



NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

December 2017



Veterans Day 2017

The annual Veterans Day parade was held in Kearney. Several VFW members took part in the celebration. Clockwise from top right are District 11 Commander Ken Yount and District 13 Commander Jim Lutz. Below them is Honor Guard and Life member of VFW Post 759 John Kruse. Member of VFW Post 759 in Kearney and WWII veteran Robert Peterson. Robert earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Lastly, Genevieve Wietjes flies the flag around the bricks.

All photos were taken by Chad Mefferd.



Challenge Is On

Lincoln Post 4626 challenges your Post to help match their \$20,000 donation to Heroes into Homes. There is a wonderful and timely opportunity for your Post to make an impact that has importance, is sorely needed, and will have a permanent, positive result for some of Nebraska's homeless Veterans.



Heroes Into Homes is a 501(c)3 non-profit Veteran Service Organization specifically formed to help homeless Nebraska Veterans. They are providing new and gently used furniture and furnishings for the 70 unit apartment complex that is nearing completion on the Lincoln VA Campus.

Heroes Into Homes needs your help to accomplish this enormous task. We are challenging all Nebraska VFW Posts to get involved. To make a donation please send your Post's check payable to 'Heroes into Homes' and mail to:

Heroes into Homes

VFW Department of Nebraska

PO Box 4552

Lincoln, NE 68504



**Sr. Vice
Commander
Gary E Bush Sr.**

Happy Holidays New and Old Friends

Well the holiday season is upon us and another year is about to come to an end. I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving. And enjoyed their time with family and friends.

I have been busy getting my list of appointments together for my upcoming term. Linda Vogel and myself have enjoyed putting on skits at the last 4 homecoming events and we hope everyone has enjoyed them.

My big announcement is that I had a young lady ask me about a month ago about the VFW. We started talking and I am proud to announce that Ogallala Post #3755 has a new member and that new member is our first female veteran to join since we chartered. She is 26 years old and served in the Army National Guard as a medic in Iraq where she was for 9 months. She has already served as part of the Color Guard for soup and bean feed on Veterans Day and is looking forward to other activities.

I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a slam damn happy and safe New Year. See you all in February at Mid Winter.



State Commander Larry Gerlt, State Senior Vice Commander Gary E Bush Sr., State Junior Vice Commander Joe Smith, State Adjutant/Quartermaster John Lieboack, Assistant Adjutant Dave DuBois, State Judge Advocate Danny Kramer, State Surgeon Jerry Chlopek, Chaplain Jerry Ludwig, Inspector Roger Broeker, Chief of Staff Sammy DeJohn, Past State Commander Doug Whitaker and office staff Jody Sullivan and Trudie Hammers.

Veterans were given boots, coats and other goods at Grace University in Omaha. The event is held every year and VFW Posts and Auxiliaries participate to make the event a success.



VFW Post 9675 in Papillion passed out over 60 pairs of boots that they purchased to homeless veterans. The Post Commander Ernest Garcia is pictured far left loading the boots. District 10 Commander Chris Beatty is on the right. Pictured in the lower photo left to right is Chris Beatty, 2 volunteers from the G.I. forum, Post Service Officer Jack Bauerle, Ernest Garcia and Post Adjutant Faron Myers.



Stand Down for Homeless Veterans on November 17th



VFW Post 3421 and the Auxiliary to the Post in Omaha packed 24 bags of new items donated from the surrounding community for it's annual contribution to the stand down. Making a final inspection of the care packages are (left to right) Auxiliary Treasurer Donna Monaghan, President Edith Kortus, Conductor Russell Leaming, Volunteer Gaylen Donehoo and the Quartermaster/Adjutant Jim Grove.



Gesture of Thanks

On Veterans Day, the Auxiliary to Post 131 gathered together to present certificates, flags and poppies to veterans. Holmes Lake Manor in Lincoln has 26 veterans residing there.



VFW Foundation Community Support Grant Still Accepting Applications

VFW community service projects are extremely important and shouldn't be hindered by budgetary limitations. In an effort to help VFW Posts and Auxiliaries succeed in serving their communities, the VFW Foundation - the official 501(c)(3) charity of the VFW - established the VFW Foundation Post/VFW Auxiliary Community Support Grant to help fund local community service projects.

Available to any VFW Post or Auxiliary, a VFW Foundation Post/VFW Auxiliary Community Support Grant will provide up to \$1,000 for performing important and needed qualifying outreach projects in your community! With an easy and streamlined application process, Posts and Auxiliaries can expect to receive a decision within thirty (30) days of the application submission.

99 Posts and 50 Auxiliaries have received grants so far during this 2017 grant cycle.



Lux Middle School Honors Veterans

Friday the 3rd of November kicked off Veterans Day celebrations at Lincoln Public Schools. Lux has had a program for over 20 years. The assembly included a presentation by Alexis Petersen, pictured above with her grandfather Danny Petersen who is the VFW State Photographer. 8th grade

students also got to hear stories from several veterans after the assembly and the Lincoln Color Guard presented the colors.



Honoring Fallen Comrade

Several VFW members were on hand on November 3rd at the Delta airlines air cargo terminal. This is the first of many honor guard ceremonies being performed by VFW members. Members come to the terminal whenever a body is being sent to the forensics lab at Offutt Air Force Base. The unidentified remains are those of World War II veterans who were buried in a German cemetery which is closing. Each casket is escorted by a military soldier from the time it leaves Germany until it has reached it's final destination at Offutt. Pictured from left to right in the top photo: VFW State Commander Larry M. Gerlt, VFW Post members from VFW Post 1581 Tom Bizzarri, Sr., and Nathan Sharpnack, VFW State Quartermaster John Liebsack, VFW Post 2704 service officer Vern Campbell, the driver from John A. Gentleman Mortuary and military escort John Malhalm. Second photo: Military escort John Malhalm, State Commander Larry M. Gerlt, Post 1581 members Tom Bizzarri, Sr. and Nathan Sharpnack, State Quartermaster John Liebsack and Post 2704 Service Officer Vern Campbell. Photos taken by VFW Post 2704 Auxiliary member Bonnie M. Gerlt.



Teacher Instilling Patriotism

District 13 Commander Jim Lutz presented the 2016-17 Citizen Teacher of The Year for grades 6 thru 8 for District 13 an award. Stacy Bean received her award at the 2017 Veterans Program at Horizon Middle School in Kearney on November 9th. Mrs. Bean teaches at Horizon and represents an entire team of outstanding educators. She also coordinates the Veterans program at Horizon.



Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Nebraska Tentative Schedule of Events Midwinter Conference The Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel

Thursday, February 1st, 2018

3:00 TO 5:00 PM REGISTRATION AT THE HOTEL AND CHECK IN



Friday, February 2nd, 2018

6:00 TO 9:00 AM TICKETED BREAKFAST FOR REGISTERED HOTEL GUESTS (HAWTHORNE)

7:30 AM REGISTRATION AT THE HOTEL AND CHECK IN

7:45 AM BUS LEAVES HOTEL FOR STATE CAPITOL (EAST EXIT)

8:00 AM LEGISLATIVE MEETING AT THE CAPITOL

10:45 AM BUS LEAVES HOTEL FOR STATE CAPITOL TOUR & GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

11:00 & 11:15 AM BUS LEAVES CAPITOL FROM LEGISLATIVE MEETING FOR THE HOTEL

NOON LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

NOON STUDENTS AND FAMILIES LUNCHEON AT THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

1:00 PM STUDENTS AND FAMILIES BUS LEAVES FOR THE HOTEL

1:15 TO 3:00 PM OPEN VFW INFORMATION SESSION (ARBOR 1)

3:15 PM STUDENTS, PARENTS AND DISTRICT COMMANDERS AND PRESIDENTS MEET
DOWNSTAIRS TO LINE UP. (OLIVE BRANCH)

3:30 PM VOD & PATRIOT PEN "PARADE OF WINNERS" (LANCASTER BALLROOM 1,2,3)

6:30 PM VOD & PATRIOT PEN BANQUET (GRAND BALLROOM A,B,C)

Saturday, February 3rd, 2018

6:00 TO 9:00 AM TICKETED BREAKFAST FOR REGISTERED HOTEL GUESTS (HAWTHORNE)

9:00 AM JOINT MEETING (LANCASTER BALLROOM 4,5,6)

NOON LUNCH ON YOUR OWN/PAST COMMANDERS & PRESIDENTS LUNCH (ARBOR 1)

1:00 PM RESUME VFW COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION & AUXILIARY MEETINGS

Calendar of Events

December 2017

15 Patriots Pen, and VOD Entry to Department

15 Teachers entry to Department

24 Christmas Eve

25 Christmas Day

January 2018

(T-3) Trustee Quarterly Report to Department (Oct 1 to Dec 31)

1 Cut off (Mid Winter Conference Feb 1-3, 2018)

1 Top Membership District Commander – Mid Winter

1 Inspection --- 100% District

1 Public Servants Awards (EMT;FIRE;LAW) to Department

1 Final deadline Membership Chairman to Department (5 points)

14 Dist 6 mtg in Fairbury at 1:00 at Post 3113 Auxiliary same time and place VOD & PP program to follow mtg and lunch to follow.

14 Dist 7 mtg in Lyons Post 7998 to host at the Community Center at 1:30, Auxiliary Same time and place, lunch too at 12:00.

15 Patriot's Pen, VOD and Teacher summaries to Department

16 Final deadline 20 Questions to Department (5 points)

21 Dist 4 mtg in North Platte Post 1504 to host, \$7.50 reg fee, lunch to follow. Auxiliary same time and place.

21 Dist 9 mtg in Yutan at 2:00 Post 9844 to host lunch will be provided.

February 2018

10 Norfolk Veterans Home Valentine's Day Party 2:00 pm 600 E Benjamin Ave Norfolk, NE

11 Grand Island Veterans Home Valentine's Day Party 2:00 pm 2300 W. Capital Ave Grand Island, NE

March 2018

1 Eagle Scout Entry to Post

December Calendar Winners...

1	\$40.00	Sharon	Cooper	2742
2	\$40.00	Deryl	Reed	2152
3	\$40.00	Dan	Kristensen	811
4	\$40.00	Tim	Sorsen	481
5	\$40.00	VFW 10727	Aux	92
6	\$40.00	Mary	Svoboda	3503
7	\$100.00	Paula	Wohlers	1562
8	\$40.00	Phyllis	Ficker	2897
9	\$40.00	Charles	Mulligan	81
10	\$40.00	Darrel	Claus	1874
11	\$40.00	Patty	Miller	512
12	\$40.00	Brad	Scott	3169
13	\$40.00	Pat	Hladky	3501
14	\$40.00	Larry	Philbrick	1111
15	\$40.00	Ed	Scwartz	2898
16	\$40.00	Jim	Manes	538
17	\$40.00	Nelson	Prager	1323
18	\$40.00	Casey's		1014
19	\$40.00	Jerry	Winkler	2104
20	\$40.00	Dustin	Schwenka	893
21	\$40.00	Jon	Modelski	3727
22	\$40.00	John	Hoebing	3033
23	\$40.00	Mary	Svoboda	3516
24	\$40.00	Adams Bank & Trust		1335
25	\$40.00	Carl	Schrat	2859
26	\$40.00	Adams Bank & Trust		1335
27	\$40.00	Steve	Callahan	2975
28	\$40.00	Thresa	Pendelton	3853
29	\$40.00	Rick	Heckenlively	1726
30	\$40.00	Chris	Beaty	2752
31	\$40.00	Chet	Graham	870

We would love to hear what is going on at your posts as well as communities.....

Send articles to
 Department of NE VFW
 John Liebsack
 PO BOX 4552
 Lincoln, NE 68504
 Email: johnl@vfwne.org



Our Core Values:

- Always put the interests of our members first
- Treat donors as partners in our cause
- Promote patriotism
- Honor military service
- Ensure the care of veterans and their families
- Serve our communities
- Promote a positive image of the VFW
- Respect the diversity of veteran opinions

**COME ONE
 COME ALL**

Now is the time to make your travel plans and hotel reservations for Mid Winter. Please call Department Headquarters and 402-464-0674.



Nebraska Membership as of December 7th

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	422	6	5	95	528	636	83.01%
District Totals		3	1065	2	7	164	1238	1357	91.23%
District Totals		4	796	0	2	119	917	1058	86.67%
District Totals		6	890	7	10	171	1078	1172	91.97%
District Totals		7	764	8	4	164	940	1077	87.27%
District Totals		9	1393	20	6	255	1674	1885	88.80%
District Totals		10	3260	65	73	509	3907	4311	90.62%
District Totals		11	811	7	11	148	977	1055	92.60%
District Totals		13	885	6	1	130	1022	1119	91.33%
District Totals		15	683	0	1	97	781	838	93.19%
District Totals		99	615	25	4	123	767	992	77.31%
State Totals			11584	146	124	1975	13829	15500	89.21%