



THE GRAF-O'HARA MESSENGER

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

Post: (734) 662-3972 - Commander: (734) 485-1089

Post Web Site: www.vfw423.org

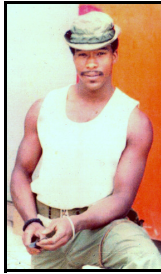
Meetings – 2nd Monday Each Month at 8:00PM

Fall/Winter 2011

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND AUXILIARY POST 423

Commander Frazier's Message

I took a military leave of absence from Ford Motor Company Rawsonville Plant in 1969 at the suggestion of UAW 898 Union Representative John Bass when I'd gotten my draft notice. After returning from Vietnam War and active duty service with a honorable discharge, I had 90 days after my military duty to report back to Ford Motor Co. I went back to work at Ford's and a co-worker friend Robin Dudley suggested I use my G.I Bill to go to W.C. C. Washtenaw Community College



Horace Frazier Jr. Vietnam

I took Robin's advice I played guitar w / W.C.C.J.O & Dr. Morris Lawrence Director, became W.C.C. Student Government President, eventually graduated with an A. D. degree in general studies. The first organization I joined after active duty in 1971 was American Legion Post 408 in Ypsilanti, MI. If my recall is correct while I was an active member at Post 408 T.C. Clay was the commander. Officer Bob Hunter heard me speak of my tour in Vietnam and I had mentioned I got injured in a jeep accident when a Vietnamese child had ran across the street. The driver avoided hitting the child by making a right turn into a concrete barrier where people had been sitting. It was a concrete barrier on both sides of the street people were walking and sitting in this area. A creek ran under the street. I was sitting in the right front passenger seat, another soldier was sitting directly behind me. Upon impact of crashing into the concrete barrier I was knocked out. The weight of the soldier sitting directly behind me pushed my seat up my head hit the windshield, jeep roof cover. The backseat with soldier on it was tilted up on my back and neck. I don't know how I got out of the jeep. I laying in the street with people all around me I couldn't make out faces. I believe my soldier buddies brought me to with the ammonia type substance briefly. I went out again, next thing I knew I was in a hospital. When I woke up the TV was playing the Bonanza show with Hoss and brother little Joe. I Had a neck brace on, cast on my leg. Don't recall how long I was in the hospital. Soon as I could get up and around on my crutches I was released from the hos-

pital to my unit.

Bob Hunter suggested I go to VAMC to see service officer to file a claim for a service connected disability. I met Ray Purvis at VAMC he file my claim. I soon joined DAV Chapter #13 of Ann Arbor, MI. when they were having their meeting at the American Legion Post next to U of M football stadium and become a life member. I think at that time Kermit Sharpe was the DAV 13 Commander. I worked poppy fundraisers, bingo at VAMC. I had become inactive for years with any veterans organization. A couple Vietnam Veteran pals that were on the Student Government Council at W.C.C. invited me to join the VFW Post in Romulus MI on Wayne Rd. Rocky and Bob Taylor grew up and went to school in this area of Romulus and had the idea that we as new members we could help the Post. Well that didn't happen so after a year I did not renew my membership.

I met John Kinzinger while on vacation in Jamaica. As we talked over dinner we found out we were both Vietnam Veterans and John suggested I come visit him at a VVA 310 Chapter & a VFW meeting sometime when I get back to the States. I took John up on his invite and joined VFW Post 423 and VVA 310, and got active with the various programs. Well wouldn't you know here comes John K. "Horace why don't you join the Washtenaw County Veterans Honor Guard to assist with funerals." I met over to John K's home to get honor guard uniform. I find myself meeting some of the most dedicated, extra ordinary people actively supporting our troops at home and abroad throughout the community while working with John K

The Women Auxiliary is truly an honor to work with all of you. Most members are active in three to five different organizations doing productive deeds volunteering their services. You all have my sincere admiration, respect, loyalty, love and prayers. In Jesus name God bless America. Thank you all! And, I do hope to see you all at our Veterans Picnic held on Sunday, August 7th at the Post from 1300 hours till the last vet leaves.

VFW Post 423 Commander, Horace Frazier, Jr.

Ladies Auxiliary - Regina Liedel

Ladies,

It's been a good start to the year we received Auxiliary achievement award for 2010-2011.

That is a great honor for the auxiliary it honors all of are hard work for are community and I would like to thank you for your work. I hope that you continue to strive to help are veterans in any way we can.

The district meeting was a good success we had Candy Betty Department Chaplin and Department Commander Jack Pray as honored guest to the district. I would like to that the post members for their help setting up and cleaning up after the meeting

The Christmas party is coming up please rsvp.

Ladies the meeting dates for the rest of the year are

December 12 2011 district inspection

January 9th 2012, February 13 2012

March 12 2012, April 9 the 2012

May 14 2012, June 11, 2012

I hope to see you all there

Regina Liedel

Auxiliary president

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VFW Post 423 Baseball Team

The Post Baseball Team finished the season with a 7 & 9 record. Won their last game with a suicide-squeeze bunt.

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Commander For Five Years

Comrades, it has been an honor to be the Commander of Graf O'Hara VFW Post 423. These past five years have gone by so fast. We have continued with our traditional annual events and added others. We began an every-other-month packing of Care packages for our troops. Their feedback has confirmed that we are doing the right thing by sending them morale boosting Care packages. Comrades, remember when you received a Care package while overseas and how much that meant to you. We will continue packing Care packages before every other meeting. Our next packing will be December 12th starting at 6:30 pm at the Post. It will be the same before our February and April meetings too.

Along these past five years, there have been so many of you Comrades that I wish to thank for your getting involved with our Post and helping it move forward. Whether it is packing for our troops, setting up for a dinner or museum event, or just attending

our meetings, you are all part of it. If you have not been involved but would like to, just come on out early to any event and there will be something for you to do. The strength of our Post is our members. Thank you all.

We had our All-Area Veterans picnic on August 7th; and we had a great turn-out. If you have an email address, but are not receiving our Post emails, just send an email to our Post to get on the Post email list (www.vfw423.org).

I wish we could have brought more young Veterans into our Post during my term. Hopefully, future Commanders will be more successful. We just need to keep trying to show the young Veterans that our Post offers them so much, and someday it will be their Post.

I have attended several VA bingos hosted by our Post. We do 9 or 10 each year. There are just a handful of Comrades who make them. I wish to thank you very much for doing that. I hope more members will get involved in the future.

Our Quartermaster, Milton Davis, keeps our records in order and organizes most of the events each year. Thank you Milton and Kay for all you do. You are always there.

The Ladies Auxiliary has been there for us all the way. Thank you Marilyn and ladies. We can always count on you. The Post would not be, without you.

Furthermore, VFW Post 423 has the most wonderful caring Chaplain I can imagine. Thank you Comrade Eastman for all your Chaplain work, visiting ill comrades, doing and representing our Post at funerals and helping Comrades in distress. Then there is your daily volunteer work at the Ann Arbor VA. You, who bring the word of our Lord to our Post, are always caring for Veterans. We all sincerely thank you for your dedication. May we have many more years of your filling that role for us.

For now, I will be supporting our new Post Commander, Horace Frazier. All of us need to step up and be there for Horace. Let's keep moving our Post forward.

I salute and thank you all. Comrade Kinzinger

2011 Post Christmas Party

Post Christmas Party December 4th, time 1:00 p.m.

It is that time of year again for our Post Christmas Party for all members.

We will need to know if your children or grandchildren will be attending. We need the name, age and gender of each child, so we can buy gifts. The Ladies Auxiliary will provide gifts. You must RSVP by November 15th. We also need to know how many adults will be attending as well.



The Post will be providing main dish. I am asking for members to help with other dishes, such as potato's, yams, corn, green beans, salads, rolls, deserts, veggie trays. If you can please help out with these foods please call me so we can coordinate our menu. Thank You!

RSVP deadline is November 15th. Please contact me as soon as possible.

Kay Davis (734) 4287874

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Members who passed away In 2011:

Fidel Grammatical, WW II; Ted Tangalakis, WW II; Robert Bailey, WW II; James Mulligan, WW II; Jack Sofia, Vietnam; George Hynes (Past Commander), WW II; Ken Parks, Vietnam; Gary Lillie, Vietnam; Gary Mannor, Vietnam; Earl Papkie, WW II; Richard Pope, Cold War

VFW Post 423 has had a very good year in 2011, the post received the All State Post award. We would like to thank all of the members who have worked to support the post. We have had very good attendance at all the post events, dinners, Memorial Day weekend, picnics, packing boxes and meetings. If you have not paid your dues please do so by November 30th, if want to be All State again this year we need 100% renewal by the new year. Thanks also to all the members who helped put on the events and clean up after.

Camp Grayling

Last month Don Behm, Bill Ballou, John Kinzinger and I drove up to Camp Grayling to join in the going away BBQ for the 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment, Michigan Army National Guard. This Unit will be the first Reserve Unit to be totally self-operating and



John K, Bill Ballou, Megan Schoop, Don Behm and Bob Ski

not under any other Unit as a detachment. There were well over 200 friends & family in attendance.

The Unit NCO's and officers did the cooking. We really enjoyed meeting so many young men and women and their families. We assured the families left behind that our Veterans Organizations here in Michigan will be here to help them out if an emergency arises. Veterans have a tremendous networking capability. The Post donated funds towards the purchase of the BBQ food.

Megan Schoop pictured above is the family coordinator for the families and their deployed troopers.

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2011-2012 Officers

Commander: Horace Frazier, Jr.
 Sr. Vice Commander: Vance L. McCrumb
 Jr. Vice Commander: Dale E. Burgess
 Quarter Master: Milton J. Davis
 Chaplin: Murl J. Eastman
 Judge Advocate: Robert M. London
 Surgeon: Gene N. Liedel
 1 Yr. Trustee: George J. Perrault
 2 Yr. Trustee: Matthew J. David
 3 Yr. Trustee: William H. Estep
 Adjutant (appointed): Milton J. Davis
 Service Officer (appointed): Milton J. Davis

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