

V.F.W. NEWS

Published Four Times a Year by Marion C. Cranefield Post 1318
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vol 21 No. 3 July/August/September 2021



Greetings Comrades!

This is my first official column as the newest Commander of the Marion C Cranefield VFW Post 1318. I thank you for entrusting me with this role. I am humbled to be elected to this position, held by so many impressive veteran servicemembers, for the last 100 years of VFW History in Wisconsin. That's an impressive number. Think about it; the VFW has been an organization in Wisconsin for 100 years. To consider Wisconsin in 1921 vs 2021 is almost an assessment of two different worlds. With the newer technologies being employed a century ago; advancements in transportation, communication, and social movements for human rights, it seems easier to contrast the day-to-day lives of veterans back then, than to compare it with our own. But to simply know that the Veterans of Foreign Wars was a growing institution in America's Dairyland, so long ago, secures our understanding that despite so many changes through history, the fortitude of veterans remains. In many ways is an iconic archetype of our needs and dedication to one another. It is important to recognize and celebrate the steadfastness of our organization, our resilience, and our dedication to service before self.

You can take the veteran out of the military, but you can't take the comradery out of the veteran. To substantiate the strength of that comradery, we need not look any further than our left, our right, or a window on our computer screen during a post meeting. We are one voice strengthened by numbers, and we are one strength exemplified by each unique member. The service history of current Post 1318 members alone spans nearly a century; World War II, Korea, Viet Nam, the Gulf War, Afghanistan, Iraq and many Operations that have earned our veteran statuses. While the variety in our ages, service and individual experiences are all so different, we remain comrades: steadfast in our respect for one another's sacrifices, service to others, and dedication to our mission and our country. It is not only an honor and privilege, but our charge, to carry the torch for those who laid the groundwork for us and lean forward in this next century of VFW in Wisconsin.

As we look to the future, I encourage us all to reflect on the experiences of those before us: not only their strengths and successes but plights and needs as both servicemembers and veterans. I'd also like to consider that history and how we now navigate our present environment in contrast to 100 years ago.

(continued on page 3)



Commander Carlos Tucker

UPCOMING EVENTS

August

- 1-3 – National Convention
- 2nd – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 3rd – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 8th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
- 23rd – House Committee – 6:00 pm
Events Committee – 7:00 pm

September

- 6th – Labor Day
- 7th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 11th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
- 13th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 24th – House Committee – 6:00 pm
Events Committee – 7:00 pm

October

- 4th – Post meeting – 6:00 pm
- 5th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 9th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
- 26th – House Committee – 6:00 pm
Events Committee – 7:00pm

Post is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays

The following groups will meet again when allowed:

First Wednesday Badger Honor Flight – 6:00 pm

Madison Veterans Council 6:00 pm

POST OFFICERS

Commander -----Carlos Tucker
 Sr. Vice Commander-----Edward Maiolo
 Jr. Vice Commander -----Steven Eisenhauer
 Quartermaster-----Gundel Metz
 Adjutant -----Joseph Hines
 Judge Advocate -----Bob Evans
 Chaplain -----Pat Morgan
 Surgeon -----Rose Doucette
 Trustee, 3yr -----Kyong Clawson
 Trustee, 2yr -----William Muethner
 Trustee, 1yr -----Andrew Lochner
 Officer of the Day-----Elisabeth Harman
 Service Officer-----Brad Burt
 Guard -----Karl Kleemann
 Americanism/Loyalty Day---Bob Evans
 Community Activities -----Bob Evans
 Legislative Officer -----Joe Hines
 Public Relations -----Joe Hines
 Newsletter Editor-----Gundel Metz
 Web Administrator-----Andy Mansfield
 Voice of Democracy -----Joe Hines
 Youth Activities-----Joe Hines
 Historian-----
 House Committee ----- Bob Evans, Carlos
 Tucker, Edward Maiolo, Steve Eisenhauer, Ray
 Trent, John Kraak, Rose Doucette, Gundel Metz,
 Brad Thompson, and Greg Burr and Permanent
 Guest - Auxiliary Representative
 House Committee and Events Committee meets on
 the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm

V.F.W. NEWS OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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V.F.W. Memorial Hall
133 E. Lakeside Street
Madison, WI 53715

Questions or comments about the Newsletter?
 E-mail: VFW1318@hotmail.com

POST MEETINGS:

First Monday of each month @ 6 p.m.

AUXILIARY MEETINGS:

First Tuesday of each month @ 6:30 p.m.

DANE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

210 Marting Luther King Jr. Blvd Rm 108
 Madison, WI 53703
 Phone: 608-266-4158 TDD 608-266-4157
 Legislative HOT-LINE 800-362-9696

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President -----Ellen Evans
 Sr. Vice -----Rose Doucette
 Jr. Vice -----Elizabeth Moore
 Treasurer -----Melissa Crary
 Conductress-----Gundel Metz
 Secretary -----Adajo Forester
 Trustee, 1 yr-----Nina Smithback
 Trustee, 2 yr-----Rose Doucette
 Trustee, 3 yr-----Elizabeth Moore
 Chaplain-----Sharon Crary
 Guard-----Nina Smithback
 Historian-----Rose Doucette

Find us on
FACEBOOK and
TWITTER

Facebook:
The VFW, Cranefield's
Post 1318

TWITTER@VFWPOST1318

WEB ADDRESS

VFW1318.ORG

Telephone: 608-255-5955

Email: vfw1318@hotmail.com

V.F.W. NEWS DEADLINE IS
 JULY 10TH. IF YOU HAVE A STORY,
 AN IDEA, A WEBSITE TO SHARE,
 PLEASE SEND THE INFORMATION
 IN AN EMAIL OR THROUGH THE
 POST OFFICE TO THE
 NEWSLETTER EDITOR.



CANTEEN

CANTEEN HOURS

Mondays – Tuesdays closed
 Wednesday: 4pm to 11 pm
 Thursday: 11 am to 11 pm
 Friday & Saturday: 11 am to Midnight
 Sunday: 11 am to 8 pm

Canteen Specials:

Thursday is \$.75 Wings

Friday is Cod Fish Sandwich or
 6 pieces coconut shrimp for
 \$6.00

Check the board for our daily specials.

Trivia every Thursday at 7:00 pm and
 Karaoke every Friday at 6:30 pm

Plus we have the weekly draw on
 Fridays.

WACKO – Every Sunday

Stop on by and meet our staff, Kate,
 Vicki, Erica, Nate, Joseph, Steve and
 others. Plus Greg is there almost every
 morning cleaning up.

**DUE TO COVID 19 WE HAVE
 LIMITED SEATING**

As Always call the Post if you want to
 know what is going on that day.

**If you want information for the
 on-line Post meetings, please
 contact the Post Quartermaster
 at vfw1318@hotmail.com. All
 Post meetings are hybrid, some
 members at the Post and the
 others via internet.**

(Commander's column continued)

It is a constantly changing world, and as veterans, we are ingrained with the dexterity to dynamically adapt and overcome adversity. It is paramount that we never lose sight of our true purpose and allegiance as individuals and as an organization. And as we lean forward, on this cusp of the next 100 years, let us employ our individual knowledge, skills, experiences, and resources to continue to serve our purpose and perform our mission in creative and new ways as one strength and one voice.

Once again, I am both humbled and honored to serve as Commander of Post 1318 in this new term. Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility. To be honest, I also think it's pretty cool that it happens to be in the Centennial Year of the VFW in Wisconsin. I am proud of the accomplishments of this Post, I am proud to be a member of this institution, and I am excited about our potential as we move into our new building and start a new chapter to next 100 years in serving and representing veterans, as well as serving our community.

Respectfully,

Carlos Tucker
Commander

EVENTS

BY BOB EVANS

Saturday July 24 1:00-4:00pm

We will be having Post 1318 "Good Bye" to our current Lakeside location. And, celebrating the 60 plus years that this location has given us.

We are grateful in honoring our past membership with the foresight they had to reward us with the ability to move and develop a new location. While we would have liked to continue in our current location, economics would not allow. Luckily, the Lakeside location gave us the financial wherewithal to develop a new and more modern Post. In honoring the past membership, notably, the Doucette family, and their continuing support, 1318 is able to move on and to continue to support our Veteran community.

I would like to acknowledge the support of the Auxiliary, and Ellen Evans who has taken on the role of Project Manager. Gundel Metz, who has devoted endless hours to the financial organizing of the new location.

We hope to have as many members as possible at this celebration, as we look forward to our new Post home.

We will be having a Grand Opening this fall in our new location.

Bob Evans
Activities Chairman



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Everyone,

We are looking at starting the new year in the Auxiliary. Once again, I was elected President, and am happy to represent you. Our officers are committed to serving our Veterans and their families.

There has been a lot of activity at the new building. Huge changes since April. There has been lots of demolition, jackhammering, and digging. So many drawings have been done, and plans gone over, it is mind boggling. Hard to believe how much goes into a project like this. In the past couple weeks, some has started to come back together. It's slow progress, but so much of it is out of our hands. It's going to be a wonderful new home for our VFW.

This past weekend was the State VFW convention in Green Bay WI. It was a full few days, with lots of information to be shared. We always come home with new ideas. The conventions are a wonderful place to network and share ideas. It is something we look forward to every year.

Our blanket project for the home at King is ongoing, and will continue as long as we can. It is very rewarding for each and every one of us, as well as all who receive one of our blankets or quilts.

Please come join us in our Auxiliary. We are meeting in person and via internet. We encourage you to call and check to make sure you qualify. We would love to have you. Men and women are both welcome to join.

Until next time,

We will keep doing all we can for our Veterans and their families.

Ellen Evans
President
Post 1318 Auxiliary

National Auxiliary President Sandra Onstwedder
VFW WI National Council Member (Aux
member) Gundel Metz
Past Commander-in-Chief Tommy Tradewell



“WARRIOR HIKE”

BY ANDY LOCHNER

After a year off, the Warrior Expedition "Warrior Hike" program is back in action. Two veterans started hiking the 1200-mile Ice Age Trail in Sturgeon Bay, WI in early June and will finish in St. Croix Falls, WI in early August.

Over the years, the Post has been a key support element for the program. As the hikers make their way down the trail, they depend on support from local communities. This is a chance to expose the hikers to the VFW community and for them to establish relationships with fellow veterans.

As we have in past years, members from Marion C. Cranefield Post 1318 stepped up to support the hikers. On the trail this year are Brady Maxwell of Worthington, OH and Sean McConaghy of Land 'O Lakes, WI. Sean and Brady arrived at the Verona trailhead where they were picked up and brought to their hotel room that the Post arranged. Later that evening, a group of Post members gathered at the Post for some great food and fellowship. We returned the hikers to the trailhead on Thursday morning.

A highlight of the evening was when Sean and Brady were presented their Quilt of Valor by the Wisconsin Quilts of Valor Foundation Coordinator Karen Demaree. The mission of the foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing quilts. Thank you to Karen for making the trip and positively impacting Sean and Brady as well as all who were present.

Our Post should be proud of the support we provided the Warrior Expedition program. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in the project.



Karen Demaree, Sean
McConaghy and
Brady Maxwell



Brady Maxwell, Karen
Demaree, and Sean
McConaghy

MEMORIAL DAY

BY GUNDEL METZ

Memorial Day is a day we remember those that have made the ultimate sacrifice. Post 1318 members place the US flag by graves to show that those that are buried there served in the military. The Madison Veterans Council also had the Memorial Day Ceremony at Forest Hill Cemetery in Madison. Post members paid tribute to our name's sake, LT Marion C Cranefield, Past Commander-in-Chief Lyall Beggs and Roger Boeker. If you have never attended a Memorial Day Ceremony, I encourage everyone to do this. This is the time we honor our battle buddies, our neighbors, classmates and even family members who have given their all.



Members of the Post (Joseph Hines, Gundel Metz, Bill Muether, Bill Austin & Elizabeth Harman and the Sons of the American Revolution laying wreath and presenting honors to (left to right):

LT Marion C. Cranefield, Past Commander-in-Chief Lyall Beggs, and Post member Roger Boeker



Left: James Latimer – director of the Post 1318 Band, Gundel Metz, and Members of Marine Gulf Company who posted the colors.

Right: Gundel Metz with the Marines

Post members Andy Lochner, Bill Muether, Joe Hines, John Hahn and Bill Austin placing flags on veterans graves one week before Memorial Day

POST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades,

By way of introductions, I am Steve Eisenhauer, Junior Vice Commander. I joined Post 1318 in April 2019. Having a full-time job that requires a lot of travel, I have been slow to get more involved with the Post and VFW. As each month has passed, I started to find ways to balance my full-time job and getting more involved with the Post and its activities. I have been fortunate to have experienced some incredibly positive life changing events this year. One that could enable me to commit more time to the Post and the VFW Mission. Another one was attending my first State Convention in Green Bay.

What an eye opener for me personally. I ran into Gundy first thing Thursday morning. She immediately started introducing me to everyone we ran into. By the way, I am fairly certain Gundy knows just about every VFW member in the State of Wisconsin. I took her cue and initiated conversations with random people, when appropriate. I lost track of how many people I met, new friendships formed, additional resources identified, if needed. Re-kindling something that has been missing in my life, comradery on a large scale. I was also reminded of how small the Veteran Community can be.

One of the first Line Officers I met was State Senior Vice Commander Michele Rathke. During subsequent conversations, we discovered that we were stationed at United States Strategic Command, in Omaha, NE at the same time. She was in J0/J1, I was in J6. Thanks to Gundy, I also had the privilege of meeting a fellow Navy Mustang.

What I will refer to as the General Session on Thursday and Friday was extremely educational for me. It gave me a much better understanding of the relationship between our Post, our District, our Department and the VFW's mission. The opportunity to hear from and talk to Comrades from across the State about what they are doing for Veterans was very empowering.

Speaking of empowerment, Friday morning we had a ceremony to honor and recognize the Wisconsin Hmong Lao Veterans of America. To witness the mutual respect and admiration between the Hmong Lao Veterans and the Vietnam Veterans in attendance left me speechless. The speeches given by the Hmong Lao Veterans, their descendants and Past State Commanders that were part of the missions in Lao are indescribable. It was a very heart felt emotional ceremony honoring the sacrifices made by the Laotians and U.S. Veterans during an exceedingly difficult period in history. To use a Naval Submariner's term, Pride in my Comrades was "Running Deep".

I have not been in a good place for far too many years. Joining the VFW and becoming a member of Post 1318 helped me start on the path I needed. Attending the State Convention has strengthened my foundation and helped me realize what I want to and need to do with the rest of my life. I am looking forward to and have a lot of optimism and enthusiasm for the next chapter in my life. I still have a lot to learn but, I am incredibly grateful and fortunate to have a phenomenal mentor.

I look forward to serving this Post in whatever capacity it sees fit. Most importantly, I look forward to helping and serving ALL Veterans in any way I can.

Respectfully,

Steven J. "Ike" Eisenhauer



VFW LEGISLATIVE

BY JOSEPH HINES

Recently the VFW National Legislation office testified in support of numerous federal legislation that has the full support of the VFW. I would like to highlight and summarize two of the most significant bills that were presented.

S. 796, Protecting Moms Who Served Act of 2021

The VFW supports this proposal to structure VA's maternity care coordination programs to provide community maternity care providers with training and support concerning the unique needs of pregnant and postpartum veterans. This legislation would also require a report on maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity among veterans, infant mortality rate, and additional outcomes focused on racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health. This legislation would also provide an understanding of fertility and infertility of women veterans, and shed light where gaps and barriers may exist. The VA can use this information to support the vital programs and policies to assist women veterans with healthy pregnancies, deliveries, and postpartum care.

S. 1467, VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2021

This legislation would require VA to conduct scientific studies on the efficacy of medicinal cannabis. It would move the VA toward understanding the therapeutic potential of cannabis for veterans. VFW members tell us that medicinal cannabis has helped them cope with chronic pain and other service-connected health conditions. They cannot receive these services at VA because of VA's bureaucratic hurdles. The VFW is proud to support this important bill and thanks this committee for its consideration.

At the State Level the Wisconsin VFW along with the Wisconsin American Legion and Wisconsin Disabled American Veterans recently testified at the State Capitol in Support of Wisconsin Senate Bill 243.

Wisconsin Senate Bill 243. On May 25th, the Big 3 veteran service organizations in Wisconsin testified before the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Revenue and they expressed their united support for SB 243. The bipartisan "Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit Fairness Act" authored by Senators Andre Jacques (R)-De Pere and Lena Taylor (D)-Milwaukee would expand eligibility from the current 100% rating to 70% to claim the credit. It would be assessed on a pro-rata basis reflecting the veteran's disability rating as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). SB 243 has been declared the #1 legislative priority by the American Legion, DAV, and VFW. Given the unexpected infusion of \$4.4 billion into the state coffers, we urge the Joint Committee on Finance to include SB 243 into the 2021-2023 State Budget. This is an important and promising first step in giving more disabled veterans property tax relief here in Wisconsin. It is not a done deal and has a long way to go before it is passed.

JULY POST MEETING

BY GUNDEL METZ

After a year of not being able to fully meet in person, we had a very good turn out for July. We had the honor to hear the VFW Patriot's Pens State Second Place winner. Plus, our oldest active member, Karl Kleemann, attended his first meeting since before COVID. It was a very good meeting, with new officers in place and celebrating the July birthdays.



Post sponsored Patriot's Pen State Second Place winner Clara Insolia with John Kleinmaus, State Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Chairman



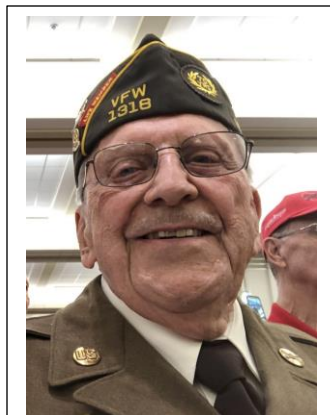
Clara Insolia given her speech to Post members



Post Commander Carlos Tucker, Clara Insolia, John Kleinmaus, and Post Patriot's Pen & Voice of Democracy Chair, Joe Hines



Post Officers: JVC Steve Eisenhauer, CDR Carlos Tucker, & SVC Edward Miaolo



Karl Kleemann, WW II Pacific veteran, finally made it to a meeting after COVID. Karl has been a member of the Post for 73 years. Karl will be 98 years young later this month.



SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

VIETNAM VETERANS:

Federal VA has added three more presumptive conditions related to Agent Orange exposure. They are:

Bladder Cancer

Hypothyroidism

Parkinsonism

If you had filed for these diseases in the past and were denied, VA will automatically review your case again. You do not need to file another claim. VA will send you a letter to let you know that they are reviewing your case. If you never filed before, I encourage you to do so now.

GULF WAR VETERANS:

VA presumes certain chronic, unexplained symptoms existing for 6 months or more are related to Gulf War service without regard to cause. These "presumptive" illnesses must have appeared during active duty in the Southwest Asia theater of military operations or by **December 31, 2021, and be at least 10 percent disabling. These illnesses include:**

- **Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS)**, a condition of long-term and severe fatigue that is not relieved by rest and is not directly caused by other conditions.
- **Fibromyalgia**, a condition characterized by widespread muscle pain. Other symptoms may include insomnia, morning stiffness, headache, and memory problems.
- **Functional gastrointestinal disorders**, a group of conditions marked by chronic or recurrent symptoms related to any part of the gastrointestinal tract. Functional condition refers to an abnormal function of an organ, without a structural alteration in the tissues. Examples include irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), functional dyspepsia, and functional abdominal pain syndrome.
- **Undiagnosed illnesses** with symptoms that may include but are not limited to: abnormal weight loss, fatigue, cardiovascular disease, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and psychological problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders, and sleep disturbances.

If you have any of the symptom's listed above, I encourage you to contact your County Veterans Service Officer to see what assistance you may be eligible for.



GOODBYE PARTY

July 24, 2021

1:00 – 4:00 pm

Come and join us as we say goodbye to our Lakeside location. We will continue to stay open until we move to our new location later in the summer.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

POST FUTURE HOME UPDATE



Sprinkler system and patio door

2740 Ski Lane, Madison



New Cooler



Plumbing



Plumbing for the new bar



Grease trap for kitchen area

HAVE YOU MOVED RECENTLY

Please notify the Post if you have moved or have a new email address so that we can keep you informed and plugged into Post Activities

Please send your email address to the Quartermaster so we can send you the Newsletter electronically. Thanks.
vfw1318@hotmail.com