



# NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

December 2018



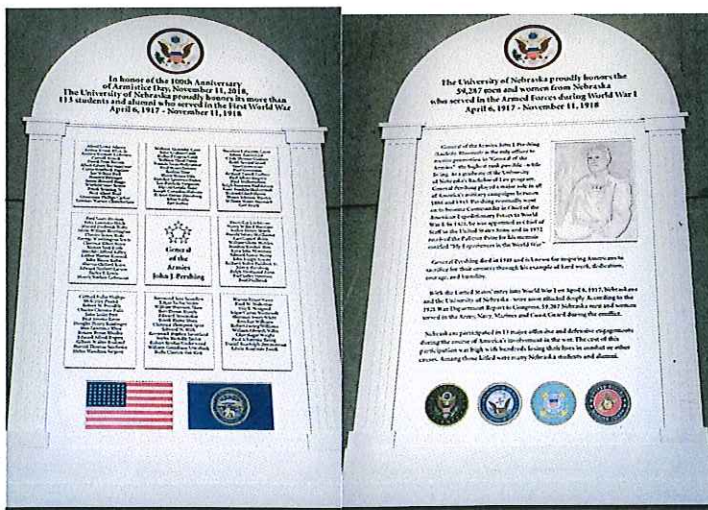
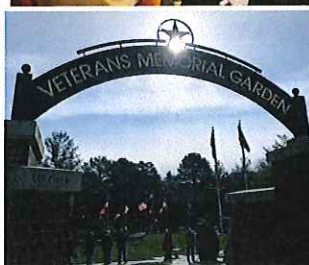
## Celebrating Veterans Day

The weekend allowed for extended festivities in honor of those who have served. Many of the local Posts in Lincoln were downtown with those heading to the Nebraska football game to sell poppies. On Sunday, the University dedicated a new memorial commemorating the World War I service of Nebraskans and University of Nebraska students. More than 350 veterans and guests packed the entrance at Gate 20 and enjoyed performances by the Nebraska National Guard's 43rd Army Band, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Pershing Rifles and the University Naval ROTC Detachment Color Guard. Dozens of Veterans and their families gathered for a day of remembrance. The display includes three plaques including one that pays tribute to all Nebraskans that served in World War I and another that recognizes all 113 students enrolled at the University that signed up to participate in the War.



The City of Lincoln held its Annual Veterans Day Program Sunday marking the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day to recognize all who have served in the Armed Forces. The event took place at Auld Pavilion. The local VFW color guard posted colors

at several events around town at schools and at community centers.



*A World of Good Wishes.*

*One of the real joys  
this holiday season is  
the opportunity to say  
thank you and wish you  
the very best for  
the new year*



## Season Greetings

*State Commander Gary E Bush Sr., State Senior Vice  
Commander Joe Smith, State Junior Vice Commander Danny  
Kramer, State Adjutant/ Quartermaster John Liebsack, State  
Judge Advocate Jerry Chlopek, State Surgeon Mike Dunn,  
Chaplain Jerry Ludwig, Inspector Roger Broeker, Chief of  
Staff Bernie Brosnihan, Past State Commander Larry Gerst  
and office staff Jody Sullivan and Trudie Hammers.*

## State Commander Gary E Bush Sr.



Well the year is going fast, the holiday season is already upon us. It's been a busy year with all of the conventions and conferences. I would like to give a special thanks to those that participated with me in the Highway 83 Road Rally. Dan Kramer, Roger Broeker, Gary Steckelberg and his wife, Mike Dunn and his wife and Joe Smith. Also, as the end of the year is approaching quickly, I would like to ask everyone to try and at least get one new member signed up before the end of December. We need to get the state membership to 92% + so that our Department Quartermaster/Adjutant John Liebsack can meet the National Commander's challenge for an award. Again, I ask for all of your help to reach this by the end of the year. Just don't wait until the last day to get them signed up and turned in. On Sunday the 25th, I received a call from National Jr. Vice Commander Hal Roesch expressing National Commander BJ Lawrence's goal to have all State Quartermasters meet that goal. Let's show them that Nebraska can do it.

I want to wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See ya all in February in Lincoln.



## VFW Announces New Brand Identity

*Change to Better Represent America's Largest Combat Veterans Organization*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (November 6, 2018)** — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., America's largest and oldest major combat veterans organization, is pleased to announce it has deployed a new look.

The new VFW logo and visual language embraces the organization's storied 119 years of service to America's veterans, service members and their families, while underscoring its forward-thinking approach to service and distinguished membership base. The VFW believes the new logo will improve market position and provide visual clarity to its mission.

"We're excited about the bold, new look," said B.J. Lawrence, national commander of the VFW. "There's a lot of complex meaning built into our new logo, yet it clearly communicates who we are and what we're about — service to nation while in the military and continuing service to our nation as veterans."

The new logo is a drastic change from its predecessor, and is the first-ever official logo that was designed without the organization's traditional Cross of Malta shield, which remains the official seal of the VFW. It includes an artistic representation of service stripes which represent length of service on most U.S. military uniforms. As such, the first and leaner of the two service stripes represents the organization's steadfast entry into its second century of service to America's veterans, service members and their families. The second, broader stripe, represents its first storied century of service, spanning back to 1899. In addition to the direct metaphor of the stripes, the visual progression leading to the build of the letter "V" represents our sustained and forward movement into achieving the VFW's mission of service to others. The distinctive gold coloring gives nod to the VFW's stringent membership eligibility requirements and the gold standard of service the VFW provides. The red represents the danger each of its members has faced and the energy with which the VFW operates.

In support of the project, the VFW has created individual custom logos for use by each of its 52 VFW Department headquarters in all 50 states and overseas, and nearly 6,300 individual VFW Posts.

"The VFW is such an amazing organization and just as relevant, if not more so, than any other time in our history. It's time all of America notices us and I feel confident this is another step in accomplishing just that," said Lawrence.



## Winners of area Youth Contests

VFW Post 9844 in Yutan went to the school for a Veteran's Day program on November 9th. They were also their to present awards to the top students in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen competitions. Top row are the Voice of Democracy winners (left to right) 3rd place Taylor Arensberg, 1st place Haley Herman, 2nd place Kira Embrey and Post Quartermaster Hank Sauer. Bottom row are the Patriot's Pen winners (left to right) 3rd place Tannen Honke, 1st place AJ Arensberg and 2nd place Drew Krajicek. Assisting in presenting the awards and pictured below was Post Jr. Vice Commander Nicholas Brand.



## Awards at Imperial Post

A veterans dinner and the awards ceremony were held on Veterans Day at Post 4688. The theme for this years Voice of Democracy contest is "Why My Vote Matters". This years winners in Imperial are pictured in the back row with Post Commander Eldon Kuntzelman and Auxiliary President Sue Moore. Back row are 1st place in the Voice of Democracy Halle Fiedler, 2nd place Natalie Wallin and 3rd place Brice Vitosh. The theme for this years Patriot's Pen competition is "Why I Honor the American Flag". Imperial honored and pictured in the front row are 1st place Kade Anderson, 2nd place Raissa Nevarez and 3rd place Ashley Fregoso.



**We would love to invite all 10 Voice of Democracy District winners and the top 3 Patriot's Pen winners to Mid Winter in February. Sponsors for these awards are needed. If you would like to help make this happen, you can be recognized personally, as an organization or as a memorial donation. Thank you to all of you that participate in and support VFW youth programs.**



## Big Ten Chaplain

Carol Thompson of Auxiliary 7028 in Palisade was elected the Chaplain of the Big Ten Conference at this years meeting. The Big Ten Conference was held in St. Louis, Missouri on October 19th through the 21st.

Calendars are available. Please help us to make this program a success. Send in your raffle tickets and please be sure and call if you need more calendars. The drawing is soon approaching on January 8th. You have the opportunity to win multiple times with just one ticket.

## Fort Calhoun Honors Veterans

VFW Post 5637 Sr. Vice Commander Terry Fitzgerald was the keynote speaker at the Veterans Day Ceremony held at Fort Calhoun High School on the 9th of November. Pictured with Terry are Bailey Donovan and Kate Hoefker.



## Veterans Program in Imperial

Chase County Schools hosted the Veterans Day program that was sponsored by the local FBLA. The VFW Post 4688 Color Guard posted the colors at the program that honored local veterans.



Hal J. Roesch II was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. on July 25, 2018, at the 119th VFW National Convention in Kansas City, Mo.

Hal served in the United States Air Force from 1982 to 2002.

He is a veteran of Operations Desert Shield/Storm and Southern Watch, and the recipient of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with three campaign stars, the Humanitarian Service Medal (for Hurricane Hugo relief in South Carolina), and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

He joined the VFW in 1991 at Post 3034 in Sumter, S.C., later transferring to Post 4542 in Spring Lake, N.C., then to Post 3219 in Phoebus, Va., where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with his election as VFW Department of Virginia Commander from 2008 to 2009, in which he achieved All-American status. On the national level, he served on the Council of Administration from 2010 to 2012, and as the Inspector General from 2016 to 2017.

Hal is currently a financial advisor with First Command Financial Planning. He received his Associate of Arts degree in avionics system technology from the Community College of the Air Force. He is a life member of Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, the American Legion and the Military Order of the Cootie.

Hal and his wife, Beth, reside in Hampton, Va.



## Jr. Vice Commander Hal Roesch Assigned to Mid Winter Conference

### Join the NDVA Team!



*Serve those  
who served!*



*Now hiring*

**RNs - LPNs - CNAs - Medication Aides**

**Bellevue - Grand Island/Kearney - Norfolk - Scottsbluff**

**[veterans.nebraska.gov/jobs](http://veterans.nebraska.gov/jobs)**

**Search for "veterans affairs"**

EOE/M/F/VET

**NEBRASKA**

Good Life. Great Sacrifice.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS





## Fremont Veterans Day Dinner

Larson Peterson VFW Auxiliary 854 sponsored the Veterans Day dinner at Trinity Lutheran School. Auxiliary members donated \$100.00 for the dinner and set and decorated the tables. They gave each student and faculty member a patriotic pencil decorated with a buddy poppy.



Past State Commander Larry Gerlt presented poppies to just over 600 veterans on Veteran's Day at Hy-Vee in Omaha. Hy-Vee hosts annual Veterans Day breakfasts to recognize and thank veterans and active-duty military members for their service and provide them with a complimentary meal. Hy-Vee was expecting to serve more than 90,000 veterans, military members and their guests at more than 245 stores across its eight-state region this year.

## Trunk or Treat In Sidney

Post 610 was a part of the sixth annual Trunk or Treat in which they estimated 2,000 attendees. Displayed were mannequins with uniforms from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm. The goal of the event is to provide safe and fun trick-or-treating in Hickory Street Square.



## Veterans Appreciation Game

VFW Post 759 In Kearney distributed poppies at the UNK veterans appreciation game. Pictured are above left to right: Post Honor Guard Chairman Ramon Rivera, Auxiliary President Marge Roudier and Post Commander John Kruse.

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

**Thursday, February 7th, 2019**



3:00 to 5:00 pm Registration at the hotel and check in

**Friday, February 8th, 2019**

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 Big Ten Meeting - all are welcome (Arbor 1)

3:15 pm Students, Parents and District Commanders and Presidents meet to line up.

3:30 pm VOD & Patriot Pen "Parade of Winners" (Grand Ballroom D,E,F)

6:30 pm VOD & Patriot Pen banquet (Grand ballroom A,B,C)

**Saturday, February 9th, 2019**

6:00 to 9:00 am Ticketed breakfast for registered hotel guests (Hawthorne)

9:00 am Joint meeting (Lancaster ballroom 4,5,6)

9:45 am Council meeting

Noon Past State Commanders & State Presidents lunch (Arbor 1)

1:00 pm Resume VFW Council of Administration & Auxiliary Meetings

## December 2018

- 1 Grand Island VA Medical Center Christmas Party  
2:00 pm 2201 N Broadwell Ave Grand Island
- 7 Lincoln Regional Center Christmas Party 10:00 am  
801 Prospector Place Bldg 5 Lincoln, NE
- 8 Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home Christmas Party  
1:30 pm 12505 S 40<sup>th</sup> Bellevue, NE
- 9 Omaha VAMC Christmas Party 1:30 pm 4101  
Woolworth Ave Omaha, NE
- 15 Patriots Pen and VOD Entry to Department
- 15 Teacher entry to Department
- 25 Christmas Day

## January 2019

- (T-3) Trustee Quarterly report to Department (Oct 1 to Dec 31)
- 1 Cut off (Mid Winter Conference Feb 7-9, 2019)
- 1 Top Membership District Commander-Mid Winter
- 1 Inspection –100% District
- 1 Public Servants Awards (EMT; FIRE; LAW) to Department
- 6 Dist 7 Mtg in Scribner at the Z's Bar & Grill 436  
Main St Post 8439 to host. Lunch at 12:00,  
meeting at 1:30, VOD & PP awards to follow.  
Auxiliary same time and place.
- 8 Calendar Raffle Drawing 10:00 am Department  
Headquarters
- 15 Patriot's Pen, VOD and Teacher summaries to Department
- 16 Final Deadline 20 Questions to Department
- 20 Dist 11 Mtg in Ord Post 7029 to host at 2:00 pm.  
Reg. fee \$2.00 Auxiliary same time and  
place. VOD & PP awards banquet.
- 20 Dist 4 Mtg in Ogallala at Front Street Post 3755  
to host at 12:00 mst. Buffet lunch before mtg  
\$8.75 a person. Auxiliary same time and  
place.

## February 2019

- 2 Norfolk Veterans Home Valentine's Day Party  
2:00 p.m. 600 E Benjamin Ave Norfolk, NE
- 3 Central Nebraska Veterans Home Valentine's Day  
Party 2:00 p.m. 4510 E 56<sup>th</sup> St Kearney, NE
- 7-9 Mid-Winter The Cornhusker 333 South 13<sup>th</sup> St  
Lincoln

## December Raffle Winners...

|    |          |                       |           |      |
|----|----------|-----------------------|-----------|------|
| 1  | \$40.00  | Kyle                  | Bjork     | 3761 |
| 2  | \$40.00  | Julie                 | Tomao     | 3125 |
| 3  | \$40.00  | Marsha                | Weeks     | 3516 |
| 4  | \$40.00  | Stuart                | Anderson  | 3917 |
| 5  | \$40.00  | Mike                  | Arends    | 1749 |
| 6  | \$40.00  | Chynna                | Watson    | 1764 |
| 7  | \$100.00 | Gene                  | Volenk    | 1842 |
| 8  | \$40.00  | Mike                  | Arends    | 1557 |
| 9  | \$40.00  | Wilber                | DeGoyler  | 3794 |
| 10 | \$40.00  | Nathan                | Mueller   | 3278 |
| 11 | \$40.00  | Erin                  | Wademan   | 3723 |
| 12 | \$40.00  | Karen                 | Lawler    | 2333 |
| 13 | \$40.00  | John                  | Liebsack  | 646  |
| 14 | \$40.00  | Kent                  | Dell      | 190  |
| 15 | \$40.00  | Mike                  | Becker    | 1692 |
| 16 | \$40.00  | John                  | Beatty    | 2969 |
| 17 | \$40.00  | Jerry                 | Chlopek   | 1166 |
| 18 | \$40.00  | Shawn                 | Meyer     | 269  |
| 19 | \$40.00  | Alan                  | Vetter    | 2153 |
| 20 | \$40.00  | Dana                  | Meiergerd | 2461 |
| 21 | \$40.00  | Morrie                | Tomkinson | 66   |
| 22 | \$40.00  | Day                   | Sedlack   | 3392 |
| 23 | \$40.00  | Glenna                | Bohling   | 3739 |
| 24 | \$40.00  | Oregon Trail Plumbing |           | 1733 |
| 25 | \$40.00  | Dave                  | Gappa     | 3182 |
| 26 | \$40.00  | Stuart                | Anderson  | 3917 |
| 27 | \$40.00  | Lyle                  | Teel      | 1548 |
| 28 | \$40.00  | Jerry                 | Kraul     | 1373 |
| 29 | \$40.00  | Kevin                 | Reed      | 3485 |
| 30 | \$40.00  | Tom                   | Bohling   | 211  |
| 31 | \$40.00  | Terry                 | O'Neil    | 68   |

*Our Mission:*

*To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.*



We would love to know what is going on in your communities and at your Posts. Send pictures and information to:  
**VFW Dept. of Nebraska P.O.  
 Box 4552  
 Lincoln, NE 68504  
 or email them to  
[jodys@vfwne.org](mailto:jodys@vfwne.org)**

## State Membership as of November 29th...

| State                  | Post | Dst       | Life         | New       | Reinst    | Cont        | Total        | Adjusted Prior Year | Percent       |
|------------------------|------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|
| <b>District Totals</b> |      | <b>1</b>  | <b>439</b>   | <b>5</b>  | <b>0</b>  | <b>65</b>   | <b>509</b>   | <b>610</b>          | <b>83.44%</b> |
| <b>District Totals</b> |      | <b>3</b>  | <b>1033</b>  | <b>0</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>127</b>  | <b>1163</b>  | <b>1288</b>         | <b>90.29%</b> |
| <b>District Totals</b> |      | <b>4</b>  | <b>815</b>   | <b>1</b>  | <b>0</b>  | <b>97</b>   | <b>913</b>   | <b>1031</b>         | <b>88.55%</b> |
| <b>District Totals</b> |      | <b>6</b>  | <b>869</b>   | <b>2</b>  | <b>1</b>  | <b>146</b>  | <b>1018</b>  | <b>1171</b>         | <b>86.93%</b> |
| <b>District Totals</b> |      | <b>7</b>  | <b>751</b>   | <b>7</b>  | <b>1</b>  | <b>140</b>  | <b>899</b>   | <b>1108</b>         | <b>81.13%</b> |
| <b>District Totals</b> |      | <b>9</b>  | <b>1421</b>  | <b>9</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>209</b>  | <b>1644</b>  | <b>1930</b>         | <b>85.18%</b> |
| <b>District Totals</b> |      | <b>10</b> | <b>3409</b>  | <b>42</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>416</b>  | <b>3895</b>  | <b>4367</b>         | <b>89.19%</b> |
| <b>District Totals</b> |      | <b>11</b> | <b>830</b>   | <b>5</b>  | <b>1</b>  | <b>114</b>  | <b>950</b>   | <b>1091</b>         | <b>87.07%</b> |
| <b>District Totals</b> |      | <b>13</b> | <b>911</b>   | <b>3</b>  | <b>2</b>  | <b>106</b>  | <b>1022</b>  | <b>1087</b>         | <b>94.02%</b> |
| <b>District Totals</b> |      | <b>15</b> | <b>676</b>   | <b>2</b>  | <b>1</b>  | <b>80</b>   | <b>759</b>   | <b>838</b>          | <b>90.57%</b> |
| <b>District Totals</b> |      | <b>99</b> | <b>643</b>   | <b>17</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>94</b>   | <b>756</b>   | <b>1033</b>         | <b>73.18%</b> |
| <b>State Totals</b>    |      |           | <b>11797</b> | <b>93</b> | <b>44</b> | <b>1594</b> | <b>13528</b> | <b>15554</b>        | <b>86.97%</b> |

Be sure and make your reservations now for Mid Winter in Lincoln at the Marriott Cornhusker Hotel. Join us for Legislative Day at the Capitol and celebrate our winners in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen competitions. Deadline for reservations is January 14th. Call Department Headquarters at 402-464-0674 to make your reservations.