



# THE GRAF-O'HARA MESSENGER

3230 S. WAGNER ROAD PO BOX 2509, ANN ARBOR, MI 48106

Post: (734) 662-3972 - Commander: (734) 994-0444

Post Web Site: [www.vfw423.org](http://www.vfw423.org)

Meetings – 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Each Month at 8:00PM

May / June 2009

## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND AUXILIARY POST 423

### Commander's Message - John Kinzinger

It is an honor to once again be voted by my comrades to be the Commander of VFW Post 423. We have Horace Frazier as our Senior Vice Commander and an Iraq War Veteran, Adam Betz as our Junior Vice Commander. It saddened me that our past Senior Vice Commander, Iraq War Veteran Brandon Houser, has to move to Idaho soon. We will miss him, but we wish him and his family the very best in their new location. Take Care Brandon, personally I will miss you on our baseball team too.



John K. Vietnam 66-67

Our efforts to bring more young Veterans into our Post are paying off. As we bring them in, our Post is definitely growing in character. And they will eventually become us one day as life goes on. That's just the way of our Almighty, if we are blessed to live that long.

We have many events coming up in the next few months. I wish all of you who are in the area will try to attend some of the functions of ours and your Post. Be sure to check out the articles about these coming events.

If you get a hard copy of this newsletter, you should have also received a request to help with our annual VFW Poppy Sale. If you are able, just put your gift in the provided envelop and mail it back to us.

(see Commander page 2)

### Auxiliary President's Message - Marilyn West

I'm very proud to have been elected for another term as President of the Ladies Auxiliary. We have a marvelous group of hard working members who make things run so smoothly. We are planning to try and have some Sunday pot luck dinners this year, so member and friends can see and enjoy our Post informally.

Our installation of officers will be on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm Please encourage your family and friends to attend. I will need to know how many will be attending by May 14<sup>th</sup>. Please call me at (734) 971-4567 or Kay Davis at (734) 4287874. If we are not at home, please leave your name and number and we will get back with you.

Thank you,  
Marilyn West

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*The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, with its Auxiliaries, includes 2.2 million members in approximately 8,100 Posts worldwide.*

*Its mission is to "honor the dead by helping the living" through veterans' service, community service, national security and a strong national defense.*

*The VFW traces its roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service.*

We will put your donation to good use helping Veterans in desperate need of some short term help. "Veterans Helping Veterans."

If you would like to sell poppies with us, it will be at businesses in the Ann Arbor area on May 7, 8 and 9<sup>th</sup>. Just call me for more information if you are interested (734-994-0444).

We continue to pack and mail Care packages to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. We do this every other month before our membership meeting. Our next packing will be at 6:30 on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Come on out and have fun packing a box knowing it is going to a young trooper who will love it, just like you used to love getting them when you were overseas.

On Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, our VFW Post will host the monthly County Council of Veterans meeting. It starts at 8pm and lasts about an hour. This is an opportunity for you to attend this monthly meeting and meet Veterans from other posts around our county and understand what goes on there.

There are other events going on around our area that you should check out to, if you have the time. One in particular is the annual "Proud To Be" Patriotic Concert on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at Dexter's Cornerstone Elementary School. It is located at 7480 Dan Hoey Road, between Baker and Dexter-Ann Arbor Road. Be there by 6:45pm, wear a Veterans hat and sit with the group of Veterans and be honored by this wonderful group of young students. They have been working on their performance for many months. It is a very enjoyable Real American patriotic event.

Another event coming up are the Ann

Arbor VFW baseball games, of which I am the manager. This is very competitive wood bat hardball. It will be the third season for our team and this one appears will be our best season so far. The schedule of games is not out yet. However, all of our games will be Tuesday and Thursday evenings and most at Veterans Memorial Park. I will bring copies of our schedule to the next meeting.

If you are in the area, hope to see you at an event soon. John Kinzinger

### ***For Our Younger Qualified Veterans***

The US Department of Veterans Affairs has posted a notice at its GI Bill website [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) that it will begin accepting applications for the Post 9/11 GI Bill beginning May 1, 2009. The form (VA Form 22-1990 dated December 2008) is available at the website.

The application form requires that individuals currently eligible for another education benefit make an irrevocable election from their existing program to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. This election is made at Part II 9A and 9F of VA Form 22-1990.

For veterans who have selected and been accepted by a school the completed VA Form 22-1990 is mailed to the VA Regional Processing Office for the region of the school's physical address. The four VA Regional Processing Office addresses are on the third page of the form's instructions.

For veterans who haven't selected a school the completed VA Form 22-1990 is mailed to the VA Regional Processing Office for the region of the veteran's home address.

Starting May 1, 2009 VA will begin processing applications for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. The applicant will receive a letter explaining VA's decision regarding eligibility for the program.

Payment of benefits will not be processed until August 1, 2009.

VFW Graf-O'Hara Post 423 in honor of Memorial Day will be having an open house with a military museum on display at the Post home.

When: May 22, thru the 25th. 10 am to 5 pm.

Where: VFW Graf-O'Hara Post 423

3230 S. Wagner Road, Ann Arbor

On display will be uniforms beginning with WWI, medals, web gear, weapons, helmets, boots, patches and other personal items.

This is one of the largest private collections in the Midwest. It is a must see exhibit so please drop by and have a hotdog on us.

**Installation of Officers Dinner**

The Installation Dinner will be held on May 17, 2009 at the Post. Dinner is free for members and one guest. If you bring more than one guest the additional cost is \$10.00 each.

Please plan to attend and support your Post by calling Marilyn West at 734-971-4567 to make your reservations by May 11th. We need an accurate head-count for the caterer.

**District 6 Testimonial**

On May 16th, 2009 VFW Post 423 will host a testimonial dinner for the 2008-2009 6th District Commander Matt David and President Regina Liedel. Commander David and President Liedel are both members of our Post.

The cash bar will be open at 5 pm with dinner at 6 pm. Dinner cost is \$10.00 per person. Please contact Regina Liedel at 734-846-3991 to make your reservations.

**Taps**

*Charles Allmand 11/21/08*

*Sandy Brumley 12/06/08*

*Samuel Di Maggio 02/10/09*

*Mack Gaunlett 08/29/08*

*Brain Gunderson 03/31/09*

*Boyd Maynare 03/28/09*

*LeRoy (Bob) Schaerer 02/10/2009*

**Officers 2009-10**

Commander: John Kinzinger 734-994-0444  
 Sr. Vice: Horace Frazier Jr. 734-485-1089  
 Jr. Vice: Adam Betz 517-442-8230  
 Quarter Mstr/Adj: Milton Davis 734-428-7874  
 Post Advocate: Bob London 734-429-3434  
 Chaplain: Murl Eastman 734-975-2482  
 Surgeon: Marvin Konkle 734-971-3361  
 1 Yr. Trustee: William Estep 734-428-0866  
 2 Yr. Trustee: Ralph West 734-971-4567  
 3 Yr. Trustee: George Perrault 734-429-1246  
 Sgt. At Arms: Scotty Scott 517-536-0070

**Ladies Auxiliary Officers**

President: Marilyn West 734-971-4567  
 Sr. Vice: Regina Liedel 734-669-8352  
 Jr. Vice: Sharon Kish 941-518-1587  
 Secretary: Mateline Lothamer 734-662-2557  
 Treasurer: Ann Liedel 734-428-8032  
 Conductress: Mateline Lothamer 734-662-5775  
 Guard: Kay Davis 734-428-7874  
 Historian: Regina Liedel 734-669-8352  
 1 Yr. Trustee: Sharon Kish 941-518-1587  
 2 Yr. Trustee: Kay Davis 734-428-7874  
 3 Yr. Trustee Ester Starnal 734-327-1065

**Memorial Home Board Members**

Commander: John Kinzinger 734-994-0444  
 Quartermaster: Milton Davis 734-428-7874  
 1 Yr. Trustee: William Estep 734-428-0866  
 Dale Burgess 734-971-5738  
 Marilyn West 734-971-4567  
 Bob London 734-429-3434  
 Richard Knight 734-665-6891

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### ***Poppy Sales***

Our annual Buddy Poppy sales will be May 7, 8 and 9. The proceeds from this fund raiser go towards our programs to help Veterans at the VA Medical Center and others. So, I hope you volunteer to help sell poppies this year. This will help us make an even bigger difference for others.

If you would like to help, but are unable to sell poppies, you can help by sending a gift made out to VFW 423 – Poppy Sales and mail it to VFW 423, PO Box 2509, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

We had volunteer signup sheets passed around at two membership meetings. I hope you can find the time to help with this program. If you would like to help sell, but cannot make a meeting, please call 734-994-0444 and I will get you signed up. – John K.

### ***Calendar of Events***

May 7, 8 & 9 Poppy Days  
May 17 Installation of Officers Dinner  
May 22-25 Memorial Day Weekend Museum Display  
At the Post  
June 6:30 p.m. Packing Boxes For Troops  
July 19th Post Picnic  
August 2nd - Veterans Picnic for all local veterans.  
October 11 Past Commander and Past Auxiliary Presidents Dinner.  
October 31: Post Halloween Party

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### ***Post Web Site***

Comrade Margaret Gersh is our web master. She has created a very nice Post web site that has pictures of past events and our newsletters for you to view online or download. Please take a moment and check out our site at [www.vfw423.org](http://www.vfw423.org). Her email address is [VFWPost423@gmail.com](mailto:VFWPost423@gmail.com).