

Serving the Community Since 1925

V.F.W. NEWS

Published Four Times a Year by Marion C. Cranefield Post 1318
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vol 22 No. 3 July/August/September 2022



Greetings, Comrades.

First off, CONGRATULATIONS! We are now at 100% membership! To all of our newest members of Post 1318, welcome! We look forward to getting to know you better, sharing in camaraderie and working together to continue to benefit veterans and the community.

Many thanks to those whose recruiting efforts have helped us reach this magnificent milestone! And, of course, thank you to all of the members who make our post what it is; a warm and welcoming organization of veterans and family members, motivated by dedication and service to others. It feels great to be at 100% and it's a great start to the summer season!

Yes, I said it: summer season! As your resident meteorologist commander, I will not skip the opportunity to talk a little weather. June 21st, as always, marked the first day of summer and Mother Nature has not hesitated to let us know it! In my household, we've already had several days in which my daughters have delivered weather reports, including "it's too hot for grilling, I don't like getting sweaty" and my favorite, "I'll melt if I go play outside!" While I admit, those are their words and not mine, I honestly cannot say I haven't occasionally felt the same, at least a little bit. For those who share the sentiment, the Climate Prediction Center is leaning toward chances that the rest of the Summer will be warmer than average, so please plan accordingly while I plan on purchasing earplugs. If anyone has any tips on effectively neutralizing an enemy onslaught of complaining children, I am open to defense strategies, both strategic and tactical. In a nutshell, the summer forecast is going to be "hot" and "whiney," so let's do our best to keep cool, both literally and figuratively! Our post medic will be prescribing 20 minutes of controlled breathing, once a day, for those in need. Overall, I am finding this practice to be quite beneficial, even without a prescription.

On that note, I would be remiss if I did not ask you for a gut check; to reflect on the 4th of July and the meanings of both independence and freedom in our country. The holiday means so much, in so many ways. I encourage you to share these reflections with friends, family and loved ones. There is strength in open, cooperative communication and listening. These discussions are also helpful in guiding and reinforcing our own passions, beliefs, and convictions, and serve as a reminder of our personal reasons for our service to our fellow citizens.

(Continued on page 3)



Commander Carlos Tucker

UPCOMING EVENTS

August

- 1st – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 2nd – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 13th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
- 23rd – House Committee – 6:00 pm
- Events Committee – 7:00 pm

September

- 6th – 7th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 10th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
- 12th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 27st – House Committee – 6:00 pm
- Events Committee – 7:00 pm

October

- 3rd – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- VFW 1318 Band Rehearsal – 7:00 pm
- 4th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 8th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
- 25th – House Committee – 6:00 pm
- Events Committee – 7:00pm

Post is closed on Mondays

The following also meet at the Post:

Madison Veterans Council
VFW 1318 Band for Rehearsal
Madison Navy League
Riders United

POST OFFICERS

Commander -----Carlos Tucker
 Sr. Vice Commander-----Steve Eisenhower
 Jr. Vice Commander -----Venus Hilgart
 Quartermaster-----Gundel Metz
 Adjutant -----Joseph Hines
 Judge Advocate -----Bob Evans
 Chaplain -----Rose Doucette
 Surgeon -----Rose Doucette
 Trustee, 3yr -----Andrew Lochner
 Trustee, 2yr -----Kyong Clawson
 Trustee, 1yr -----William Muether
 Officer of the Day-----Elizabeth Harmon
 Service Officer-----Will Atkinson
 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-----William Muether
 House Committee -----Bob Evans, Carlos
 Tucker, Steve Eisenhower, Venus Hilgart, Ray Trent,
 Sharon Warsaw, Rose Doucette, Gundel Metz, Bill
 Austin, and Joseph Hines and Permanent Guest -
 Auxiliary Representative
 House Committee and Events Committee meets on
 the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6:00pm

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President -----Ellen Evans
 Sr. Vice -----Rose Doucette
 Jr. Vice -----Elizabeth Moore
 Treasurer -----Melissa Cray
 Conductress-----Michael Rowland
 Secretary -----Adajo Forester
 Trustee, 1 yr-----Rose Doucette
 Trustee, 2 yr-----Elizabeth Moore
 Trustee, 3 yr-----Michael Rowland
 Chaplain-----Rose Doucette
 Guard-----
 Historian-----Rose Doucette

**Find us on
 FACEBOOK and
 TWITTER**

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/vfw1318
TWITTER@VFWPOST1318

WEB ADDRESS
VFW1318.ORG

Telephone: 608-255-5955

Email: vfw1318@hotmail.com

V.F.W. NEWS DEADLINE IS
 October 4th. 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 – Closed
 Tuesday: 11 am to 8 pm
 Wednesday: 11 am to 8 pm
 Thursday: 11 am to 11 pm
 Friday & Saturday: 11 am to 11 pm
 Sunday: 11 am to 8 pm

Canteen Information:

Food Specials:

Taco Tuesday's
 Wrap Wednesday
 Trivia Thursday Nachos
 Friday Fish Basket or Coconut Shrimp

Happy Hour Specials:

Tequila Tuesday
 Top Shelf Whiskey Wednesday
 Thirsty Thursday
 The Boyle Fridays

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

Plus we have the weekly draw on
 Fridays.

WACKO – Every Sunday

Stop on by and meet our staff, Kate,
 Vicki, Erica, Allison, Nicole, Brent,
 Scott, Flip, Michael, Anna, and others.

Saturday evenings we may have a band,
 singer or paint night.

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

V.F.W. NEWS OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

V.F.W. NEWS is the official publication of
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 subscription to the V.F.W. NEWS through email
 or postal mail.

V.F.W. Post 1318
2740 Ski Lane
Madison, WI 53711

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

**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)

With that, I am honored to continue serving with each and every one of you and I am honored to continue to serve as Commander of such an incredible VFW Post. Our ability to work together as a strong, cohesive, and successful organization, regardless of our independent backgrounds, beliefs or motivations, is beyond commendable. We stand as a shining example of what can be accomplished through open communication, cooperation, and mutual respect. Let's continue moving forward in supporting others and each other. We remain undivided and are strongest united.

Warmest Regards,
CARLOS D TUCKER

STATE COMMANDER AND AUXILIARY PRESIDENT SPECIAL PROJECT

This year's special project for the Wisconsin VFW and Auxiliary is to help three Equestrian Veteran Therapy ranches in the State of Wisconsin. These facilities are committed to helping our veterans with the help of some wonderful four-legged therapists. The funds we raise will be split between these three centers and they are excited for the opportunity to put these funds to great use helping more veterans and upgrading their facilities.

At Trinity – Trauma, PTSD, and Horses – a FREE equine Assisted Therapy (EAP) program for veterans and their families.

<https://www.trinity-ec.com/>

At Stable Hands – V.A.S.T. Program – Veteran Assisted Sports Training program. It offers horse-based activities to enhance the recovery from physical, emotional, social, and cognitive struggles that veterans may face.

<https://stablehandstherapy.com/>

At Horse Power Healing Center – offers a safe and peaceful environment for veterans to bond with fellow veterans, volunteers and horses in a non-judgmental way.

<https://www.horsepowerhealingcenter.org/>





AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Everyone,

We are now beginning the new year for the Auxiliary. The weather is great, and the time is right to keep things going! We have just returned from the State VFW/Auxiliary Convention. It was a great opportunity to network as it always is.

We were thrilled to get a couple of awards, one of them was for our Youth Activities, the other was an award for our Buddy Poppy Display at the convention. The beautiful display was made by sisters, literally and figuratively, Elizabeth Moore and Rose Doucette. It was exciting to have our Auxiliary announced and have Elizabeth go up on stage to receive the award!

We are looking forward to the new Auxiliary year and welcome all new members. We have a couple of projects in the works, a sock collection will start around the time of the next newsletter. Watch for that. We are hoping for a couple of fundraisers. We will also be working with RUCK 21 and Shop with a Cop.

The bar is now open Tuesday through Sunday, and we would like to see you here!

Please contact us with any questions on becoming a member of Post 1318 Auxiliary. It would be a pleasure to have you join us.

Thank you for a wonderful fiscal Auxiliary year.

Take care and be safe,

Ellen Evans
President
Post 1318 Auxiliary



Left Picture: Ellen Evans and Mike Rowland cooking pancakes.
Top: Melissa Crary and Elizabeth Moore serving breakfast.

ROLLING THUNDER

BY JAMIE HERMANN

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. has some exciting events going on over the next couple months.

June 9th, Rolling Thunder® Inc. Wisconsin Chapter 5 members purchased a table and attended the Wisconsin VFW Centennial Celebration.

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. along with 31 other businesses and VFWs are sponsoring the 2022 Thunder Run which runs throughout the summer. Visit one or more of the locations on the Thunder Run for a chance to win money. Fifty percent of the money raised goes towards cash and prizes; the other fifty percent will go towards the Rolling Thunder®, Inc.'s mission with a donation to Operation Ruck 22 of Wisconsin. You can support this fundraiser by purchasing your Thunder Run book at VFW Post 1318 for \$25. The final drawing will be October 1st, at VFW 1318 (need not be present to win).

Rolling Thunder will be the featured non-profit spotlight at the Mallards game on July 15th. This is our third year participating as the non-profit spotlight, each year we participate in the 50/50, throw out the first pitch and the tailgate party prior to the game.

VFW Post 1318 and Rolling Thunder®, Inc. are sponsors of Operation Ruck 22 of Wisconsin. Rolling Thunder will have a water stop along the Ruck. The date of the event has been changed to September 24th, 2022. If you would like to participate in this event please visit <https://www.operationruck22.com>

To participate in any of these events or suggestions for events that you would like to see Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Wisconsin Chapter 5 or VFW Post 1318 to participate in, please contact the activities committee members or Jamie Herrmann directly at: jamieherrmann3@gmail.com

THUNDER RUN 2022

Help Prevent
Veteran Suicide

Grand Prize: \$9,000*

2nd Place: 10 drawings of \$650 each*

3rd Place: \$250* Gift Certificates

Bonus Stops: 3 drawings of \$1,000 each*

*amounts based on selling all 1500 booklets. 50% of money raised from booklet sales will go towards cash prizes, the other 50% of money raised from booklet sales goes to Rolling Thunder® Inc. Wisconsin Chapter 5, towards the RTWSS mission and to prevent Veteran Suicide with a donation to Operation Ruck 22 of Wisconsin.

Bottom Left: Rolling Thunder members attend Mallard's game in 2021.

Top Right: 2021 Operation Ruck 22 workers

Bottom Right: Members attending the VFW 1920's Gala in Milwaukee on June 9th.



POST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

BY VENUS HILGART

Greetings to members of VFW Post 1318.

I would like to introduce myself; I am Venus Hilgart and currently the Post Junior Vice Commander. I live in Woodruff WI, and I'm married to Bill who is a member of the VFW Auxiliary. My children are Stephanie (26) who specializes in drug and alcohol rehabilitation. Jessica is 22 years old and will finish at UW Oshkosh in December. Jason is 21 years old and works at Howard Brothers Plumbing and has started a mosquito control company. I have been a member of the VFW for many years and a family friend of the Doucettes.

My military history is 22 years in the WIARNG. Our unit originated as the 13th EVAC hospital, but changed names several times over the years. We served in the first Persian Gulf War and were stationed in Saudi Arabia. I served as an operating room nurse in the military as well as civilian career. Recently I retired (April 18th) after 40 years of nursing operating room and was also on call when off duty.

Over the past few years, I have assisted with the Badger football game, Ruck 22 and Shop with a Cop. I look forward to serving the VFW in the future and plan to attend meetings in person occasionally. I am excited about the new building and look forward to meeting all of you. On a side note, we do live on a lake with lots of fish and fun and you are welcome to visit if you head this way.

QUARTERMASTER UPDATE

BY GUNDEL METZ

On June 9th I attend the 100th Anniversary of the State VFW. We had a 1920's Gala, attended by around 500 people and a good time was had by all. The main speaker was Travis Mills who was injured in Afghanistan on his third tour and lost parts of all four limbs. We also had Major General (Ret, AF) John Borling attending and he also spoke the next day. MG Borling was a POW in Hanoi Hilton for 6 ½ years. Both are in inspiration to all of us. Also in attendance was Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Duane Sarmiento. Duane and I were State Commanders together.



VFW LEGISLATIVE

BY JOSEPH HINES

On June 16th in a rare occurrence of bipartisanship the United States Senate voted 84 to 14 to pass the PACT ACT. Both Wisconsin senators Baldwin and Johnson voted in favor of this bill. This is also a rare occurrence as Senator Johnson and Senator Baldwin rarely agree on any legislation that comes before the senate. The House version of this bill passed on March 3rd by a vote of 256 to 174. Wisconsin Representatives Ron Kind, 3rd District; Gwen Moore, 4th District; and our representative Mark Pocan, 2nd District voted in favor of the PACT Act. Wisconsin Representatives Bryan Steil, 1st District; Scott Fitzgerald, 5th District; Glenn Grothman, 6th District; Tom Tiffany, 7th District; and Michael Gallagher, 8th District voted against the PACT Act.

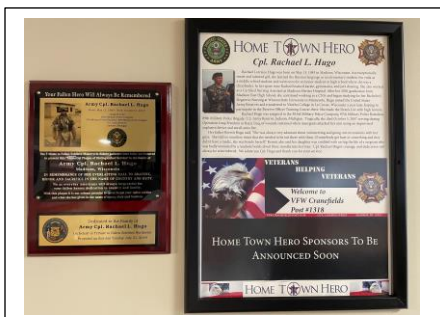
The PACT Act is a comprehensive bill to address the health impacts of those who served overseas and were exposed to toxic hazards, such as burn pits, radiation, and Agent Orange. It offers expanded VA health care eligibility for many veterans who were not previously covered by VA. This act if passed would provide a comprehensive framework which veterans could use to adjudicate and address any possible toxic exposures they may have had during their service.

The senate bill went back to the house for final passage but the House discovered a parliamentary procedure issue regarding one of the provisions in the bill. Since Congress is now in recess, passage of the PACT Act will be delayed. There has been tremendous progress on the movement of this bill. Both the House and the Senate have passed their versions of this bill but we still need to advocate and pressure our lawmakers to take the appropriate action to enact this bill into law. The VFW continues to advocate for the swift passage of this historic legislation. Please stay in contact with Senators Baldwin and Johnson offices and ask them to continue to support this bill. Also contact Mark Pocan our local U.S. Representative to advocate for final passage.

HONORING A FALLEN COMRADE

BY GUNDEL METZ

Post 1318 has chosen to honor CPL Rachel Hugo, Home Town Hero, who was killed in action in 2007 while serving as a Medic in Iraq. When you are visiting the Post, read up on who Rachel was. Rachel's father, Kermit, very generously allowed me to go through Rachels items and pictures. He donated the two plaques and I took lots of pictures.



POST GRAND REOPENING

On May 1, 2022, the Post held its official Grand Re-Opening. We started the day off with the Auxiliary having a pancake breakfast. They did a great job and we thank everyone who came out and supported the event (yes new building and we did have a few hiccups, but it all worked out). At 12:30 pm the State Commander, Cory Geisler, installed the Post Officers. At 1:00 pm we had the official Grand Re-opening. Below are pictures of the event.



Installation of Post Officers



Post Members Steven Eisenhauer, Alan Christopherson and Carlos Tucker received a Quilt of Valor



Post World War II Members, John Speropulos, Karl Kleemann, State Commander Cory Geisler, and Alan Christopherson



Post Commander Carlos Tucker



State Commander Cory Geisler

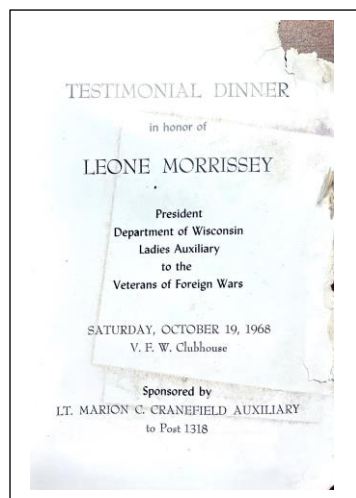
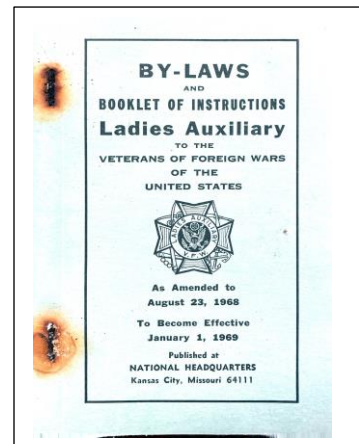
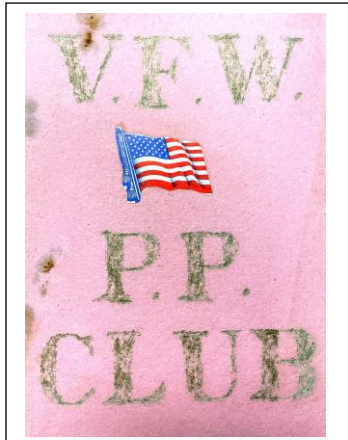
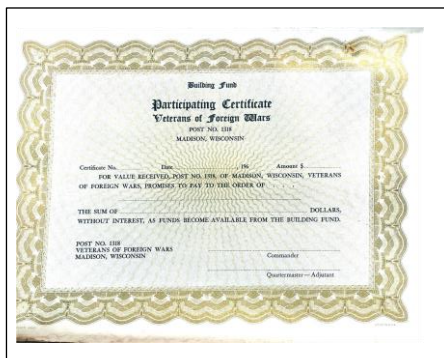


State Auxiliary President Inez Semingson

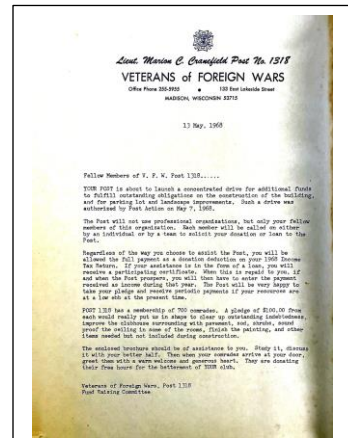


POST 1318 TIME CAPSULE

In our last Newsletter, we posted pictures of the time capsule from 133 E Lakeside St being opened. Here are pictures of what was inside that time capsule. All items are on display in our Display case.



(continued on page 10)



POST SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

BY STEVE EISENHAUER



Comrades,

As you all know, we held our 101st State Convention at the Potawatomi Hotel and Casino June 7th – June 11th. What a week!

The highlight was the 1920's Gala Event celebrating our departments 100th anniversary. There were over 500 people in attendance. I was told that is the largest number of people attending that anyone could remember. Yes, there were many people dressed in 1920's attire, some got very creative, and the lady's attire was nothing short of impressive.

The keynote speaker for the Gala was Travis Mills, a retired United States Army Staff Sergeant of the 82nd Airborne, recalibrated warrior, motivational speaker, actor, author and an advocate for veterans and amputees. He is one of only five quadruple amputees from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to survive his injuries. His talk was extremely touching, motivating, and sprinkled with humor. Please, do you self a favor and check out his website <https://www.travismills.org/> On the last day of the convention, we voted on the 2022 DEPARTMENT REDISTRICT BY-LAW PROPOSAL. The votes for the proposal outnumbered the votes against the Proposal but a two-thirds majority vote of those Posts present and eligible to vote was not achieved. This will be revisited, revised, and re-submitted.

Commanders Special Project. The Commander and President's second project, "Let's Bring them Home". All donations from this project were given to the UW-Madison Missing in Action Recovery and Identification Project (UW MIA-RIP). The goal for this second project was to raise \$15K. The total raised was only known by 2 people. Comrades, when the check was unveiled revealing, for the first time to the Commander, President, VFW, and Auxiliary members in attendance as well has the head of the Project at UW-Madison, the room literally erupted. **Between the VFW and Auxiliary over \$63K** was raised and presented to the UWMIA-RIP project. Between the two projects, **over \$93K was raised** during a single Command year.

A couple of updates from the most recent VFW Action Corp weekly email:

PACT Act - Please see Joe Hines Legislative article on page 7.

House Passes STRONG Act: The House passed VFW-supported [H.R. 6411](#), *Support The Resiliency of Our Nation's Great (STRONG) Veterans Act of 2022*. The bill would improve VA's mental health provider workforce, strengthen the Veterans Crisis Line, expand Vet Center eligibility to include students and survivors of suicide loss, and bolster mental health research. Language crafted by 2021 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellow Eric Sowers to improve the Veterans Justice Outreach Program can also be found in the bill text.

MEMBERS CORNER



Post members Steve E., Bill A., John H., Elizabeth H., and Andy L. set out flags on veteran's graves at Forest Hill Cemetery for Memorial Day



Right: Post Life Member Paul A. (center) visits his new Post for the first time. We have not seen Paul in 3 years. Rick (left) and Kenny, Post member picked Paul up.



Left: New Post members Mike K. and Tim H. taking their members obligation.

Right: Post member Mark H. attending the pancake breakfast and the Grand Re-opening



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