



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

Sept/Oct 2008

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND AUXILIARY POST 423

Commander's Message – John Kinzinger

Well, summer is almost gone already. Where did it go? Oh well, our Post looks the nicest during the turning of the colors of all the leaves on the trees at our Post. There are some real beautiful days coming up soon. I hope you get a chance to get out there and see them. We will have a couple of events coming up to give you that opportunity.



John K - Vietnam 66-67

We have a special VFW Open House on Saturday, September 27th from 10 am to 2 pm. All members are invited, but our focus is to get local VFW qualified Veterans to come out and check out our Post. So, if you have a neighbor, relation or friend who has been thinking about joining or you think they should, bring them out and experience our beautiful Post. We will have luncheon food and refreshments for all and families are most welcome too. So, put that date on your calendar.

Next, our annual Past Commander - Past President dinner will be Sunday, October 19th at 5 pm at our Post. See article for more details as our Auxiliary Members are organizing this event. Then on Sunday, December 7th, we will put on our annual Post 423 *(continued next column after the Marilyn's report)*

Auxiliary President - Marilyn West

Commander Kinzinger has covered all the events and contact information as required and I have nothing additional to add.

Christmas Party for children and grandchildren of members. All members are invited. We also invite children who have a father or mother deployed on active duty anywhere in the world to be our guest. See the separate article on this by Christmas Party Chair Kay Davis who is organizing this event for our Post. Thank you in advance Kay for doing that for us. I am told that Santa Claus will show up during the event and the children will all receive gifts. So, keep our Christmas party in mind too. If you know of anyone who has children and they have a mother or father deployed in the military, please let them know too that we invite them to attend



Photo John Kinzinger - 08

this nice party our Post puts on each year.

Annual WWII and Korean War Picnic

We had another nice turnout of local WWII and Korean War Veterans at our 2008 picnic. In fact, we had 53 attend,

along with another 100 people. Everyone had a good time and lots of good food (thank you Marilyn and other Auxiliary members for coordinating that). Milton Davis and his helpers put out a nice display from our Post museum items for all to see. Our DJ played all the old tunes for our guests to enjoy. We hope all our guests will attend our 2009 event. See the pictures. (*see pictures on page 3*)

Support Our Troops

Our Post has received several responses from troops who have received our Care Packages. Some have even taken Flags flown over their site in Iraq and then sent to us. On 8/11/08, we packed and mailed 24 large packages. We are making a difference for our troops and apparently their families too.

A recent note we received from the wife of a trooper to whom we have mailed packages – Dear Veterans of Foreign Wars & Families, On behalf of my husband Sgt. Charles R. Thorne III, I would like to thank you for the Care package that you and your families have put together for him. Right now it's not easy for him to get to a mailbox because of working long hours and his missions. When I was able to talk with him, he wanted me to let everyone know that he got it and that he thanks everyone for his package and support. I would personally like to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for doing this for my husband and making his life a little easier being in Iraq. It's just good to know that he is given love and support from home. I think what you do for the soldiers is an amazing thing. Thank you again. Love, Megan Thorne, Army Wife.

A second letter – VFW Post 423, Warm greetings from Iraq! We have all adjusted to the heat as best we can – but it's just impossible to stay cool when it is 120 degrees outside. I never thought I'd say this – but it makes you appreciate Michigan weather! Thanks for the Care package you sent. Getting something in the mail over here is always nice, and when it's a package full of goodies – it's just like Christmas morning. Thanks for thinking of us while we're gone. It is appreciated. All the best, Spec. John M. Hale.

We will be packing again at 6:30 before our October 13th meeting. If you would like to help, come on out and pack some packages. If you have time, please bring some personal notes to put in them, for our troops say they appreciate them as much as anything else they could receive. We have a good time packing, so come on out.

If you are unable to attend, but would like to send a donation to be used for these mailings, just make it out to 'VFW Post 423 – Care Packages' and mail it to VFW 423, PO Box 2509, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

Past Commander and Past President Dinner

Mark your calendar for October 19th, 2008; refreshments at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00. Dinner is free to Post and Aux members and their spouse or a guest. Members may invite 2 other guests for the cost of \$10.00 each. There will be door prizes and a 50/50 drawing after dinner. Please contact Marilyn West at 971-4567 or Kay Davis at 734-428-7874 no later than the 16th of October. Hope to see you there.

Post Christmas Party

This year's Post Christmas Party will be on December 7th 2008 at 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. So bring out your children and grandchildren. If you know of anyone that is on active duty, please let me know.

The Post will have turkey and ham as our main dish. Please bring a dish to pass. We will eat before Santa's arrival. There will be a gift for each child up to the age of 16. I will need to know the gender, age and child's name. We will also have activities for the children.

All post members are invited. Please contact Kay Davis at 734-428-7874 no later than Nov. 25th 2008.

Kay Davis, Christmas Party Chair

Margaret Gersh Has Moved

Margaret, our Sr. Vice Commander and first Post female line officer, due to cut backs from her local work position she has taken a better position doing similar work in Washington, D.C. She informed us and resigned at our August membership meeting. She offered to continue being our webmaster and keep our web site (www.vfw423.org) updated. We will miss her, but we also wish her well on her new job. Hopefully, she will get back to this area and attend any Post functions she can.

Margaret, we all thank you for serving our Post. We hope you continue your membership with us and maybe we will get you back here in the future.

As a result of her resignation, Jr. Vice Commander Brandon Houser was moved up to Sr. Vice Commander. At our September meeting we elected Comrade Frazier to the position of Jr. Vice Commander. Thank you Horace for accepting the position.

Commander Kinzinger

The hours have changed for the Washtenaw County Veterans Service Office. The new hours are:

Monday - Thursday 7:30 am to 6:30 pm.

Walk-ins - 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

Closed for lunch between 12 to 1 pm

Closed Friday

WWII & Korean Veterans Picnic 2008



Photos John Kinzinger

Be sure to check out the calendar of events on the reverse.

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



Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 27- VFW OPEN HOUSE FOR ALL QUALIFIED VETERANS 10 AM TO 2 PM

OCTOBER 13 - VFW SUPPORT OUR TROOPS PACKING PARTY 6:30 PM

OCTOBER 13 - POST 423 MEMBERSHIP MEETING 8 PM

OCTOBER 19TH - PAST COMMANDER & PRESIDENT DINNER 5 PM AT THE POST

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY WAS SEPTEMBER 19, 2008

WWII POW/MIA - ALL THEATERS MISSING AND BURIED AT SEA 74,384

KOREAN MIA'S 4,295

VIETNAM MIA'S 1,752

IRAQ - TOTAL OF 11 POW'S OF WHICH 8 WERE RESCUED, TWO BODIES RECOVERED AND ONE STILL LISTED AS MISSING - STATUS CAPTURED.