



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

March / April 2008

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND AUXILIARY POST 423

Commander's Message - John Kinzinger

Spring is here, but also is the snow! As I have gotten older here in Michigan, I understand more and more the flight of the "Snow Birds". But with that aging, we also know that a wonderful spring will come. I like spring more than the other seasons. It is the promise of good things to come.

Lots of things will be going on at our Post the next couple months. One thing we failed to do at our March meeting was to vote on the By-Laws change proposed to move our membership meeting to start at 7:00pm, from the current 8:00pm. We will need to take care of that, so if it makes a difference to you, you had better be there to vote.

We are putting on the Sixth District meeting on May 4th. This year is special since one of our members should be sworn in as District 6 Commander. And one of our Post's Auxiliary members, Gina Liedel, will be sworn in as District 6 President. That will be a big day for our Post. I hope that you are able to attend and help out with the day's events and enjoy the meeting. This is an opportune time for you to meet VFW members from other posts from Lambertville to Lansing.

We are in the middle of nominations for officers of our Post for the coming year. If you are interested in running for an office, be sure to have another member nominate you for that particular office. Be sure to attend our April 14th election meeting.

(See from the front page 2)

Aux. President - Marilyn West

Auxiliary President Message – Marilyn West
The first event we will have this year is the Sixth District Meeting to be held on May 4th. We are going to put the meal on instead of catering it this time.

I think we have had a good year and will try to put on more activities this summer.

Don't forget, we will be having our Installation Dinner on May 11, 2008.

Sincerely,
Marilyn West
President

ANNUAL POPPY SALES

Our annual VFW poppy sales will be May 8, 9 and 10th. We need poppy sellers to sell at the entrance of Ann Arbor area businesses. The proceeds from the poppy sales go to help Veterans in need. It is fun to sell poppies. I do it every year. Just a couple hours is all you need to sign up for. So, come on out and join in this VFW annual event. Please contact our Poppy Sales Chairman, Bob Kwiecinski (734-429-0772), to sign up or ask any questions.

If you are unable to get out and sell poppies with us, you can still help with our Poppy Sales. We will be mailing out requests letters you can use to respond with a gift to our Poppy Sales Program and help us help those less fortunate.

Thank you,
John Kinzinger, Commander

*My mind is not as sharp as it use to be.
Also, my mind is not as sharp as it use to be.*

From the Front 14 February 2008, Baghdad

Hello, thank you for the last volley of Care packages you sent. It certainly spruces up morale around here. Everyone likes getting packages. I usually pass them around, opening one per day. One guy gets the honor to open and claim first plunder, but then it becomes a free for all, complete with trades at the end. Our non-U.S. Coalition officers are included too. They are quite impressed with the support and generosity we enjoy.

I will be rotating home in early April, so I will not be able to receive any more packages. If you can continue to send packages though, I know these guys would appreciate it. Commander James (Terry) Roberts will be here until October. My replacement will be Capt. James Belle, who will be here until March next year.

Thank you for all of your support. Hopefully, I can visit the Post when I find my way to Michigan again.

Sincerely, Hank Presecan, Major, U.S. Marines

To the VFW Post 423 Family,
(letter dated 01 January 2008)

I'd like to thank all of you personally for the amazing show of support for the Soldiers serving in Iraq. The care packages you have sent have been an incredible morale boost; nearly every mail delivery our unit has had has brought me another surprise box full of goodies for me to enjoy and share with my Soldiers. To know that it comes from fellow Soldiers who once served proudly reminds me why I serve our great country – to honor the Veterans who came before me. Since I'm not able to share so generously with you all, let me at least tell you a bit about who I am:

After graduating from high school in Jackson, Michigan, I attended the great University of Michigan (Go Blue!) and received my B.A. in History in 2001. I worked in the private sector

for a short time before the tragic events of September 11, 2001 compelled me to join the U.S. Army.

After serving through two deployments (once Iraq, once Afghanistan) and four proud years with the 82nd Airborne Division as an enlisted airborne infantryman, I was accepted to Officer Candidate School and earned a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Medical Service Course. I was assigned to my current duty assignment, 3rd Brigade (Rakkasans), 101st Airborne Division as a Medical Platoon Leader for 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment. I am married to my college sweetheart – who hails from Saline, Michigan – in 2003 and we have one beautiful son together.

The Army Life has not been as easy one, but this has been the most fulfilling five year of my life. I serve for you folks at home, enjoying the Crazy Jim's Blimpy Burger and summertime art festivals. The show of support you give to me means more than you know, and I look forward to returning home and meeting you all one day soon.

Very Respectfully, 2LT Adrian X. Danczyk

Care Packaging Party

We continue to make a difference for our service men and women serving in harms way. At 6:00 pm, before our April membership meeting, we will pack some more packages for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. If you have some items to bring to put in the boxes, please bring them with you. Also, if you would like to put a personal note in a box(es), please bring them along too. They love to get personal notes from caring people back home in the U.S. – John K.

VA Bingo Parties

We continue to put on Bingo parties for our local hospitalized Veterans at the Ann Arbor VA. That makes for a fun evening. If you have not done one before, you should make it out at least once and check it out. You may end up helping a patient who needs a little help with his bingo cards. You may even end up calling the numbers if you so desire. Marilyn West and a group of comrades do a nice job each month with this event. The patients certainly enjoy playing bingo, which helps break up their day in the monotonous en-

vironment of the medical center.

The upcoming bingos dates are April 1 (Tues.), May 7 (Wed.), June 4 (Wed.) and July 16 (Wed.). Just make it to the Extended Care dining room by about 6:30 for the 7:00 bingo start. There are members there who will show you what to do. Thank you in advance.
John K, Commander

Post Spring Cleanup

We will be planning our annual spring cleanup soon. If you have a couple hours you would like to donate to your Post. Let me know. Bob London our Home Board Chairman brought this up in our March meeting. He did not mention anything specific to be done, but the woodsy setting we have for our Post makes for cleanup. So, volunteer at our next meeting to help cleanup or call me (734-994-0444) to volunteer and for details.

John K, Commander

AMAZINGLY SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES

You only need two tools: WD-40 and Duct Tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40.

If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.

Avoid arguments with the little woman about lifting the toilet seat by simply using the sink.

If you woke up breathing, congratulations! You get another chance.

If you have a bad cough, take a large dose of laxatives, then you will be afraid to cough.

And finally, be really nice to your family and friends; you never know when you might need them to empty your bedpan.

Bananas contain three natural sugars - sucrose, fructose and glucose combined with fiber. A banana gives an instant, sustained and substantial boost of energy.

VFW Post 423 Baseball Team

With warm weather around the corner, those who like baseball begin thinking about the playing or watching the American pastime. Last season was our Post's first year in the Ann Arbor Rec and Ed wood bat hardball baseball league. We were competitive in this very competitive league last season. We did however lose more games than we won and hope to improve on that this coming year.

Many of the players are former high school and college players. Some are older than others. We do have a good time and thank our Post for being our sponsor.

We are looking for baseball players at this time. If you or someone you know is a good ball player who would like to join our team, please have them contact me.

If you would like to know when and were we are playing, I will get the schedule in a month or so and would be happy to have you come out and cheer us on. Most of our games will be played at Ann Arbor's Veterans Memorial Park on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Some games will begin at 6:00pm and a few at 9:00pm. Go VFW Post 423!
John Kinzinger, Commander

I'm sure you all remember your uniforms and the weapons you carried.

Below is an example of our troops battle dress and weapons in Iraq and Afghanistan.



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



Election /Membership Meeting April 14th 8PM

Calendar of Events

April 14 - VFW Meeting/Elections 8 PM
April 14 Packing Party 6 PM
May 4 - District Six Meeting at VFW Post 423
May 8, 9 & 10 Poppy Sales
May 12 VFW Meeting 8 PM

Bingo Dates: 7 PM start.

April 1st.

May 7th

June 4th