

V.F.W. NEWS

Published Four Times a Year by Marion C. Cranefield Post 1318
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vol 25 No. 1 January/February/March 2025



Greetings Comrade,

As we ring in the New Year, it's a great time for veterans and their families to reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and look forward to a future filled with opportunities for camaraderie, service, and community. For many of us, the holidays are a time to reconnect with friends and family, but the New Year also brings a chance to engage with a broader community—especially within the vibrant and supportive environment of the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars). This year marks a monumental milestone for our VFW Post as we celebrate its centennial anniversary, and there's no better time to get involved, participate in activities, and create lasting memories.

A Year of Reflection and Renewal

As veterans, the New Year often carries a sense of both reflection and renewal. The past year may have been filled with challenges, but it also brought opportunities for growth, service, and support from the veteran community. Whether it was through participation in community events, helping a fellow vet, or simply taking time for personal reflection, the start of a new year is a powerful reminder of the resilience and unity that defines us as veterans.

The upcoming year offers fresh chances to connect, contribute, and continue supporting our brothers and sisters in arms. The VFW community remains a key part of that ongoing journey, offering a network of support, opportunities for service, and a space for camaraderie.

A Centennial Celebration for the Ages

This year, our VFW Post is celebrating an incredible milestone: 100 years of service to veterans and the community. It's a time to reflect on the history, sacrifice, and dedication that has shaped our Post and to celebrate the vibrant community that continues to make it strong. Throughout the century, the VFW Post has been a place of solidarity for veterans of all ages and backgrounds, a refuge where shared experiences help foster lifelong bonds.

Community Activities: Connecting and Serving Together

In addition to the Centennial Celebration, the New Year brings a wide array of community activities that provide veterans with opportunities to give back, stay active, and build stronger ties within their communities.

- **Volunteer Opportunities:** The VFW Post is always in need of volunteers for various programs, from assisting with local outreach efforts to organizing events. This year, we are placing a special emphasis on veteran-to-veteran support initiatives, including mentorship programs and buddy systems.

(continued on page 3)



Commander Steven Eisenhauer

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

- 3rd – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 4th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30pm
- 8th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
Operation Ruck 22 Fundraiser – 3:00-7:00 pm
- 22nd - Meat Raffle – 3:00 pm
- 23rd – Pancake Breakfast – 8:00-11:00 am
- 25th – House Committee – 6:00 pm
Events Committee – 6:30pm

March

- 3rd – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 4th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 8th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
- 22nd – Meat Raffle – 3:00-5:00 pm
- 23rd – Pancake Breakfast – 8:00-11:00 am
- 25th – House Committee – 6:00 pm
Events Committee – 6:30pm

April

- 7th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 8th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 12th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
- 22nd – House Committee – 6:00 pm
Events Committee – 7:00pm
- 26th – Meat Raffle – 3:00-5:00 pm
- 27th – Pancake Breakfast – 8:00-11:00 am

- 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-----Venus Hilgart
 Jr. Vice Commander -----Rose Doucette
 Quartermaster-----Gundel Metz
 Adjutant -----Joseph Hines
 Judge Advocate -----Bob Evans
 Chaplain -----Sharon Warsaw
 Surgeon -----Rose Doucette
 Trustee, 3yr -----Tim Hilsenhoff
 Trustee, 2yr -----William Muether
 Trustee, 1yr -----Andrew Lochner
 Officer of the Day-----Ray Trent
 Service Officer-----Steve Eisenhower
 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, Steve
 Eisenhower, Venus Hilgart, Ray Trent, Sharon
 Warsaw, Rose Doucette, Gundel Metz, Bill Austin,
 Joseph Hines, Kyon Clawson and Permanent Guest -
 Auxiliary Representative
 House Committee and Events Committee meets on
 the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6:00pm any
 member is welcome to attend.

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

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
 Hamburger Wednesday’s
 Trivia Thursday
 Friday Fish fry

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,
 Erica, Allison, Nicole, AP, Michael,
 Anna Marie, Lee, Janelly, 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.

**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 March
 30, 2025. 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 AT
VFW1318@HOTMAIL.COM.

V.F.W. NEWS OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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 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**

1709 Aberg Avenue – Suite 2
 Madison, WI 53704
 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 from page 1)

Building Stronger Communities, One Veteran at a Time

As veterans, we know that the challenges we face are often easier to overcome when we face them together. The VFW remains a cornerstone of support for veterans across the country, and our local Post is a place where you can find a sense of belonging, share your story, and work toward building stronger communities.

The New Year is an exciting opportunity to reflect on how far we've come, but it also serves as a reminder that there's still so much to be done. From celebrating our century-long history to continuing to engage in meaningful service, there are countless ways for veterans to stay connected, stay involved, and stay strong.

Let's make 2025 a year of unity, remembrance, and continued service. Whether through our Centennial Celebration, community activities, or daily acts of service, together we can make the new year one of the most memorable and impactful yet.

Here's to the veterans who have served, to the families who support them, and to the communities that are strengthened by their presence. I want to wish everyone Happy New Year—here's to another year of service, friendship, and honor.

Join Us

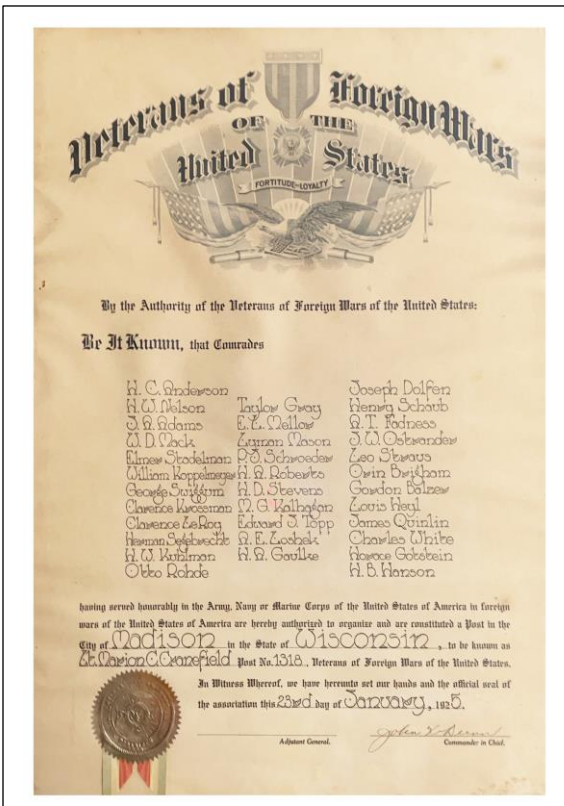
If you're not yet a member, we invite you to stop by and learn more about how you can get involved. Together, let's continue to honor our shared legacy and build a future filled with hope, service, and community.

Yours in comradeship,

Steve Eisenhauer

s.eisenhauer22@gmail.com

Cell: 402.239.3737





AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Everyone,

I hope that everyone had a great holiday.

We have had a great last quarter! The highlight was hosting Shop with a Cop. This event is a rewarding experience for all of us.

Many local law enforcement agencies gather kids from their jurisdictions and literally take them shopping for Christmas gifts. These children and families would not be able to celebrate with gifts without the Shop with a Cop program. After shopping they all gather to wrap their presents with us. The wrapping is quite the experience. It is a frenzy of wrapping paper, boxes, tape and tissue paper! The laughter and constant chatter above the background of holiday music is a joy to behold. Then all are served a lunch of pizza, milk, fresh fruit and vegetables. Home baked and decorated cookies are provided by our Auxiliary. Santa and Mrs. Claus were with us all day and we also had canine officers come to visit the children.

We are always seeking new members to come join us and enjoy our events at Post 1318. The Post hosts WACKO, Thursday night trivia, Pancake Breakfast each month, Paint night and many other events for you to come and enjoy. Contact us for any further information.

We wish you a wonderful 2025.

Ellen Evans
VFW Post 1318
Auxiliary President

Auxiliary President Ellen
Evans with Santa at
Shop with a Cop



Auxiliary and Post members helping out at Shop with a Cop. Left to right: Rose Doucette, Elizabeth Moore, Venus Hilgart, Adajo Forester, Mellissa Cray, Sharon Warsaw, Gundel Metz, and Ellen Evans.

115TH FIGHTER WING UPDATE

COMMAND CHIEF MICHAEL ALVAREZ

We at the Fighter Wing are full swing into the holidays, and our members have gotten the holiday spirit going with lights, holiday parties, and door decorations. It is always a great time of year, and a good opportunity for us to reflect on the accomplishments of the Wing over the last twelve months. We are looking forward to our Airmen of the Year awards in February, which will recount some of the individual and group achievements, and are starting the process of submission for the Outstanding Unit award, for which we will be very competitive.

During this time, we are also keeping our deployers in our thoughts and hearts and a steady stream of care packages, cards, and e-mails have been going out to them. I know in my last article I talked about our high expectations for them, and to nobody's surprise, they are representing Wisconsin extremely well. While I can't go into specifics, they have been directly involved in many high stakes mission sets, and have executed admirably. We are hearing about their accomplishments out there on deployment and they will certainly come back with heads held high. We look forward to welcoming them back in the springtime and will celebrate their efforts then.

Back home, we have received nearly all of our F-35s, just waiting on our last one to arrive soon, and are up and running with the full training and maintenance schedule. While this is challenging, our folks are certainly glad to be back into their stride, and it is great to see our airframes zipping in and out of here regularly. This also has us looking toward the next big step which is certifying as fully mission capable and getting back into the swing of deploying with the jets. It has been a long stretch since we have been in the mix with the planes, and it'll be good to get back to our "normal" in that aspect as well.

We have settled into our leadership changes as well, with Col. Gerds having taken over as Wing Commander, and Col. Tim Guy, our former Deputy Commander, having departed to Volk Field to take command over there. In Col. Guy's place, Col. Dan Statz, who had been our Mission Support Group Commander, was selected as the Deputy Commander, and he has taken the seat, completing our new command team. The three of us look forward to working together to continue to move our Wing forward throughout 2025.

As we move into the new year, please keep our deployers and their families in your thoughts, and know that they appreciate your support. At home our Airmen will be out working a bitter cold flightline to fuel, maintain, and crew our jets, will be out in the elements manning the gate and working patrols, and will be executing all of the critical missions that ensure our resources are available and ready to support our state and federal needs. Of course, we take great pride in this and wear the motto Nulli Secundus (Second to None) with purpose. Hope everyone had a happy Holiday and wishing you a very Happy New Year!

COL Van Roo thanking the Airmen at his change of command ceremony.



ROLLING THUNDER® INC.

WISCONSIN CHAPTER 5

BY WILLIAM MUETHER

Rolling Thunder Activities This Quarter:

- The chapter provided refreshments to the walk participants at the Operation Ruck 22 march on October 13.
- Meat raffle at the post on November 23.
- President Mark Herrmann and Vice President Keith Forst attended Rolling Thunder National Conference in DC on October 31 to November 2.

Please contact the chapter at rtmadison5@gmail.com if you would like to join us or participate in future events, or if you have questions about Rolling Thunder®, Inc. You do not need to be a veteran or own a motorcycle. All we require is an earnest desire to help raise POW/MIA awareness and assist our local veterans in need.

Rolling Thunder participating Operation Ruck 22 and serving refreshments to all the participants.



Left: Dane County Sherriff with Santa Claus
Right: A Dane County Deputy Sherriff with Mrs. Claus. Both attended Shop with a Cop



EVENTS

JAMIE HERRMANN

Happy New Year! The Post has been bustling with a diverse array of events throughout 2024! We remain committed to exploring new ideas for the benefit of our Post and Auxiliary Members, along with our local community.

As we look ahead, we are excited to announce that planning is already underway for some thrilling events in 2025. Be sure to check our Facebook page and website regularly for the latest updates on our events!

Please consider supporting our regularly scheduled weekly and monthly events for the next quarter. Your participation and contributions are vital to the success of these gatherings, and we greatly appreciate your support. Thank you for helping us create meaningful experiences for our community.

- **Wednesdays:** Join Veterans on the Fly for an exciting opportunity to learn how to tie fishing lures! This engaging workshop is completely free for veterans, their families, and friends. Don't miss out—come and enjoy a fun evening from 6 PM to 8 PM!
- **Thursdays:** Join us for an exciting evening of Think Fast Trivia every Thursday from 7 PM to 9 PM! Challenge your brain and have fun while testing your knowledge. Whether you bring your own team or team up with others, it's an experience you won't want to miss!
- **Fridays are the night to shine!** Join us for Karaoke from 6 PM to 10:30 PM, where you can enjoy the incredible talents of locals and unleash your inner superstar. Don't miss out on the fun—sing your heart out with us at our lively weekly Karaoke session!
- **Sundays:** Join us for WACKO from 3 PM – 5 PM! If you enjoy thrilling games of chance and the excitement of winning prizes, this is the perfect event for you. Come to WACKO, where your numbers could be the lucky ones! Don't miss out on the fun!
- **4th Saturday each month:** Join us for our exciting Meat Raffle from 3 PM to 5 PM! Are you a fan of quality MEAT? Have you experienced the thrill of our meat raffles? Don't miss out on an afternoon filled with fun, laughter, and the chance to win premium cuts of meat and fantastic prizes. Come be a part of the excitement!
- **4th Sunday of the month:** Join us for our All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast fundraiser! Enjoy a delicious breakfast featuring two eggs, two sausages, and unlimited pancakes, alongside refreshing milk, coffee, juice, and a mimosa for those 21+. Your participation helps support the VFW Post 1318, VFW Post 1318 Auxiliary, the 115th Fighter Wing, and Rolling Thunder Wisconsin Chapter 5. Come hungry and make a difference in our community!

We are excited to invite you to the following events, where your presence would make a difference.

(Events continued from page 7)

January

1/11 - Join us for an exciting Puzzle Contest from 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM! Team up with a partner and race against others to see who can complete their 300-piece puzzle the fastest. Compete for a chance to win fantastic prizes for the top 3 teams! Enjoy delicious food and beverages available for purchase. Spots are limited, so don't wait—pre-register by emailing vfw1318events@gmail.com to guarantee your place in this fun challenge! Free to compete in the puzzle challenge.

1/18 – Celebrate a Century of Service at Our 100-Year Anniversary Open House at 1 PM! Join us for a memorable celebration of VFW Post 1318's incredible 100-year journey. Delight in an open house filled with delicious hors d'oeuvres and specialty drinks that capture the essence of a bygone era. Let's come together to honor this significant milestone and create unforgettable memories!

1/21 – Latin Dance Night at 6 PM – Don't miss out on a fun-filled evening with Instructor David Olson as he guides you through exciting Bachata dance steps! This event is free, and while donations are appreciated, the joy of dancing is what counts. Come join us!

1/25 – Join us for our Chunky Blanket Class on January 25th from 11 AM to 2 PM! In this fun and engaging session, you'll learn the art of hand knitting and leave with a beautiful, cozy blanket that you've created yourself. Don't miss out on this opportunity—reserve your spot today by emailing vfw1318events@gmail.com. This class costs \$65 per person for supplies.

February

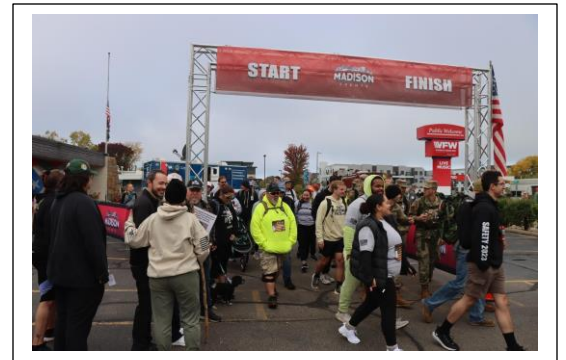
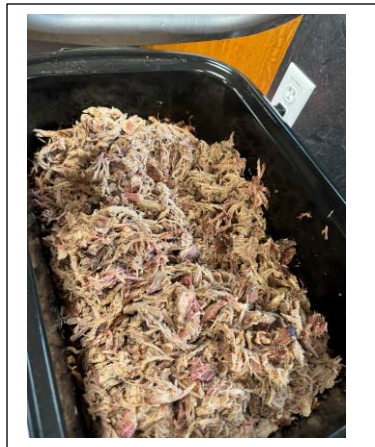
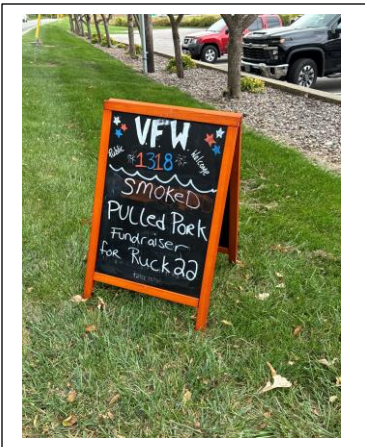
2/4 – Join Us for the Operation Ruck 22 Check Presentation at 6 PM! Operation Ruck 22 of Wisconsin is dedicated to raising awareness about the heartbreaking statistic of 18 Veterans and Service Members who tragically take their own lives each day. The annual 18k ruck event not only honors these heroes but also raises crucial funds for local non-profit organizations that support Veterans in their time of need. We invite you to gather with Operation Ruck 22 and VFW Post 1318 to learn more about this impactful annual event and hear firsthand from local organizations about the vital ways that your contributions aid our Veterans. Together, we can make a difference!

2/8 – Midwinter Blues Extravaganza 11 AM – 4 PM. Don't miss out on a fantastic day with Rolling Thunder, local artisans, and vendors! Join us for an exciting quarter auction, as well as basket, meat, and other raffles. This is a perfect way to lift your spirits and banish those mid-winter blues while having a great time!

March

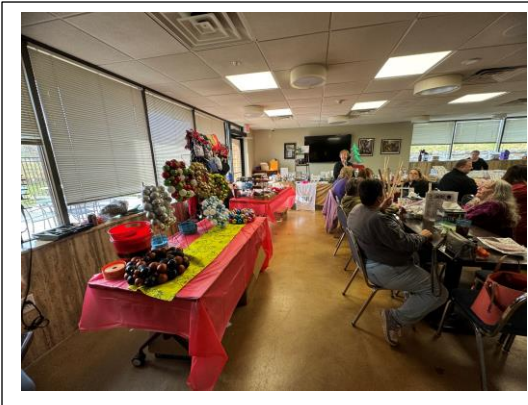
3/11 – Join us for the Designer Purse Wacko from 6 PM to 8:30 PM! This is your chance to win fabulous designer purses. Secure your spot early by pre-registering with a bartender, or sending an email to vfw1318events@gmail.com for just \$30, or pay \$35 at the door. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity!

Events are continuously being added throughout this quarter. To stay updated on the latest happenings at The “V,” please follow our Facebook page: The VFW – Post 1318, and check our website calendar at <https://vfw1318.org/>. (Continued on Page 10)

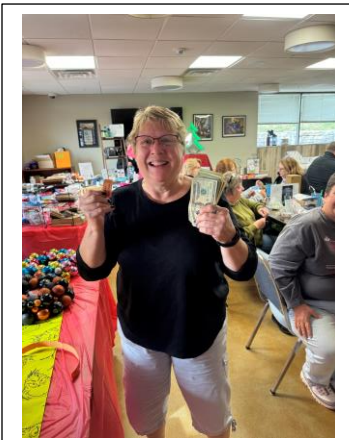


Top left, center & left: Fundraiser for Operation Ruck 22

Top right & right: Operation Ruck 22 march in October.



Left, right, and bottom pictures of the Extravaganza held at the Post. Fun was had by all. Great job setting everything up by Jamie Herrmann.



(Continued from Page 8)

Thank you for attending our quarterly events and for sharing them with friends and family. Your support is crucial in raising awareness about the incredible work VFW Post 1318 does for our community and the local Veterans and their families. By participating, you help showcase the Post's commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those who have served. Together, we can strengthen our community and enhance the support for our Veterans.

If you have any inquiries regarding these events or wish to propose additional event ideas for VFW Post 1318, please feel free to reach out to us via email at VFW1318events@gmail.com.

The Events Committee aims to support Veterans and the wider community, generate funds for VFW initiatives, foster engagement among VFW members to enhance internal community building, and effectively convey the benefits of VFW membership to prospective members.



Left: Post and Auxiliary members, Adajo Forester, Post Junior Vice-Commander Rose Doucette, and Aux member Mike Rowland serving the food.
Right: kids and officers alike enjoy the refreshments provided



Left: Post Senior Vice-Commander Venus Hilgart and an officer wrapping present.
Right: Officers and kids wrapping presents.



Post, Auxiliary, and family members working at the WDVA Tailgate at the UW Football game.
Right: Sharon Warsaw, Adajo Forester, Diane, Billy and Bill Muether, Joe Hines, Mike Rowland, and Kenny

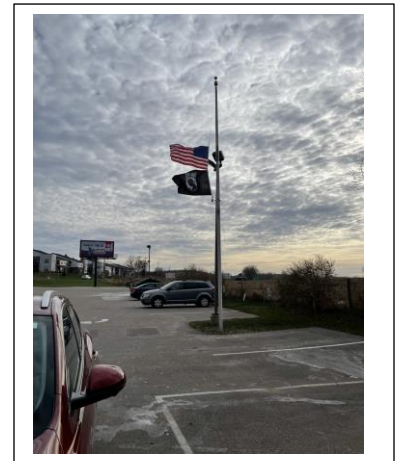
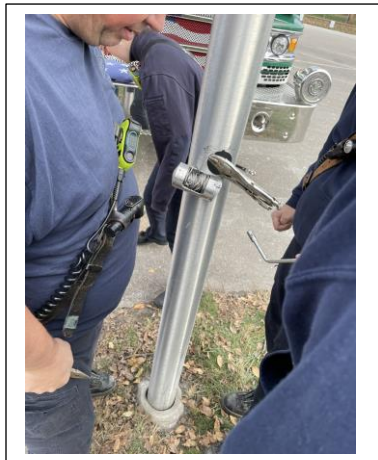
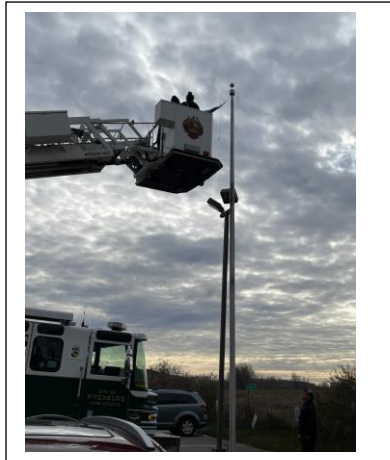




Left: Post House Committee Chair, Ray Trent and friends grilling for the UW football tail gate. Right: Our sign up on the tent.



THANK YOU FITCHBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fitchburg Fire Department, Station 3, came and helped out when our flag pole did not work. The strong winds had disconnected the POW/MIA flag and the counter weight. What else could we do but buy them lunch once the flag was up on Pearl Harbor



MEMBERS CORNER



Post member John Barghusen (USMC, RET) presenting a check to CPL Nathaniel Sitzberger (USMC) for \$500 for Toys for Tots. Donation from the Post.



Post Commander Steve Eisenhauer, Senior Vice Commander Venus Hilgart, Junior Vice Commander Rose Doucette and Quartermaster Gundel Metz presenting a check to Hayley and Norra (Post member) for \$1000 for Shop with a Cop donation from the Post.

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