



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

Web www.vfw423.org - Phone 734-662-3972

July/August 2008

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND AUXILIARY POST 423

Commander's Message - John Kinzinger

Summer is here! The snow is just a memory. Our Post looks great for this time of year, because of all the rain we have had. And of course Bob London deserves credit too. And yes, the Davis' and Konkles too. And then there is all the rest of you who help on our 'clean-up day' prior to Memorial Day. You know who you are. Thank you all for helping make our Post look so nice.

I am proud to be voted in as Commander of our Post for another year. I wish to thank everyone for all they do for our Post, especially the Auxiliary and all they do for our monthly VA bingos and eating occasions at our Post.

The Boy Scouts continue to use our Post one evening per week for their meetings. Their leader said their numbers are down over the last year, but they are doing well otherwise. Each year they use our Post for their Eagle Scout awards banquet. Their leaders thank us for the use of our Post for their troop.

This brings us to our annual WWII and Korean War Veteran picnic. We started this a few years ago and it is one of the highlights each year at our Post. We love seeing all our senior Veterans come out for this picnic. If you are a WWII and or Korean War Veteran, you and a guest of yours will be our guests as we honor your service. We invite you to bring in-service photos to share with others. We will provide a nice buffet meal, play era music, a magic act and will have a museum display of WWII and Korean War items.

It will be Sunday, August 3rd from 1 to 4pm and is open to all local senior Veterans, so please pass the word on to other WWII and Korean War Veterans.

NOTE: If you plan to attend, by July 30th please call our post (734-662-3972) and leave your name and how many will be attending.

All other members and guests *(continued above right)*

Auxiliary President's Message - Marilyn West

I am very proud to have been elected again as President of VFW Post 423 Auxiliary for another year.

I am very thankful for all our wonderful hard working Auxiliary members. We sincerely hope we have been helpful to the Post in the past and will continue to do what ever we can in the coming year.

At this time, I would like to thank Marv and Carolyn Konkle who spent an entire day weeding and planting flowers around the Post for Memorial Day. They did a fantastic job.

At the State Convention in June, Regina Liedel was elected District 6 President for the coming year. We are very proud of her. Regina is also our Senior Vice and a very dedicated member of our Auxiliary. This is the second year in a row that Post 423 has had a member in that position.

Sincerely,
Marilyn West
President

are asked to make a donation at the door.

Post Supports Our Troops

Every other month, prior to our membership meeting, we pack about 20 Care packages and mail them to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. So, if you would like to help with this program, come out and pack, bring some items to put in the boxes, or send a gift check made out to 'VFW 423 - Support Our Troops' and mail it to our Post mail box (VFW 423, PO Box 2509, Ann Arbor, MI 48106).

The feedback we receive from the recipients of our Care packages is very moving. We have received some nice gifts, such as a wall tapestry from one unit with their insignias and information woven into it. We recently received an American Flag that was flown over a military post in Iraq from another group.

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This program does make a difference for many troops serving in war zones.

Mark the following dates on your calendar and come on out to the Post at 6:30 pm, before our membership meeting and you too can help. Our next packing dates will be August 11, October 13 and December 8.

From the Front

(The following was received June 25, 2008.)
VFW Post 423

I have received 2 packages from you since I have started my deployment here in Iraq. I thank you very much for all the items you have sent to me. The magazines and reading materials were great, and I have also contributed those to our commands' mini library. The snacks have surely helped out during our long work days here. Once again thank you for all the donations.

My name was given to you from my mother-in-law, Cynthia Olcott. I really can't say too much about what I do here or exactly where I'm at, but I can divulge a little information for you. I personally am an Individual Augmented from Fleet Readiness Center Southeast Mayport. Basically I volunteered to do a 1 year tour to a helicopter command that deploys here. I am an Aviation Electrician's Mate and quickly approaching my 7 year mark in September. The weather here is pretty darn hot, most days it hovers around 120-130 degrees. The living conditions are not bad, considering I've lived in tents and pods (small sectioned off trailers). They do have a lot of amenities on base including a PX and a couple of gift shops. Overall, not what I expected it to be like, but better.

Once again, thank you for all your support and prayers! Sorry I could not get a message out to you sooner. Thanks again. Sincerely, Nichols J. Schaaf.

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen

Each year our Post participates in these programs. It gives our Post a chance to help some local school students by offering some scholarship funds (\$500 and \$250 respectively) to high school and middle school children and grandchildren of our members, as well as offering it also to local Ann Arbor school students. In a few weeks, this year's program will open. If you have some-

one in mind who might like to submit a write-up, please get with the Post Commander or Quartermaster for more information. The winners of our Post will be forwarded to the District level and the winner at that level goes up to State level and then to National. And with each step more scholarship money is awarded to the winner. Last year the National VFW Voice of Democracy winner was presented \$30,000 in scholarship. Depending on the school, that amount could pay for 4 years of college.

Post 423's Baseball Team

This is the second year our Post has sponsored a men's wood bat

hardball team in the Ann Arbor Rec and Ed. league. This is a very competitive league. This year we are doing better than last year, we have won 6 and lost 5. Our team is stronger this year and competes in most every game. Some teams are



Vance McCrumb

more established than ours, but we are getting noticed more this year. We have 5 more games this summer and we should qualify for the league's post-season tournament. Wish us well for the rest of our season.

Poppy Sales

We had a nicely successful Poppy Sale this year. Between the mail-in donations and the poppy sales in front of local stores, we brought in \$3,035.02. That amount will surely help with our Post with special help projects. Thank you all so very much for getting out there to sell poppies or mail in contributions. Thank you Bob Kwiecinski for organizing our poppy sales program. At our June meeting, Dale Burgess was given a Certificate of Appreciation thanking him for being our highest seller. Good going Dale! Roy Hall was our second highest seller. Good going Roy! We had 13 members out selling this year and Auxiliary members counted the donations. Thank you all.

Memorial Weekend - Milt Davis

Memorial weekend was a huge success. We had lots of people visit the museum. Everyone that I talked to said they were very impressed with the display. We received lots of compliments about our new display of military statues and it seems that everyone liked the place we choose to put them. Many said it gave them a very good feeling when they walked by.



Vance McCrumb

I would like to thank everyone who helped set-up and take down the museum display. Thanks goes out to Gene Liedel, R.D. (Scotty) Scott, Marv Konkle, George Perrault, Dave Doyen, Bill Nicholas, Ralph West and Connor Davis-Green.

Thanks again to Bill Nicholas for setting up his Pearl Harbor display and to Connor Davis-Green for showing and answering questions about the tank and helicopter static displays. He also helped those who wanted to try on some of our web gear. He did an outstanding job.

Special thanks to Marilyn and Ralph West for doing all the shopping and cooking. Marilyn broke her finger and she still did a great job! I hope she is doing better.

We picked up five new members during the weekend and we only need five more to put us at 100%.

I would also like to thank all the Post members who stopped by over the weekend, and a special thanks to my wife Kay for all her help and support. Every year the museum display grows and this year we added several items from WWI and Vietnam. Thanks again to all.

Milton J. Davis - Museum Chair

Flowers Are Planted - Kay Davis

We had bought many perennials to plant in the flower gardens. In the mean time I had to have my gall bladder taken out and due to this I was only able to plant a few of them. I would like to thank Gene and Ann Liedel's grandson Gene for helping plant flowers. He planted 20 of them and he did a wonderful job.

A big thank you to Marv and Carolyn Konkle as they came out to the Post very early Monday and worked the whole day planting, weeding and watering the flowers. The flowerbeds are beautiful! They did a lot of back-breaking work and every time I see the gardens, I will think of Marv and Carolyn.

Flowers were also planted in front of the handicap parking area. In the garden with the statues are poppies along with bleeding heart for our fallen. When you visit the Post check out the flowers. If they are dry please take the time and water them.

I would like to give Marilyn West a big thanks. After breaking her finger she kept on working until everything was done, then went to the hospital.

2008 Car and Bike Show

Presented by
Motor City Muscle Car Club
In conjunction with
Vietnam Veterans of America
United Auto Workers Region 1A
Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters

This year we are raising funds for hospitalized Veterans programs at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center. One hundred percent of the money raised will be designated for the Voluntary Services Group.

When: August 23, 2008 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Rain out date August 24th.
Where: UAW Local 735
48955 Michigan Ave.
Canton Twp., Michigan

Come on out, you may win a trip to Vegas or \$500.00 cash.

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



WWII Korea Veterans Picnic Sunday August 3rd 1 pm to 4:00 pm

Calendar of Events

August 3rd. WWII & Korean Veterans Picnic - 1 pm to 4 pm.
August 11th. Support Our Troops Packing Party 6:30 pm at the Post
August 11th VFW Membership Meeting 8 pm.
August 23rd - 2008 Car & Bike show at the UAW Local 735

2007 WWII & Korean Veterans Picnic

