist Hospital on January 18, 2022. Keiston was born in Ripley, TN on August 19, 1963, he was the son of Dorothy Parker and Roy L. Holloway, and accepted Christ at Morning Star Baptist Church in Ripley, TN. Keiston served his country in the United States Army and was the Indiana State Chaplain, 7th District and Post Chaplain for the VFW, as well as a lifetime member of the VFW and a member of the American Legion. He enjoyed golfing, camping, traveling to Panama City Beach, FL and was a huge sports fanatic. Keiston also volunteered in many ways, he was on the Vincennes City Cemetery Board and went to the Ronald McDonald House on a monthly basis just to name a few ways in which he gave back to his community. Keiston always had a smile on his face and was a great inspiration to everyone.



I want to thank District 11 for electing me as Commander for the 2021-2022 year, it is quite an honor. District 11 has done great the last year coming back from Covid-19 with a few minor hiccups.

It has been a very busy time for our District with everyone able to host events again. The Posts, VFW Riders, and our Auxiliaries are doing a great job of working together. A few events that we have been involved include VFW National Convention and the District bus ride to National Children's Home. VFW Post 908 celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> year! That is an amazing accomplishment! VFW Post 98 held a memorial service for State Chaplain Keiston Holloway. The service was well attended and a very somber time for many of us. VFW Post 2839 hosted a dinner and ceremony honoring Vietnam Veteran Recognition Day. VFW Post 1587 had another awesome year with their Suicide Awareness fundraiser donating \$15,870.00 to "The Dark Side of Service" for their Suicide Awareness and prevention program! VFW Post 1587 will be having their 6th annual Suicide Awareness Walk on Jun 18th and the Hot Rods for Hero's car show on 18 Sept. The Riders groups are starting up their activities with the weather getting nice.

The veterans I talk with want more than just sitting around the Post. They want activities for the kids, communication, and community involvement. Social media is not just a must but a requirement now for All-American i.e. web pages, electronic newsletters, and Face Book. If your Post doesn't have a Face Book page, create one. Once you get these up and running it is imperative to keep them current. Complete the VFW core programs and be involved in your community, if you do this your membership will grow. I would like to see all the Posts in our district support each other. When you have a Post/Auxiliary function please create a flier. Forward the flier to State, District and other Posts. We will post on our Facebook pages to get the word out.

Lets Finish out the year strong! I am confident that we will continue to increase our membership as the summer approaches.

Yours in Comradeship,

David Barnes

District 11 Commander





# DISTRICT 11 PHOTOGRAPHS



VFW Post 2839 Vietnam Veterans Day Program



District 11 Testimonial @ VFW Post 1587



VFW Post 908  
Celebrated  
their 100<sup>th</sup>  
Year!!



Matthew M. "Fritz" Mihelcic, Commander-in-Chief  
and Indiana line officers at the Speedway!



# MESSAGE FROM THE COOTIES

Greetings Cooties & Cuties!!

We are continuing our quest to get 2 more Pup Tents in Indiana so we can once again have a Grand (Department) in our State! I think we are well on our way as my fellow conspirators and I are almost there with a new Pup Tent in Evansville!!

For those who are not familiar with the MOC & MOC Auxiliary, here is what we are and what we do:

The Military Order of the Cootie of the United States is a non-profit Veterans Service Organization. We are known as **"The Honor Degree of the VFW"** and our members are comprised of the officers and leadership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Membership in the MOC is recognition of outstanding service to the VFW and its programs.

Founded in New York City on September 17, 1920, the MOC is based on the principals of good humor and fun. Over the past ninety years, the Cooties have provided social and entertainment programs to members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. as an Ancillary unit within the organization. Since 1923, our first year as a part of the VFW, the Cooties have worked hard to further the aims of the VFW while adding to it the frivolity known as Military Humor to the serious work of our parent organization. What would ultimately become known as the VFW National Home for Children, a sprawling campus of homes located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, started out as the brainchild of the MOC. We firmly believe in caring for the widows and children of our Armed Forces. Literally millions of dollars have been raised and donated to help "our kids" over our history; starting with the library, the swimming pool, the Fire Department, and a host of other projects designed to make life fun and educational for the children during their stay at the National Home.

With the outbreak of World War II, the Cooties recognized a need to entertain hospitalized troops and veterans during their confinement and rehabilitation at Veterans Administration facilities throughout the country. Our service program is described as a directive to **"Keep 'em Smiling in Beds of White."** Each year the Cooties volunteer thousands of hours of time worth over ten million dollars to DVA Hospitals and domiciliaries throughout the United States. This work, in addition to the hours of service donated as active members of the VFW, set the members of the MOC apart as Foreign Service and Combat Veterans who are fully engaged in their communities, and their fellow comrades in arms and their families. Our distinctive red hat and unusual uniform sets us apart and draws attention to the plight of those less fortunate than ourselves. We sacrifice a little of ourselves to bring a smile or a laugh during what is normal.

Please Email me ([ljpatch@mail.com](mailto:ljpatch@mail.com)) if you are interested in starting your own Pup Tent or would like to join "Indy Racers" Pup Tent 11, 5139 W 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Speedway, IN 46224.

Yours in LOTCS,

Larry Patch

Seam Squirrel



**MESSAGES FROM OUR AUXILIARY**

Harriet L. Figg, Senior Vice President  
VFW Auxiliary  
Department of Indiana

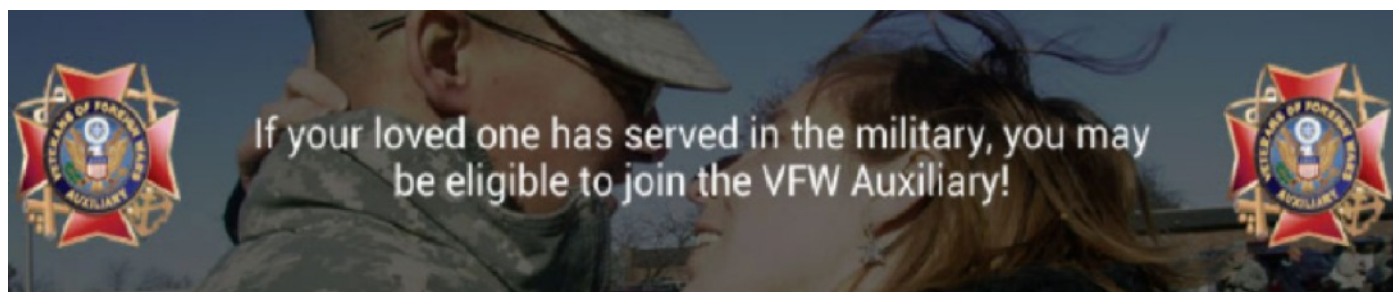
Hello Indiana Combat Veterans:

As the Department of Indiana VFW Auxiliary, Sr Vice President, it has been a wonderful journey for the last five years, and it has been a journey that has enabled me to meet a lot of caring people that work hard day in and day out to help our Veterans, their families, the Community in which they live, and our children. I'm so proud of our Indiana VFW Auxiliary members.

I joined the VFW Auxiliary under the eligibility of my big Brother, Robert E. Wall, USAF Retired, and a Viet Nam Veteran. We were from a small town of 800 people, growing up with wonderful parents and a total of seven children. A big family always means that the "baby" gets away with everything. At least that is what I was told throughout the years. The John Brighton VFW Post 7850 in Gosport is my home. It has been there since 1946 and I became an Auxiliary member in 1977. It was an honor to serve as Auxiliary President under the direction of my big Brother as Commander a few times. I'm so proud of our VFW Post and I'm also proud that our Auxiliary will be celebrating 75 years in December of 2022. It is so great that this is happening in my year as Department President.

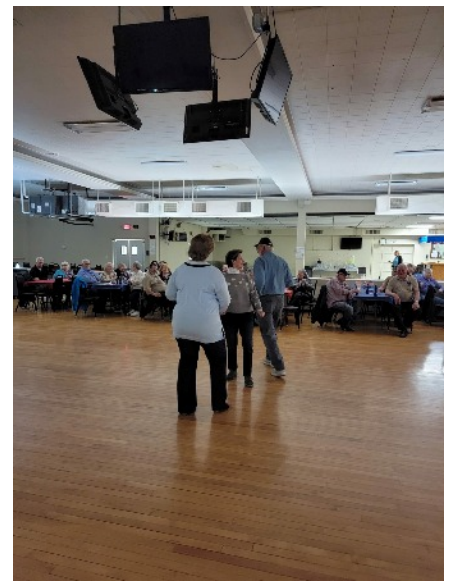
The journey for 2022-23 will be challenging for all of us. I truly hope the big covid stays at bay so we all can be "On the Road Again" for our Veterans. We must work together to retain members, gain new members, and work together to complete our missions. As a VFW and it's Auxiliary, we do better when we work together. Our work together will make Indiana a welcome place and let our Veterans know we are here for them. We will continue to serve our Veterans and let our communities know we exist and teach our children about patriotism and integrity in our American way.

Thank you to each and everyone of you for your service and sacrifice to me and our Country and I truly look forward to 2022-2023. I'll see you down the road, I'm sure.





# PRESIDENT LINDA MISURACA'S TESTIMONIAL PHOTO'S



## VFW Commemorates National Borinqueneers Day

The storied Army regiment from Puerto Rico celebrated for its many accomplishments

WASHINGTON (April 13, 2022) — Today the VFW joins a grateful nation in commemorating National Borinqueneers Day, named in honor of the brave Soldiers of the 65th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army.

Nicknamed during the Korean War for the original inhabitants of the island of Puerto Rico, the Borinqueneers have a long and storied history dating back to its inception as the first all-Hispanic military unit in 1899. Since then, the 65th would go on to serve with distinction in defending the Panama Canal Zone during WWI and saw action in North Africa, France and Germany during WWII.

During the Korean War, the 65th Infantry was heralded for their exceptional courage, tenacity and sacrifice. They were awarded battle participation credits for nine campaigns, lauded for their bravery at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, and credited with the last battalion-sized bayonet charge in U.S. Army history. Among their numerous awards for valor from the Korean War are two Presidential Unit Citations, 2,771 Purple Heart Medals, 606 Bronze Stars, 256 Silver Stars, and ten Distinguished Service Crosses, one of which was upgraded to the Medal of Honor in 2014.

In April 13, 2016, the Borinqueneers were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for their many contributions to the Armed Forces of the United States. In January 2021, members of Congress passed legislation making National Borinqueneers Day law, celebrating this valorous unit for the first time April 13 last year.

Today, the legacy elements of the 65th Infantry Regiment continue to serve where and when it's called upon as part of the Puerto Rican National Guard.

From all of the 1.5 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary, we salute all Borinqueneers, both past, present and future, as well as all who serve in the U.S. military from Puerto Rico. Thank you for all you've done and continue to do for our great nation.







## 2022 VFW Frank Strayer Days

Participant Housing Accommodations  
Quoted rates are valid May 26<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> 2022

**Note:** High occupancy dates, make reservations in advance.

**\*Note:** Be sure to request the, "VFW Frank Strayer Days", Rate.

### Host Hotel



Located Off I-70 East at Exit 156A, (Left at the light)

[https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/hotels/discover-best-western/we-care-clean.html](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/hotels/discover-best-western/we-care-clean.html)

**Best Western Classic Inn**  
**Event Rate \$104.99 + tax**  
**765-939-9500**

Discover contemporary style, comfortable accommodations and convenient amenities, such as complimentary breakfast, indoor pool and free Wi-Fi, so you can focus on what matters most – a restful and productive stay.

### Co Host Hotel



Located Off I-70 East at Exit 156A, (Right at the light)

<https://www.motel6.com/en/home/policies/covid19.html>

**Motel 6 Richmond**  
**Event Rate \$64.99**  
**765-966- 6559**

A comfortable, pet friendly environment. Dine nearby at Cracker Barrel. Relax and enjoy free Wi-Fi and morning coffee in modern, smoke-free guest rooms.

**Wayne County CTB Reservation Assistance**  
**Call 765-935-8687**

**OR Email: [welcomecenter@visitrichmond.org](mailto:welcomecenter@visitrichmond.org)**

**Visitor Guide Link:** [https://www.visitrichmond.org/files/pdfs/visitors\\_guide.pdf](https://www.visitrichmond.org/files/pdfs/visitors_guide.pdf)

**Social Media Link:** <https://www.facebook.com/VisitRichmondIN>





# IDVA Annual Golf Event SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## MAY 13, 2022

**ALL  
PROCEEDS  
TO SUPPORT**



**SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE**



**BROOKSHIRE** 12120 Brookshire Pkwy  
Carmel, IN 46033

**Become a Sponsor:**  
Send sponsorship request to  
[outreach@dva.in.gov](mailto:outreach@dva.in.gov)

GL#011664



Women of Indiana  
**INVet**  
Who are Veterans



### RED | \$5,000 TITLE SPONSOR

- Includes a four-person team
- Sign-up & Reception Signs
- Plaque
- IDVA Newsletter Spotlight
- Guest Speaker
- Dedicated hole sponsorship
- Vendor tent

### WHITE | \$1,000 (FILLED)

- Dedicated Hole Sponsorship
- Player Cart Sponsorship
- Beer Cart Sponsorship

### BLUE | \$200

- Hole Sponsorship

### SILVER | \$1,000

- Awards Reception Dinner Sponsorship

**9TH ANNUAL  
CHARITY GOLF  
OUTING  
MAY 13, 2022**

**ALL PROCEEDS  
TO SUPPORT**



**Become a Sponsor:**  
Send sponsorship request to  
[outreach@dva.in.gov](mailto:outreach@dva.in.gov)

- Tee Time: 12 p.m.
- Complimentary Snacks and Beverages
- Sign up your Foursome today
- Awards Dinner: 5 p.m.
- Beer Carts
- Raffle Prizes and Giveaways
- Bourbon Tasting



**BROOKSHIRE** 12120 Brookshire Pkwy  
Carmel, IN 46033

GL#011664

# Deadline for September Indiana Combat Veteran articles/pics is 26 August!!

Let's share our special events to everyone! I will need all articles, pictures and special event fliers to me by August 26, 2022 for our September 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). If you have any questions please contact me at (317) 450-9408 or Email me (ljpatch@mail.com).

Yours in LOTCS,

Larry Patch

9034 Eiderdown Way

Indianapolis, IN 46234





# Honoring fallen Officer Breann Leath



## HONORING BREANN LEATH

WEDNESDAY APRIL 27, 2022  
SOUTHPORT HIGH SCHOOL

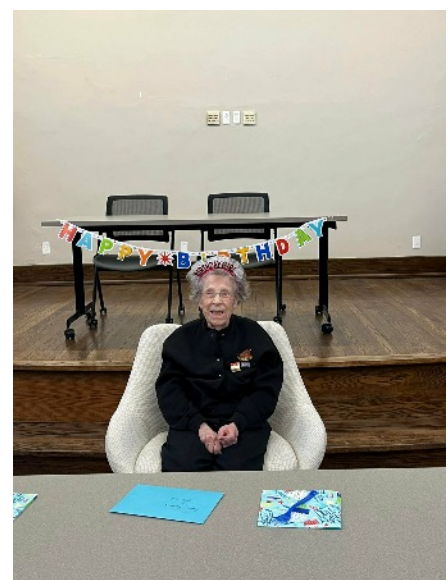
6:00 PM	Introduction with Superintendent Pat Mapes
6:05 PM	National Anthem with IMPD Lt Bryan Wolfe
6:08 PM	Opening Prayer with New Haven Missionary Baptist Church Bishop C. McClain Jr.
6:10 PM	Guest Speaker Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett
6:15 PM	Guest Speaker The Ardizzone Group President & CEO Anthony Ardizzone
6:20 PM	Guest Speaker Indianapolis City-County Councillor Paul Annee
6:25 PM	Guest Speaker Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Leath
6:40 PM	Guest Speaker Southport Police Chief Tom Vaughn
6:45 PM	Check Presentation with VFW State Commander Dick Lineberry

Officer Breann Leath, EOW 4/9/20, Indianapolis Police Department.





Commander Lineberry visited the IDVA to wish a Happy Birthday to Helen Eloise Guthrie, 105 yrs young, WWII Navy Veteran. Governor Holcomb has made Helen Admiral of the Indiana Navy!





# MILITARY HUMOR

## IN-COUNTRY



## DEALING WITH **SERIOUS** ADVERSITY!

The standard US ammo belt was 27 feet long (nine yards) this is where the expression "the whole nine yards" comes from



During WW2, the Germans built a fake wooden airfield with wooden aircraft, vehicles, and hangars in order to trick the Allies. The RAF, having known of the secret project for months, patiently waited for them to finish and then dropped a single fake wooden bomb on it







# EVERYTHING WE DO, WE DO FOR VETERANS.®

**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.®

Learn more or join at [vfw.org](https://vfw.org).

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®**