



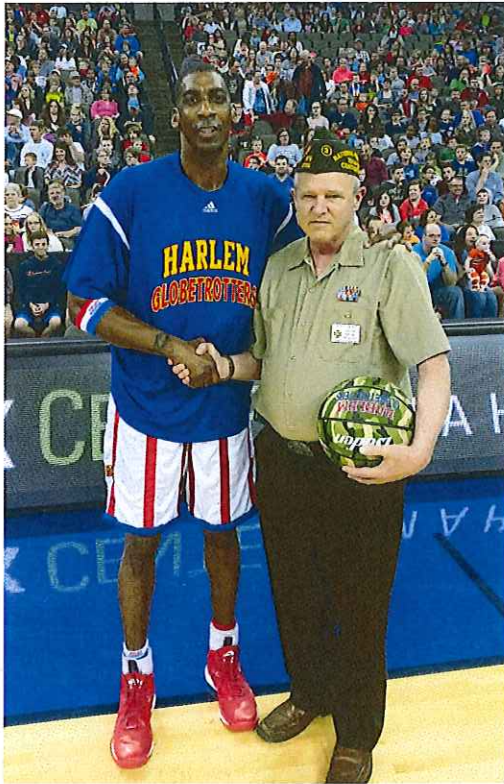
NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

May 2015

Issue # 19



On April 18th MSgt Larry M. Gerlt, USAF Ret. was honored as the Harlem Globe Trotter Home Town Hero. MSgt Gerlt's medals include the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Force Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster and one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, and Korean Defense Service Medal. MSgt Gerlt retired from the United States Air Force on 1 Oct 1992 after twenty four years active duty.

Sons of the American Revolution Award

April 16th was the Chancellor's Review Ceremony. The Veterans of Foreign Wars awards for the 2014-2015 academic year were given out. Nebraska National Councilman Dan Petersen presented the awards to

CDT Gavin M. Fusco, CDT Charles T. Walet, IV and MIDN Aaron B. Jorgensen.





Kansas Job Fair April 22nd

Membership Chairman Jim Pierce and Quartermaster/Adjutant John Liebsack attended the Chamber of Commerce Job Fair at Fort Riley. The event was well attended. Hundreds of men and women who will be seeking employment were an opportunity to recruit new members to join our wonderful organization.

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Over two dozen cities and towns claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. While Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day.



Remember -
our fallen heroes.
They are the reason
that we are free.

Regardless of the exact date or location of its origins, one thing is clear – Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. It was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his [General Order No. 11](#). "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.



April 16th at Northeast High School in Lincoln the Jr. ROTC Awards were presented by Merle Thompson, District 9 Quartermaster. Pictured, Cadet Amber Wendt accepts her award. Dan Petersen was on hand and took pictures.




Checks went out in the District Meeting packets for the year's payout for the Skill Touch gaming machines in the District. The check amount represents 1% of the profit for all of the machines in that District. Thank you to all that participate in this program, may you continue to prosper.




YOUR VFW POST MEMBERS CAN TURN IN A LEAD FOR A BUSINESS THAT IS INTERESTED IN SKILL TOUCH – SKILL GAMING. IF THIS LEAD BECOMES AN INSTALLED SKILL TOUCH – SKILL GAMING TERMINAL IN THE BUSINESS, THE POST WILL GET 10% OF THE NET PROFIT THAT THE TERMINAL(S), AT THAT BUSINESS LOCATION PRODUCE. THIS WILL HELP FUND LOCAL POSTS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS, OPERATIONS. ETC. LOCAL POSTS WILL BE ABLE TO VIEW ALL SKILL TOUCH ACTIVITY OF THEIR BUSINESSES VIA THE INTERNET. For more information Contact:

Dr. Steven Youngberg – CGT
 Sales Consultant – (Creative Game Technologies, LLC)
 Email: SalesAtCGT@gmail.com
 Telephone: 402-669-5123


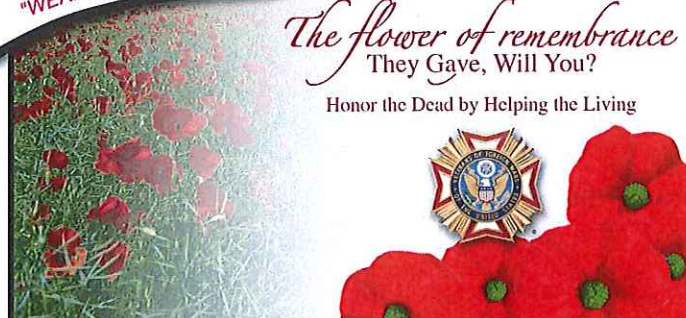
REMEMBER:
 Show your *support*
any time of the year by
distributing Buddy Poppies.



"BUDDY" POPPY
 "WEAR IT PROUDLY"



The flower of remembrance
 They Gave, Will You?
 Honor the Dead by Helping the Living

ANNUAL NEBRASKA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS GOLF TOURNAMENT 2015

September 4, 2015 (Friday)
Willow Lakes Golf Club

1PM Shotgun Start
12301 South 25th St., Bellevue NE

Willow Lakes is the only Robert Trent Jones designed course in Nebraska

Format: Four Person Texas Scramble

*Cost: (\$80.00) Per Person Money raised goes towards New Buses needed for the Veterans
Homes and the MAP Program

Entry fee includes: Golf/Golf Cart
FoodFlag Prizes**Door Prizes**

Questions or for reservations: call Joe Smith (402-661-9875)
Or email: vfwgolfhack@cox.net

Mailing address: Joe Smith
1416 Betz Rd
Bellevue, NE 68005

Sign up early: Entry Deadline 21 AUG 2015

Soft spikes or soft soled shoes only
Golf appropriate attire

Lunch will be served at the course before we tee off.

*AGF Holders (\$65.00, E1 – E4 \$75.00)

Clip and Mail To: Joe Smith; 1416 Betz Rd; Bellevue, NE 68005
Make checks payable to: VFW Post 2280 (Memo VFW GOLF)

Names: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Entry fee enclosed: \$ _____ (\$80.00 per person, \$320.00 per team)(Tax deductible)

Total remitted \$ _____

(sports)

94th ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
 DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
 JUNE 4-7, 2015

NORFOLK LODGE & SUITES, DIVOT CENTER; NORFOLK, NEBRASKA

Thursday, June 4, 2015

(Training meetings TBA are open to Ladies Auxiliary)

2:30-4:00 P.M.

QM school: Trustee reporting, Bonds and online program reporting; website information; Skill Touch update; Service Officer school (Nebraska Room)

Friday, June 5, 2015

8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Registration (Scrapbooks, Poppy Display)

8:00-11:30 A.M.

Delegate registration

8:00-9:00 A.M.

Council Meeting (tentative Rooms B & C)

9:30-11:30 A.M.

Convention opening session

11:45 A.M.

Past Commanders Lunch
(All Post, District, State and new Commanders)

1:00-2:30 P.M.

Joint Session (Please be prompt!) (tentative Rooms B & C)

1:00-5:00 P.M.

Delegate registration

2:45-4:45 P.M.

Reconvene VFW meeting-nomination of Officers 1st call

5:30 P.M.

Joint Memorial Service

7:30 P.M.

Poppy Display Judging

Saturday, June 6, 2015

8:00 A.M.-12 Noon

Registration and Delegate registration

8:00 A.M.

Resume Meeting

9:45 A.M.

Break

10:00 A.M.

Guest Speakers

12 Noon

Lunch on your own

1:15 P.M.

Resume Meeting - Election of Officers

6:00-7:00 P.M.

No Host Cocktails

7:00 P.M.

Banquet

Sunday, June 7, 2015

9:00 A.M.

Joint Installation

Immediately following.

New Council Meeting

**LADIES AUXILIARY VFW
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA**

JUNE 4 – 7, 2015

Divots Conference Center
4200 West Norfolk Avenue
Norfolk, Nebraska
(402) 844-2980

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2015

3:00 p.m.	Audit Place TBD
8:00 p.m.	Floor Practice

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2015

8:00 a.m.	Convention Registration
8:00 a.m.	Convention Credentials Registration opens
8:00 a.m.	Council of Administration Meeting
9:00 a.m.	Auxiliary Opening
11:30 a.m.	Lunch on your own (Incoming and Outgoing District Presidents and Line Officers will have lunch [\$8.50 each] together at VFW Post 1644 where Secret Sisters will be revealed.)
1:00 p.m.	Joint Opening
2:45 p.m.	Meeting reconvenes
4:00 p.m.	Credential Report
5:30 p.m.	Joint Memorial Service (All District Presidents are asked to be there at 5:15 p.m. for instructions. Wear uniform or the suit you wore to the meeting.)
7:00 p.m.	Past Department President's dinner at VFW Post 1644

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2015

8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Auxiliary Credential Registration continues
8:00 a.m.	General Session continues
11:00 a.m.	Credential Registration closes
12:00 p.m.	Gold Star and Membership Luncheon at VFW Post 1644
1:15 p.m.	General Session Reconvenes
4:30 p.m.	Convention closes
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	No Host Cocktails
7:00 p.m.	Banquet

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2015

9:00 a.m.	Joint Installation
10:15 a.m.	New Council of Administration Meeting (immediately following installation)

LAST CHANCE.....DEADLINE

VFW Nebraska 94th Annual State Convention

June 4-7, 2015

Divots Conference Center and Norfolk Lodge & Suites

4200 W. Norfolk Avenue; Norfolk, NE 68701

402-379-3833

Room Rates: \$79.99 + Tax

VFW Department of Nebraska 2431 N. 48th St. Lincoln, NE 68504

Travel Request Form for State Convention

email to: trudie@vfwne.org

Deadline for Reservations is May 11, 2015

Personal and Billing Information	
Traveler name	
E-mail	
Post	
Phone	
Billing address	
Badge name(s)	
Credit card number	
Credit card expiration date	
Lodging Information	
Destination	Norfolk Lodge & Suites at the Divots
Check in date?	
Check out date?	
Cost per night	\$79.99 plus tax
Number of people	
Room preference (e.g., king, double, single)	
Special requests?	

Don Eckstein

For State Surgeon



Nebraska VFW members, I am currently serving as the Commander of Post 4836. I am seeking your support and asking for your vote for the position of State Surgeon for the 2015-2016 year for the Department of Nebraska Veterans of Foreign Wars.

VOTE

J. DOUGLAS WHITAKER
STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER
2015-2016



LTC, TXARNG

Over 27 years of Military Service

Operation Desert Storm, 1990-1991

Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2005 and 2010

Life Member, Benson Post 2503

State Judge Advocate, 2013-2014

State Surgeon, 2012-2013

Post 2503 Commander, 2012-2014

State Legislative Chairman, 2011-2013

National OIF/OEF Co-Chair, 2011

Student Veteran Organization Rep. 2013-2014

Married and the proud father of 2 young boys!

"I want to earn your vote!"

2015-2016 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen

The VFW's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay competitions are dedicated to encouraging a better understanding and appreciation for our great country and fostering patriotism among our nation's youth. Students are asked to submit an essay in response to a question or statement on a subject which prompts them to consider how American history and democratic ideals and principles apply to their lives.

This year's Voice of Democracy theme asks students to contemplate, "My Vision for America." The Voice of Democracy scholarship competition is an audio-essay competition open to students in grades 9-12. The national winner will receive the \$30,000 T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship Award.

The Patriot's Pen competition is open to students in grades 6-8. This year, students are asked to reflect on the statement, "What Freedom Means to Me." The national winner will receive a \$5,000 award.



Calendar of Events

May

**11th Deadline for room reservations
for State Convention**

**15th Deadline for Delegate
Registration**

25th Memorial Day

June

**4th-7th State Convention in Norfolk
at the Divot's**

14th Flag Day

July

**Trustees Report #1 Due to
Department**

4th Independence Day

Please help

**We are still needing
calendar photos.**

**Take a picture if you
would at your local
courthouse or cemetery.
Most have memorials to
our veterans.**

May Calendar Winners

1	\$40.00	Dennis	Sweeney
2	\$40.00	Terry	Poiel
3	\$40.00	Aaron	Fink
4	\$40.00	Pat	Eyers
5	\$40.00	Jeannine	Beer
6	\$40.00	Doug	Bruner
7	\$40.00	Judith	Humphreys
8	\$40.00	Linda	Francois
9	\$40.00	Jeff	Merten
10	\$40.00	Scott	Schrage
11	\$40.00	Denny	Starce
12	\$40.00	Tim	Beck
13	\$40.00	Josh	Moreno
14	\$40.00	Adams Bank and Trust	
15	\$40.00	Vickie	Tschantre
16	\$100.00	Brian	Pahl
17	\$40.00	Louie	Piva
18	\$40.00	Al & Lois	Crook
19	\$40.00	Don	Schuth
20	\$40.00	Phil	Found
21	\$40.00	Ron	Vlach
22	\$40.00	Richard	Paul
23	\$40.00	Otto	Osborn
24	\$40.00	Denise	Lickei
25	\$100.00	Duane	Thompson
26	\$40.00	Jamie and Jason	Bowden
27	\$40.00	Richard	Dana
28	\$40.00	Dan	Patterson
29	\$40.00	Adams Bank and Trust	
30	\$40.00	Patricia	Bock
31	\$40.00	JoAnn	Miller

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

Auxiliary Editor
 Angela Ostrander
 PO BOX 114

Goehner, NE 68364

Email:

litfireball2000@yahoo.com

**Vote for me
 Eric Williams
 National Council**



*I am running for National
 Council for the State of
 Nebraska. Your Vote would
 be very much appreciated.*



Nebraska as of Monday, May 04, 2015

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	534	6	5	155	700	756	92.59%
District Totals		3	1286	16	6	297	1605	1650	97.27%
District Totals		4	989	7	6	272	1274	1322	96.36%
District Totals		6	1155	11	5	329	1500	1615	92.87%
District Totals		7	860	5	7	313	1185	1252	94.64%
District Totals		9	1531	40	20	468	2059	2179	94.49%
District Totals		10	3486	94	155	942	4677	4778	97.88%
District Totals		11	942	7	5	285	1239	1284	96.49%
District Totals		13	1051	12	5	200	1268	1305	97.16%
District Totals		15	825	4	11	180	1020	1024	99.60%
District Totals		99	707	45	12	241	1005	1123	89.49%
State Totals			13366	247	237	3682	17532	18288	95.86%