



THE GRAF-O'HARA MESSENGER

3230 S. WAGNER ROAD PO BOX 2509, ANN ARBOR, MI 48106
(Between Ann Arbor and Saline)
Meetings – 2nd Monday Each Month at 8:00PM

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

Commanders Report

Well, I will be the Commander of our post another year. I am honored. I learned a lot in the first year. I hope this coming year will build on the past year for all of us.

We lost a special active member of our Post. Betty Dove was a Korean War nurse. She helped with many of our community activities, including poppy sales and Salvation Army bell ringing. She also helped with our VA bingos and sold raffle tickets at our meetings. We held a remembrance meal at our post for her and her family. The large number of former nurse co-workers spoke highly of the person Betty was. One nurse even flew in from New Jersey just for the afternoon to be there for Betty. We will certainly miss her.

We had a very nice Installation Dinner. I would like to thank the Auxiliary for all their work in setting that up for us.

And thank you to all of you who worked on it. I know I would miss someone if I were to



Marilyn receiving a VFW Special Award

start listing names. So, please accept my thank you for your work. You know who you are.

We had a very successful spring post cleanup. We had about 10 members raking, cutting down brush, chopping up wood and other tasks. Thank you all for making it out to help make our Post a nicer place. Our post looks very nice. Thank you to all who have worked out there planting flowers, shoveling & raking wood chips, etc. You did good. There is still work to be done. We may have another day in the Fall, when the weather is cooler.

Memorial Day weekend, Milton Davis had our museum items on display for members and the public to see. Good job Milton. You and those who helped you setup and tear-down deserve a round of applause. Good job. The items on display make up a complete and diverse display of military memorabilia. If you missed it this year, you should make it out to see it next time it is set up. However, I know Milton adds to the collection, so it will not be the same next time it is set up. Thanks Milton.

Honoring Our WWII & Korean Veterans

Our next big event is our 2nd annual WWII Picnic on Sunday, August 5th we will put on our second annual Post picnic. We decided that this year we would honor both Korean War Veterans along with WWII Veterans. We will be advertising locally to invite all

local Veterans from both groups. So, if you would like to attend this special picnic with nice catered food, DJ'ed era music, Flag salute, lots of visiting and showing of military photos with each other, please call our Post phone number or myself (734-994-0444). We need to have a headcount by July 29th. Each Korean War and WWII Veteran may bring a guest and be the guests of our Post. Others may attend, but will be asked to make a donation at the door. Just leave your name and how many people in your group. Last year we had over 50 WWII Veterans attend. We had a great time.

The picnic will begin at 2:00 with a social hour with snacks and refreshments. It will be a chance to share military photos and stories. Milton Davis, our post museum curator, will have an extensive display of WWII and Korean War items. A buffet meal will be served at 3:00. Our Chaplain, Murl Eastman WWII Veteran, said he would do some crowd pleasing magic and tell some jokes as he did last year.

This year I expect it to be an even bigger and greater time. Be sure to call to be put on the list. If you have any questions, please call me. If you are in the area, I would not miss it.

We opened this event up to any local WWII or Korean War Veterans. They do not have to be a member of our post. Last year we ended up picking up a six new members because of the picnic.

If you have not been to our post lately, come on out to a meeting and check it out. We continue to meet the second Monday of each month at 8 pm.

We have snacks available at 7:30, so come out early.

We have been having more than 30 members attend our meetings. Things are happening at our post, come on out and be a part of it.

Submitted by Commander Kinzinger

Member's Home Burned Down

Just 4 or so hours after returning home from our July 9th VFW membership meeting, Past Commander Ralph West (WWII Veteran) and his wife Marilyn (President of the Post Auxiliary) awoke to find their home was on fire. At this time, the cause is still under investigation. It started in the garage. Ralph did his best with a garden hose until the fire department arrived.

By the time the fire was extinguished, Ralph and Marilyn lost virtually everything. The contents and the home were nearly a total loss. They got out of the home with very little. Our post is helping them with some essential things they need. If you would like to make a donation to our post emergency fund in their name to help Ralph and Marilyn, please make it out to 'VFW 423 – West Fund' and mail it to VFW 423, PO Box 2509, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Thank you in advance.



Auxiliary President West will have a message in our next newsletter.

– Submitted by Commander Kinzinger

Defibulator Training

Our post, based on a visit and talk by a Red Cross representative talk at our June member-

ship meeting, purchased a Defibulator (latest technology) for our post, in case of an emergency. Prior to our August 13th meeting, at 6:45 pm, the Red Cross Rep. will put on a training session on the use of the new Defibulator equipment. All VFW and Auxiliary members are invited to attend.

In an emergency, this equipment is used in conjunction with CPR. Many of us have had CPR training in the past, but most of us have missed the annual re-certification requirement. We hope to setup CPR training and re-certification with an authorized group, like the Saline Fire Department, soon after this Defibulator training. So, be sure to get to our Aug. 13th meeting by 6:45 pm.

Submitted by - Commander Kinzinger

WWII Picnic Honoring our Korean and WWII Veterans

You local WWII and Korean War Veterans are invited to join us on Sunday, August 5th at 2:00 pm for our annual VFW Post 423 picnic honoring your service. Post location is 3230 S. Wagner, between Ann Arbor and Saline.

You and a guest are free, others will be asked to make a donation. There will be a buffet lunch, refreshments, thanks to Milt, our Post's outstanding museum will be on display, era music and sharing of photos and experiences will create a great atmosphere for remembering.

You must RSVP: Please call the Post answering service at 734-662-3972. Please leave your name, number and how many people to be attending.

If you have questions, please contact Post Commander John Kinzinger on 734-994-0444.

Below are images from last year's picnic.





Ann Arbor, MI 48106
P.O. Box 2509
GRAF-O'HARA VFW Post 423



Korean Memorial In Washington DC.



WWII Memorial In Washington D.

Don't Forget To RSVP For The Korean And WW II Heroes Picnic