

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 23 No. 4 October/November/December 2023

Greetings Comrades,

I hope everyone is doing well. As is usual, the year is going by fast. The Post has started getting involved with community and some organizations. As with most things, it starts out slow and builds over time.

I have communicated in the past to participate in and do what you can when you can. We are a volunteer organization and I understand Family and job come first. As we get more involved in the community, and with organizations, we are going to need volunteers to help support these events. There are some things we are working on so be on the lookout for information about these events.

I have started emailing members with relevant information and updates that are not found in the monthly minutes of our Post Meetings. Sending an email is the quickest and most efficient way to communicate information. If you have not received any of the emails I have sent, please contact Gundy or myself to update your contact information.

As a member of the Wisconsin VFW, all members have a \$2,500 Accidental Death policy. This is at no cost to the member and is provided by AIL. In the coming months, you will be receiving a postcard in the mail from AIL informing you of this and asking you to identify beneficiary information. If you do not return the postcard or respond, you will still be covered. I would encourage you though to identify who your beneficiaries are. The Department has also partnered with SMB. This company provides free wills and burial kits to VFW members. You will receive a text message and an email from them asking you to set up an appointment to discuss your options. Again, this is a benefit that is being presented to you. It is up to you if you want to take advantage of it or not. If you have any questions or concerns about these benefits, please contact me or call State Headquarters.

Hopefully most of you are aware of the current membership incentives available to Post members. The quota for the \$50 rebate for those annual members who convert to life from Department Headquarters has been filled. My rebate offer is still available. With the Department quota being filled, I am increasing the rebate to \$100 to any annual member that converts to life by December 31, 2023. For

(continued on page 3)



Commander Steven Eisenhower

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

- 6th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 7th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 11th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am.
Veterans Game UW Football
- 18th – Meat Raffle – 3:00 pm
- 26th – Pancake Breakfast – 8:00-11:00 am
- 28nd – House Committee – 6:00 pm
Events Committee – 6:30pm

December

- 4th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 5th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 9th – Holiday Festival 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

January

- 2nd – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 8th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 13th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
Family Game Night 4:00 pm to close
- 23rd – House Committee – 6:00 pm
Events Committee – 7:00pm
- 27th – Meat Raffle – 3:00 pm
- 28st – Pancake Breakfast – 8:00-11:00 am

Wednesday Night Life Music 6:00-9:00 pm

Thursday Night Trivia 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Friday Fish Fry all day and

Karaoke 6:30 – 10:30 pm

Sunday fun with Wacko at 3:00 - 5:00 pm

POST OFFICERS

Commander -----Steve Eisenhower
 Sr. Vice Commander-----Carlos Tucker
 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-----Ray Trent
 Service Officer-----
 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/PP-----Joe Hines
 Youth Activities-----Jason Homer
 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 Crary
 Conductor-----Michael Rowland
 Secretary -----Adajo Forester
 Trustee, 1 yr-----Rose Doucette
 Trustee, 2 yr-----Elizabeth Moore
 Trustee, 3 yr-----Michael Rowland
 Chaplain-----Rose Doucette
 Guard-----Mike Rowland
 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 JULY 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.

V.F.W. NEWS OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

V.F.W. NEWS is the official publication of CraneField VFW Post 1318. V.F.W. NEWS is published quarterly by V.F.W. Post 1318,

Annual membership in VFW Post 1318 includes 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



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
 Friday Fish fry

Happy Hour Specials:

Tequila Tuesday
 Top Shelf Whiskey Wednesday
 Thirsty Thursday
 The Boyle Fridays

Live music every Wednesday, 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, Erica, Allison, Nicole, Scott, Michael, Anna Marie, Kristie, 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.

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.

Commanders Column (continued from page 1)

our life members, there are four (4) \$100 rebates left for any life member that converts to legacy life. Please contact Gundy or me to upgrade your membership.

Since the last newsletter Post members participated in the Fitchburg Nite out supporting the Fitchburg Police, EMT and Fire departments. We also supported the 155th Fighter Wings Family Day. We had a lot of fun supporting both events. Those that were able to volunteer are looking forward to doing it again next year. Please let me know if you have any ideas for community or family events.

Speaking of community events and volunteering. Between May 1, 2023, to August 31, 2023, Post and Auxiliary members have volunteered 1,369 hours valued at \$1,454.00 (time and mileage) and donated or spent \$1,262.00. I want to thank those members who have so graciously donated their time and energy. Please remember to email Adjutant Joe Hines (joebyronhines@gmail.com) or me (s.eisenhauer22@gmail.com) what you are doing to support the community, school, veterans, or local emergency services. If you do not have access to email, please call me. If you are not sure, please send what you are doing. Activities are broad in scope. Adjutant Hines will determine how to report it. Any information sent to me will be passed on to the Adjutant.

One last tidbit of information – Veterans in the Classroom. November is officially known as VFW Veterans in the Classroom Month. I encourage all members to engage with their local schools. Demonstrate Flag etiquette, teach the younger students the Pledge of Allegiance, talk about your military service and why you served, our history and the significance of those who served before, during, and after have played in the our way of life.

I wish all of you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a very Prosperous and Happy New Year.

In Comradeship,

Steven Eisenhauer
Post Commander
402.239.3737
s.eisenhauer22@gmail.com

Post members that participated in Fitchburg's Community Night out were: Steve Eisenhauer, Ray Trent, Joseph Hines, John Barghusen, Tim Hilsenhoff and Gundel Metz. We served food and also had a table with Poppies and Post information recruited one new member.





AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello everyone,

Hope this finds you all well and enjoying the fall weather.

Our Auxiliary has completed supporting RUCK 22, the soldier/veteran suicide prevention movement. During the walk we have a table with refreshments, snacks and a place to rest if necessary. We are proud to support this effort.

We continue to make blankets for those Veterans that can't get out. You are welcome to join us and join our Auxiliary! Every third month the Auxiliary runs the pancake breakfast. This allows us to build up much needed funds to help support the other programs that we do. Please come out and support us and the Post during these events. The list of upcoming events are located on page 10 of this Newsletter. We would love to see your smiling faces.

Please contact the V if you or someone you know is interested. Plus, please let your family members know that if you are in the hospital, move, or unfortunately die, to let the Post know so that we can support you and/or your family. How to contact the Post is listed on Page 7, under the Quartermaster column.

That's it for now, more in the next letter.

Ellen Evans
President
Post 1318 Auxiliary

Post, Auxiliary, and Rolling Thunder members supported Operation Ruck 22.
L-R: Mike Rowland, Rose Doucette, Bill Muether, Ellen Evans, Elizabeth Harman, Sharon Warsaw, and Jamie Herrmann



115TH FIGHTER WING UPDATE

BRIAN CARROLL, COMMAND CHIEF

Comrades,

The 115th Fighter Wing had a very busy September this year and am happy to say that members from VFW 1318 were there to help us celebrate each event. September 7th, we had our final welcoming of the F-35 mission to Truax Field, and were honored with guest speakers like Lieutenant General Marc Sasseville, Vice Chief of the National Guard, Governor Tony Evers, Major General Paul Knapp Adjutant General for WI, and Fighter Wing Commander Colonel Bart Van Roo. The Fighter Wing currently has eight of our twenty aircraft, with the remainder coming to base next year. We also have our four new simulators operating on base which will help keep the pilots qualified until the remainder of the aircraft arrive.

The evening of September 9th we celebrated the Wings 75th anniversary with past and present members of the unit, plus our many community friends. There were heritage aircraft featured from O-2 Skymasters, to the mighty A-10 Thunderbolt II, and everything in between. It was fantastic for our newest members to get to mix and mingle with our retirees and see what the mission used to look like. We had great food, a video message from Frank Caliendo, magic by Reed Barrett, and music by the Whiskey Belles. The oldest former member present was Lt Colonel Ron Skinvik (96 years young) who in 1972 led members of the wing, along with the F-102's, in the prestigious William Tell competition in Florida, testing both pilots and ground crew skills. Their capabilities were tested but they came out on top beating active duty, guard, and Canadian flying units, continuing the legacy of "Dedicated to Excellence".

Sunday the 10th was all about our families. Guard members cannot perform at their best without the love and support of family and friends. VFW 1318 was there selling food and hopefully drumming up some new members. Santa and Mrs. Claus came by and took the time to have their picture taken by the F-35 with anyone that wanted. We had food trucks, games, and a host of other things to keep everyone entertained. All in all, it was a wonderful week.

Now a side note for you all. I will be retiring November 4th and one of your own, Chief Mike Alvarez will become the new 115th FW Command Chief. Both the assumption of authority, and my retirement will take place in hangar 406 at 1400, you are more than welcome to attend. It has been an honor getting to know you all, God bless.



From left to right: the F-35, Lieutenant General Marc Sasseville, Governor Tony Evers, Major General Paul Knapp, and Colonel Bart Van Roo.

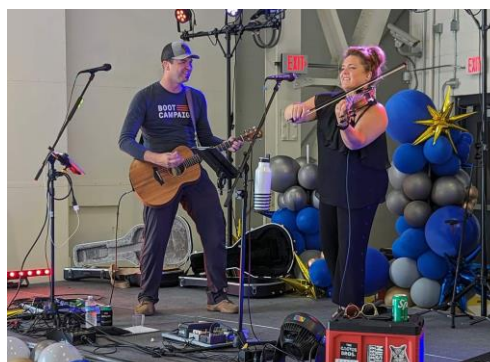
More pictures on Page 6 and 9



Left: Opening Ceremonies
Right: Santa and Mrs. Claus visiting with service members and their families.



Left & right: Service members and family enjoying the 75th Anniversary dinner



Left: The Wiskey Belles band.
Right: Service members and family enjoying family day.



More pictures from 115th Family Day



VFW NATIONAL UPDATE

- In February, the VFW filed an Amicus Curiae brief to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in support of claimants seeking relief from 3M for defective ear protection. 3M had tried to shift the blame to its subsidiary Aearo Technologies, who it said was responsible for the defective earplugs and who had filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy, to avoid paying claimants. In August, 3M settled for \$6.01 billion, consisting of \$5 billion in cash and \$1 billion in 3M stock. Payments will be made between 2023 and 2029. The bankruptcy appeal is being held in abeyance pending finalization of the settlement. It is estimated that approximately 240,000 military service members or veterans will be eligible to receive part of the settlement.
- The Justice Department and the Department of the Navy have announced an “Elective Option” for those filing claims under the Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA) of 2022. The Elective Option is a potential settlement process based on diagnosis, time spent exposed to Camp Lejeune contaminated water, and if the claim involved death. There are important limitations to be mindful of for anyone interested in pursuing the Elective Option, including the latency period and limits on compensation for more than one diagnosis. Additionally, the severity of any illness is not a factor in reaching a settlement under the Elective Option. Settlements range from \$100,000 to \$450,000, based on duration of exposure and type of illness. An additional amount of \$100,000 will be offered if the exposure resulted in death. There will not be an offset for VA disability benefits or VA medical care, but the offset may apply to other federal benefits. For more information, see <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-and-department-navy-announcevoluntary-elective-option-more-efficient>. While the Elective Option may provide immediate relief for some, those seeking relief under the CLJA should consider all their options before making a decision. Consult with competent legal counsel to determine what is the best course of action for you.

POST QUARTERMASTER

GUNDEL METZ

So far this year we lost four of our greatest generation. Unfortunately, we only knew that one had passed away. Of the four, I knew three of them. The members were Donald J. Helfrecht, Allan J. Christopherson, W. Carson Mettel, and John T. Speropulos. National had deceased three members before we even knew they had passed away. From my best calculations we have six World War II Veterans still as members of this Post plus 17 Korean War Veterans. I'm asking all our members to let their family members know to call us (608-255-5955) or email us at yfw1318@hotmail.com to let us know that one of our members has passed away. If you are in the Madison area, we may be able to attend your service to honor and show our respect for our comrade.

If you have moved, please get that information to us also either via the email or a quick note with the new address. That way I can ensure that your address is current with National, so that you get your Magazine, the State Newspaper, and the Post Newsletter. For those that received it via snail mail. This also goes for the Auxiliary. If an Auxiliary member passes away, I will get that information to the Auxiliary President and Treasurer. As always, stay safe and healthy.

ROLLING THUNDER® INC. WISCONSIN CHAPTER 5

BY JAMIE HERRMANN

2023 Thunder Run Final Drawing:

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Wisconsin Chapter 5 is hosting their Second Annual Thunder Run: To Prevent Veteran Suicide and Help Veterans with PTSD. The goal is to raise awareness of the seriousness of the Veteran suicides and help Veterans with PTSD by teaming up with Wisconsin VFWs, American Legions and other businesses on the 2023 Thunder Run.

The final drawing was held on September 16 at NV Corners. This year we raised a total of \$26,440 through donations and Thunder Run Book sales. Half of the money raised was divided and donated to help 6 local non-profit organizations, which includes UW Biotech, Custom Canines, Operation Ruck 22 of Wisconsin, Housing 4 our Vets, Veteran Equine Trail Services and Rolling Thunder Wisconsin Chapter 5. The other half raised went to cash prizes to participants that joined the Thunder Run.

For more information, please go to our Facebook Group: Thunder Run Wisconsin.

Ride to The Highground Veterans

August 5th, members of Rolling Thunder Wisconsin Chapter 5 and Chapter 2 rode to the Highground Veterans Memorial in Neillsville, WI for placement of their Legacy Honor Stone.

Legacy Stones represent one of the main means for meeting the operating and maintenance costs of The Highground Veterans Memorial Park.

Operation Ruck 22 8th Annual March

Rolling Thunder® Inc. Wisconsin Chapter 5 set up a water and snack table along this year's Ruck event on 9/30. A couple of members walked the 18 k Ruck, others helped by handing out snacks and water, then set up an information table at the end of the event back at VFW Post 7591.

Contact us:

If you would like to participate in any of these events or have questions about current events or Rolling Thunder®, Inc., please contact us at: rtmadison5@gmail.com

Rolling Thunder visiting the
Highgrounds



More pictures from the 115th Family Day,
September 10, 2023



Above picture L to R: Steve Eisenhauer, John Barghusen, Jamie Herrmann, Luke Herrmann, Mark Herrmann, Ray Trent, Joseph Hines, Steve Resan, and Phil Kneebone.

Left Picture: Post and Rolling Thunder Members serving pulled pork sandwiches to service members and families.

EVENTS

JAMIE HERRMANN

Thank you for coming out to support our quarterly events and sharing these with your friends and family. These events help raise awareness to our community and local Veterans/their families of the amazing place VFW Post 1318 is and how the Post helps regularly in the community.

- August 19th – Ice Cream Social and Game night. Jesse Garon hosted a successful night with many participating in playing board, card or virtual games and enjoying ice cream that was donated by Jesse Garon, Sara Ritter and Green Vine of Baraboo for the event.
- September 10th – 115th Fighter Wing Family Day where the Post 1318 members served pull pork sandwiches to the 115th Fighter Wing Unit's families.
- September 30th – Operation Ruck 22 of Wisconsin Event. Post members and Auxiliary members set up a table on the march around Lake Monona to pass out water and snacks to the participants marching the 18k. Operation Ruck 22 of Wisconsin has an annual march to raise awareness of the 18 Veteran and Service members who commit suicide every day.
- VFW Post 1318, VFW Post 1318 Auxiliary members, 115th Fighter Wing members and volunteers hosted Pancake Breakfasts on the 4th Sunday of each month.
- We have hosted many bands on Wednesday and Saturdays, Thursday Night Trivia, Friday Night Karaoke and Sunday Wacko!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- October 14th – Our second Great Game Night with Jesse Garon. Come play board games, card games and virtual games with others who love to play games.
- October 17th - Designer Purse Wacko. Chance to win Coach, Michael Kors, Dooney & Burke, Kate Spade, etc.
- October 21st – Quarter Auction with local businesses and vendors. Quarter auctions are a cross between an auction & a raffle where people bid on new items and can win for a quarter. This fundraiser will raise money for the VFW Community Assistance fund.
- October 22nd – All you can eat Pancake Breakfast
- October 28th – Meat Raffle are BACK! There will be extra basket raffles you won't want to miss out on. Meat raffles will be held the 4th Saturday of the month from 3 - 5 pm
- November 11th – UW Madison Badger Football Game WDVA Tailgate
- November 12th – Join us as 3 recipients will receive their Quilt of Valor. The quilt presentation is from 11 am – 3 pm.
- November 18th – Meat Raffle with extra Thanksgiving themed Raffle baskets.
- November 26th – Join members from the 115th Fighter Wing for All you can eat Pancake Breakfast 8 am – 11 am
- December 9th – Holiday Festival - Join us for a fun day with a Quarter Auction, Meat Raffle and basket raffles.

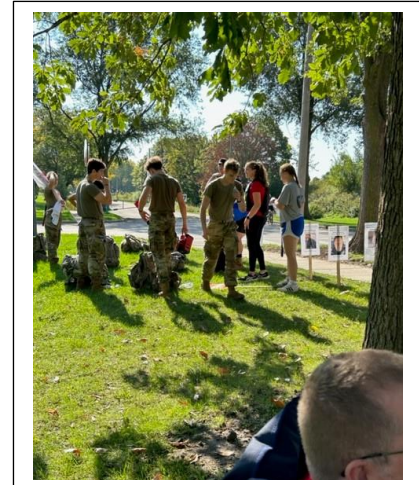
(Events continued)

- Weekly Thursday night Trivia and Friday night Karaoke with Host Jesse Garon and Sunday Wacko has been going strong!

To keep up on the latest bands and events happening at The “V” follow our Facebook page: The VFW – Post 1318 and website calendar: <https://vfw1318.org/>.

The objectives of the activities committee are to support Veterans and the broader community, raise funds for VFW support initiatives and engage VFW membership and internal VFW community building, and communicate to potential new members the value-added to their lives of being a VFW member.

If you would like to participate in any of these events or have other ideas for events that you would like to see VFW Post 1318 participate in, please contact the activities committee members or Jamie Herrmann directly at: jamieherrmann3@gmail.com



Top and Left:
Pictures from
Operation Ruck
22.

Right: Rolling
Thunder
members at the
Thunder Run
final drawing





GAME NIGHT!
Bring your own games or
play any available games
FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 14TH
3PM- CLOSE**

2740 SKI LANE, MADISON

The VFW Post 1318 logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the poster.



Designer Purse

WACKO

Purse Wacko October 17th
Check-in 5:30 to 6:00 pm
Wacko starts at 6:00 pm

\$25 to play 8 games of Wacko
*WACKO is our version of Bingo and the winner
receives a Designer Purse

Sign up/pay to save your spot either with a
bartender at the VFW, or text/call Jamie Herrmann
at 608-516-8079 for Venmo/paypal options

Join us: 2740 Ski Lane, Madison



**QUARTER
Auction**

**Saturday
OCT 21ST
@11AM**

PUBLIC WELCOME

Join us and our Vendors for a chance to
bid on their products for as little as a
quarter!

**VFW Post 1318
2740 Ski Lane, Madison**

The VFW Post 1318 logo is visible in the bottom left corner of the poster.



OCTOBER 22, 2023

Pancake Breakfast

Mimosas \$3 each
1 Mimosa included with meal*

OPEN 8:00am - 11:00am

All you can eat Pancakes, 2 eggs, 2 sausages, Milk, OJ, Coffee, 1 Mimosa*

VFW Post 1318
2740 Ski Lane, Madison

ADULT: \$10
Children (under 6): \$5

*must be 21 or older for mimosas



THE 'V' POST 1318 PRESENTS:

MEAT RAFFLE

\$2 PER PADDLE

JOIN US ON OCT 28
STARTING AT 3 PM

2740 SKI LANE, MADISON

The VFW POST 1318



The VFW POST 1318

MEAT RAFFLE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

JOIN US FROM 3 PM - 5 PM
2740 SKI LANE, MADISON

\$2 PER PADDLE

NOVEMBER ONLY

EXTRA RAFFLE
THANKSGIVING
BASKET

COME OUT FOR OUR MEAT RAFFLE AND BONUS THANKSGIVING BASKET RAFFLES

For More Information check out our FB:
<https://www.facebook.com/vfw1318>



VFW POST 1318 PRESENTS

Family GAME NIGHT

JAN 13
2740 Ski Lane, Madison
FROM 3PM-CLOSE

BRING YOUR OWN GAMES OR PLAY ANY AVAILABLE GAMES

BOARD GAMES - CARD - DICE - VIRTUAL

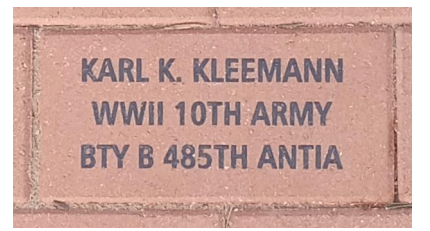
For more info visit our facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/vfw1318>

MEMBERS CORNER



Left: Post members Joseph Hines, Jason Homer, and John Barghusen attended Allan Christophersons funeral.

Right: State Junior Vice-Commander Ty Letto and Post Commander Steve Eisenhauer.



Left and top Karl Kleemann's 100th Birthday Celebration
Right: Karl's Gold Legacy Membership Brick at VFW National Headquarters, Kansas City.

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