



NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

June 2018



Memorial Day Ceremony

State Commander Larry Gerlt presented a plaque and words of gratitude to Gwen Le Moal. Gwen, who has made a hobby in WWII US history in France, found Pvt. First Class Richard Roy Wallace's ID bracelet in France and notified the Wallace family. Gwen himself was five years in the army and 15 years in the French Legion. He made his first trip to the United States to return the ID bracelet. Richard is one of Ravenna's Gold Star boys and graduated in 1932 from Ravenna Public School. He died of his wounds in St. Malo, France on August 10th, 1944. He was returned home in July of 1948 and an interment was held at the Highland Park Cemetery in Ravenna. The awards presentation was held at the Ravenna City Auditorium and also included a key to the city from Mayor Peg Dethlefs and a State Admiralship presented by Lt. Governor Mike Foley.



Pictured above left to right is Gwen Le Moal, Lt. Governor Foley, Commander Gerlt and Mayor Dethlefs. There was also a memorial ceremony and parade through the avenue of flags following at the cemetery. Pictured below are Commander Gerlt, Gwen Le Moal and District 11 Commander Ken Yount.



House VA Committee Passes Blue Water Navy Act

Restoring eligibility, expanding benefits long overdue

WASHINGTON (May 8, 2018) — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is saluting the House Veterans Affairs Committee for passing H.R. 299, the *Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017*. The VFW-supported bill, which must still be approved by the full House and Senate before going to the president, would restore benefits to thousands of Vietnam veterans, expand inclusive dates to those who served along the Korean DMZ, and benefit children born with spina bifida due to a parent's exposure to Agent Orange-related herbicides in Thailand.

"The VFW salutes the bipartisan leadership of House VA Committee Chairman Phil Roe and Ranking Member Tim Walz for getting this bill through committee," said VFW National Commander Keith Harman, who served in Vietnam as an Army helicopter crew chief and door gunner with the 101st Airborne Division.

Once passed into law, H.R. 299 will restore VA benefits to some 100,000 Blue Water Navy veterans who had their disability eligibility taken away in 2002 after regulatory changes. It will also require the VA to contact those veterans who had filed claims that were later denied. Those veterans could be eligible for retroactive benefits.

The legislation marks a victory for other veterans and their families who suffer from conditions related to toxic exposures. Veterans exposed to Agent Orange while serving along the Korean DMZ will have an earlier start date to encompass the timeframe when various defoliants were tested. The current start date of April 1, 1968, will be backed up seven months to Sept. 1, 1967. In addition, benefits will be expanded to include children born with spina bifida due to a parent's exposure in Thailand. Coverage for this condition already exists for the children of Vietnam and Korean DMZ veterans. The new law will also require the VA to report on research being conducted on a broad range of conditions possibly related to service in Southwest Asia, which is important for future legislative efforts to create a list of presumptive conditions for veterans seeking VA health care and benefits.

"Toxic exposure is toxic exposure, and denying benefits to any veteran just because of time or location denigrates their service and marginalizes their suffering," said Harman. "Agent Orange made Vietnam veterans sick. It made those stationed along the Korean DMZ and in Thailand sick — and many of their children, too. Toxic substances are also making many Southwest Asia veterans sick. This legislation is long overdue, but since there are no statutes of limitation when it comes to making things right for veterans, let's get this bill passed and signed into law!"



97th Annual Department Convention

June 8th thru the 10th, 2018 Comfort Inn & Suites in Omaha

Friday, June 8th

- 2:30 QM school: Trustees reports, Bonds, Online program reporting and Service Officer school (Ballroom A,B)
- 3:00 pm Military Honors Program Presentation
- 3:00 to 5:00 Delegate registration

Saturday, June 9th

- 8:00 to 11:30 Delegate registration
- 8:00 to 9:00 Council Meeting (Ballroom D)
- 9:30 to 11:30 Convention opening session (Ballroom D)
- 11:45 am All Past Commanders luncheon (Ballroom A)
- 1:00 to 2:30 Joint session - Includes Guest Speakers and Volunteer Awards (Ballroom D)
- 1:00 to 2:30 Delegate registration
- 2:45 to 4:00 Reconvene VFW meeting - Nomination of Officers 1st call (Ballroom D)
- 4:15 pm Poppy Display judging
- 6:00 to 7:00 No host cocktail hour (Ballrooms A,B,C)
- 7:00 pm Banquet (Ballrooms A,B,C)

Sunday, June 10th

- 8:00 am Joint Memorial Service (Ballroom D)
- 9:00 am Resume meeting (Ballroom D)
- Noon Lunch on your own
- 1:15 pm Resume meeting - Election of Officers, Installation and New Council Meeting (Ballroom D)
- Reception to immediately follow (Ballroom A)

District 13 Scout Honored

Lucas Falk of Kearney received the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 759 Scout of the year scholarship and was the District winner. Presenting Lucas with his award is VFW Post 759 Commander Jim Lutz and Sarah Cathcart who is the District Executive of the Boy Scouts of America Overland Trails Council. She was presented with a \$100.00 donation from VFW Post 759 in Kearney.



Flag Retirement Ceremony

The Kearney Post flag retirement ceremony was held in conjunction at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds on April 21st. Several Scout Troops attended to participate along with Post 759 members, various other veteran organizations, National Guard and the Police and Fire Departments. The Boy Scouts set up the fire pits and performed three ceremonies at various times to properly dispose of used flags.



GREENWOOD 80 NEBRASKA
SPEEDWAY
MILITARY & VETERANS
NIGHT AT THE RACES
KID'S BIKE RACES
Thank You
for serving our country
and protecting our freedoms.
FREE ADMISSION
FRI, JUNE 22, 2018
 GATES OPEN 5:30PM - RACING 7:15PM
www.I-80speedway.com
 13909 238th St. Greenwood, NE





Auxiliary 2704 Installation

Department Commander Larry Gerlt installed his son as the New President of the Auxiliary to Post 2704 in Omaha. The Auxiliary is the first new Nebraska Auxiliary in quite some time. Pictured below left to right are Guard/Conductor Chuck Walls, Treasurer Bonnie Gerlt, Secretary Trudi Zellmer, Jr. Vice President Kim Campbell, Sr. Vice President Terri Durham and President Jason Gerlt.



Quilts for Nebraska Veterans

VFW AUXILIARY 2634 recently made a gift of several blankets and quilts to the Ambassador Nursing home in Nebraska City.

The blankets were given to the veterans who primarily have little or no families, and other veterans in the nursing facility.

The donation was made by District 6 and VFW Post 2634 Auxiliary President Paula Waterfield and Auxiliary member Jeanette Knickman.

Sports Clips Hosts Recruiting Drive

Although the weather did not much cooperate, post and auxiliary members set up to recruit members at several Sports Clips locations in Lincoln and Omaha on May 12th. Pictured below at the 80th and Dodge location in Omaha are Post 2503 Senior Vice Commander Duke Humphrey and wife Linda.



ATTENTION KOREAN WAR VETERANS

RECEIVE AN
AMBASSADOR
FOR PEACE MEDAL,
PRESENTED BY
GOVERNOR PETE
RICKETTS

ELIGIBILITY:

SERVED IN KOREA SOME TIME BETWEEN
JUNE 25TH, 1950, TO JULY 27TH, 1953

OR

PARTICIPATED IN UN PEACEKEEPING
OPERATIONS IN KOREA
BEFORE JANUARY 1ST, 1956



APPLY AT
VETERANS.NEBRASKA.GOV/KOREA

FOR HELP APPLYING, CONTACT
NDVA@NEBRASKA.GOV OR 402-471-2458.

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Sacrifice.



NEBRASKA

VETERANS' AFFAIRS



We're working to better serve the men and women who bravely served us.

CNAs in our veterans' homes now start at \$14.04/hr, with paid training and great state benefits.



Veterans In the Classroom

Some members of VFW Post 8597 in Dodge shared their unique experiences during their tours in Iraq and Afghanistan with the Sophomore history class at Howells-Dodge High School. Pictured left to right are teacher Scott Polacek, Casey Jones, Willy Anderson and Colin Jones.

Memorial Day Speech

Matt Jones talked to a group at Aging Partners on May 22nd in Lincoln. This kicked off his and Past State Commander Dan Petersen's Memorial Day activities. Matt is a life member of VFW Post 7722 in Lincoln.



Calendar of Events...

JUNE 2018

8-10 State Convention at The Comfort Inn & Suites

14 Flag Day

17 Father's Day

21 Summer begins

30 Cut off for all awards for Fall Council October 5-6
(All State Commander & QM/Top Dist. Commander)

JULY 2018

Trustees report to Department

4 Independence Day

21-25 National Convention in Kansas City

28 Aircraft Carrier get together in North Bend. Anyone
who served on an Aircraft Carrier is invited. Contact
Jerry Halladay at 402-719-1014.

AUGUST 2018

11 August training in Seward

SEPTEMBER 2018

1 Bonds due to Department

3 Labor Day

11 Patriot Day

June Calendar Winners...

1	\$40.00	Darin	Bloomquist	1655
2	\$40.00	James	Heng	3938
3	\$40.00	Maggie	Stalka	3066
4	\$40.00	Arnold	Lammers	3098
5	\$40.00	Alan	Nicolaus	3438
6	\$40.00	Cheri	Rych14	404
7	\$40.00	Mike & Rer	Schneider	3967
8	\$40.00	Scott	Biltoft	188
9	\$40.00	Larry	Beers	3790
10	\$40.00	Pam	Weaver	3867
11	\$40.00	Gerry	Taubenheim	3512
12	\$40.00	Ted	Huscher	650
13	\$40.00	Shae	Street	206
14	\$100.00	Floyd	McAuley	1165
15	\$40.00	Carsen	Blum	3449
16	\$40.00	Bert	Weaver	3842
17	\$40.00	Bernie	Brosnihan	3678
18	\$40.00	Joyelle	Kennedy	2972
19	\$40.00	James	Lewis	456
20	\$40.00	Douglas	Johnson	1235
21	\$40.00	Gary	Engelhart	3172
22	\$40.00	JD	Long	1237
23	\$40.00	Richard	Ott	2156
24	\$40.00	Larry	Kusek	2249
25	\$40.00	James	Heng	3938
26	\$40.00	Meyers Body Shop		3742
27	\$40.00	Margaret	Magsamen	981
28	\$40.00	Gene	Tullis	2132
29	\$40.00	George	Fritts	2037
30	\$40.00	Bernie	Krakowski	1821

 The VFW National Home for Children is Here for Nebraska Families.



The VFW National Home for Children offers a once in a lifetime opportunity for military and veteran related families.

If you know of a family in Nebraska that could use our help, please encourage them to call!

We are currently accepting new resident families into our program.

Most qualify to apply. Caring staff will help families to determine eligibility.

A Great Place to Call Home!

800-313-4200

Hosted by Nebraska Riders

Montz Motorcycle Museum

Trip for
Vietnam Veterans



June 30th! **VFW** POST 3606 **VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

WE'RE PACKING A BUS FULL OF VIETNAM VETERANS FOR A ROAD TRIP TO MONTZ MOTORCYCLE MUSEUM

Includes: Round trip motorcycle escort
Free Bus ride for Vietnam Veterans
Free admission for Vietnam Veterans
Free Lunch for Vietnam Veterans

Departure from The Center For People In Need at 10AM
3901 N 27th St Lincoln, Ne

To register call 402-802-5411

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Economic Development
Preserving rich heritage and quality of life.

LEISER LIMOUSINE & SEDAN

**Share what is going on in
your posts and communities.
Please send news for the
VFW Nebraska Newsletter
to Department
Headquarters at 2431 N.
48th Street in Lincoln, NE
68504 or better yet email to
jodys@vfwne.org.**



NEBRASKA MEMBERSHIP AS OF MAY 30TH ...

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	426	21	14	144	605	636	95.12%
District Totals		3	1041	4	14	224	1283	1324	96.90%
District Totals		4	804	9	13	205	1031	1058	97.44%
District Totals		6	899	15	14	242	1170	1172	99.82%
District Totals		7	770	22	9	267	1068	1077	99.16%
District Totals		9	1410	41	50	416	1917	1885	101.69%
District Totals		10	3313	136	108	788	4345	4311	100.78%
District Totals		11	818	16	17	211	1062	1055	100.66%
District Totals		13	891	15	2	175	1083	1119	96.78%
District Totals		15	686	10	14	135	845	838	100.83%
District Totals		99	644	40	169	182	1035	1025	100.97%
State Totals			11702	329	424	2989	15444	15500	99.63%