

V.F.W. NEWS

Published Four Times a Year by Marion C. Cranefield Post 1318
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vol 25 No. 2 April/May/June 2025



Greetings Comrades,

When I am “out and about” I am always on the lookout for Veterans. It is always interesting, to me, to meet a Veteran and find out when they served, what Branch they served in, where they served, and what they did. At some point, I ask them if they are taking advantage of the benefits, they have earned. If not, I encourage them to do so and, if needed, give them the information necessary to pursue the benefits earned. During my conversation with the Veteran, I am trying to determine if they are eligible to join the VFW if they are not already a member. If they are eligible and not a member, I discuss how the VFW can offer several benefits, both personal and communal. Here are the topics I discuss when engaging someone to consider becoming a member:

- 1. Veteran Support & Advocacy:** The VFW actively works to ensure veterans have access to the benefits, healthcare, and compensation they deserve. By joining, you can be part of an organization that advocates for veterans’ rights at local, state, and national levels.
- 2. Community and Camaraderie:** Being part of the VFW means joining a network of veterans who share similar experiences and backgrounds. It’s a place where you can connect with others who understand your military service, fostering friendships and a sense of belonging.
- 3. Access to Benefits and Services:** The VFW provides a variety of member benefits, including help with filing claims for VA benefits, discounts on products and services, and access to programs like insurance, scholarships, and educational resources.
- 4. Veterans’ Voice in Policy:** The VFW is a strong voice in advocating for veterans needs in Washington, D.C. By joining, you’re supporting the organization’s efforts to improve policies affecting veterans, such as healthcare, pensions, and job opportunities.
- 5. Volunteer Opportunities:** Many VFW posts organize events and programs to support veterans, active military members, and the community. If you’re looking to give back, the VFW provides numerous ways to volunteer and make an impact.
- 6. Social and Recreational Activities:** Many VFW posts have social gatherings, events, and recreational activities, such as dinners, parties, and local fundraisers, where you can meet new people and enjoy time with fellow veterans.

(Continued on page 3)



Commander Steven Eisenhauer

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

- 5th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 6th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30pm
- 10th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
- 27th – House Committee – 6:00 pm
- Events Committee – 6:30pm

June

- 7th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 8th - Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 12th, 14th – State Convention -Madison
- 14th - Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
- 24th - House Committee – 6:00 pm
- Events Committee – 7:00pm

July

- 1st –Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 7th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 12th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
- 22nd – House Committee – 6:00 pm
- Events Committee – 6:30pm

- Thursday Night Trivia 7:00 – 9:00 pm
- Friday Fish Fry all day and
Karaoke 6:30 – 10:30 pm
- Sunday fun with Wacko from 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 Cray
 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 Tuesdays
 Hamburger Wednesdays
 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, Robert, Anna
 Marie, Lee, Janelly, Flip 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**

www.facebook.com/vfw1318

EVENTS

If you have an idea for the Events
 Committee, please send an email
 to:

vfw1318events@gmail.com

Telephone: 608-255-5955

Email: vfw1318@hotmail.com

V.F.W. NEWS DEADLINE IS JUNE
 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](mailto: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)

7. A Sense of Purpose: Joining the VFW is a way to continue your service to your country by helping other veterans. Whether it's through advocacy, charity work, or providing assistance to those in need, your membership can help create a positive impact in the veteran community.

Becoming a member of the VFW can help ensure the veterans service is recognized, and they are part of an organization that is committed to supporting all veterans, their families and the community.

In Comradeship,
Steven Eisenhauer
Commander
(402) 239-3737
s.eisenhauer22@gmail.com

ROLLING THUNDER® INC. WISCONSIN CHAPTER 5

BY WILLIAM MUETHER

Rolling Thunder Activities This Quarter:

- The Chapter provided \$2000 in January to a disabled Navy veteran whose wife is unable to work due to a severe car accident late last year. This is the same veteran VFW Post 1318 supported with proceeds from a pancake breakfast.
- Wisconsin Chapter 2, 3 and 5 are planning a ride to Lansing, Michigan on Memorial Day weekend with Rolling Thunder chapters from Michigan and Ohio.
- The Chapter is hosting a pancake breakfast on April 27th at VFW Post 1318.
- The 2025 Thunder Run drawing is scheduled for September 20th at NV Corners in Sun Prairie and the Chapter is working hard to make the event as successful as last year's 2024 event where the proceeds benefited Custom Canines, UW MIA Recovery and Identification Project, the Fisher House Foundation, Tunnel to Towers, Rock Valley Community Programs, Ruck 22, and Veterans Equine Trail Services (V.E.T.S).

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.



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



President Ellen Evans

Hello Everyone,

We have just had our Auxiliary Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for Shop with a Cop. It was a wonderful success! We are able to donate \$550 to them! We are thrilled! Our next Auxiliary Pancake breakfast will also benefit Shop with a Cop in Dane County.

We are so excited to welcome six new members to our Auxiliary. Our numbers are growing and we couldn't be happier. There is always room for new members with new ideas.

By the way, did you know that you can join our meetings via the internet. Yes, we would love to see you at the Post in person, but if that is not possible, please join us on the Zoom meetings every month. If you want more information, please contact Melissa at: m_crary22@yahoo.com (m_crary). She did send out an email recently about our last meeting, but it may have gone to your junk or spam email file.

If you are interested in finding out more about us, please contact me.

Thank you and have a fantastic Spring!

Ellen Evans
VFW 1318
Auxiliary President



115TH FIGHTER WING UPDATE

COMMAND CHIEF MICHAEL ALVAREZ

What a treat the intermittently warm days have been, and, of course, we are all looking forward to summer. In part, we've been waiting anxiously for Spring to arrive, however, because as it does, so do our returning deployers. We anticipate the first group returning in the April time frame and we will have a steady trickle of members coming back throughout May. Not only do I have the opportunity to welcome back 90+ of our folks, but I also get to welcome back my son, who has been serving in CENTCOM as an EOD tech, so it is exciting for both my military family as well as my immediate family.

I know in the last update I noted that they were accomplishing great things overseas and this has continued throughout the winter. We can't wait to hear the rest of the stories about what they learned, did, and experienced, and we can't wait to start recognizing their accomplishments. Many of our deployers were deploying for the first time, and we know that they will bring back many of the things they learned and will apply them at our unit, improving and advancing it. The growth we experience in deployment, especially our young Airmen, can't be overstated and we look forward to benefitting from this.

Back at the home front, our pilots and maintainers continue to ensure that the most advanced fighter jet in the world is flying and effective! We all continue to support the mission and work to be ready for the possible demands both home and abroad. We are heading into another round of spring inspections designed to show just that and we continue to move toward being ready to deploy the F-35s across the world. Currently, we continue to have the incredible support of the Duluth MN F-16s who are covering down on our ALERT mission for us while we complete our transition to the F-35 airframe. We anticipate taking that mission back over shortly as well and look forward to being the first Air National Guard to do so with F-35s!

Lastly, we look forward to joining the Post for the 100th Anniversary event. What a tremendous milestone and congratulations are certainly in order! We are thankful for the sponsorship of the Post and look forward to continuing that relationship into the future. I am a proud member of Post 1318, and I know the broad range of benefits all the way from a beer and wings when I stop by for lunch to the incredible work that is being done on Capitol Hill to advocate for the needs of Veterans. We look forward to having the Post as a part of the 115th story going forward. Thank you for what you do!



POST SCHOLARSHIPS

ANDREW LOCKNER

As spring comes around the corner, it's time to start thinking about who you know who may be attending college this fall. The Post Scholarship fund originally started with the generous donation by Percy H. Maw. In addition, numerous members have added to the fund each year. Qualifying educational institutions include technical colleges or technical training schools and 4-year colleges and universities. To qualify, the student must be an immediate relative of a Post or Auxiliary member. If you need an application or have any questions about qualifications, let me know. The Scholarship Committee will be collecting applications until June 30th. Contact me if you would like to get an application at: andylochner@gmail.com.

EVENTS

JAMIE HERRMANN

Events - A Year filled with engagement, celebration, and growth.

The first quarter of 2025 has been truly remarkable. As January began, our Post confidently embraced the new year with a variety of activities that strengthened our commitment to community, cultural enrichment, and service. From regular weekly gatherings to milestone celebrations, the first quarter has set a vibrant tone that promises an exciting year ahead.

A Dynamic Start to the Year

January kicked off with the vibrant energy of our weekly events, including Vets on Fly, Trivia Nights, and Karaoke Nights, all of which are essential for fostering strong social connections and support within our community. The month also featured an exciting Puzzle Contest and our popular Paint Nite, both of which captured significant interest and participation. A major highlight was the 100-Year Anniversary Open House, a dynamic celebration that not only honored our rich history but also inspired and energized members and visitors, offering them a compelling glimpse into the Post's proud heritage.

February: A Month of Community and Cause

February sustained the momentum with a combination of educational initiatives and community-focused fundraisers. Early in the month, the Ruck 22 Presentation tackled critical issues such as veteran mental health and suicide prevention, underscoring our ongoing commitment to service. A Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser united local supporters and members, raising essential funds for one of our Post "family" members recovering from a stroke. Cultural enrichment also featured prominently with an energetic Latin Dance event and planning sessions for our upcoming 100-Year Anniversary Ceremony kept the excitement building for future celebrations.

(continued on Page 12)

100TH ANNIVERSARY

GUNDEL METZ

On January 18th, the Post had an open house for the celebration of our Centennial Anniversary. The Post Commander formed a centennial Committee chaired by Senior Vice -Commander Venus Hilgart. Due to Wisconsin winters, it was decided to hold the official banquet on April 5, 2025.

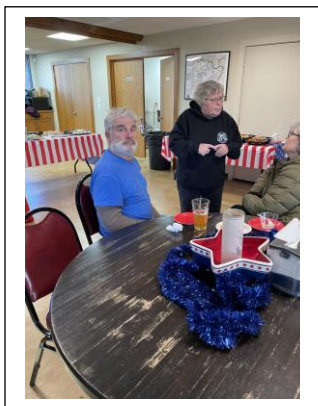
Our Post Charter is dated January 23, 1925. The Charter members signing the application to the VFW were all World War I veterans. The first post home was just off the Square at 113 East Mifflin Street. We moved into our current location in 2022. Due to space limitations at our new location the decision was made that we would invite our current active members to the celebration.

The Post chose for its namesake a Madison man: Marion C. Cranefield. Cranefield grew up on Orchard Street near Vilas Park. He attended Madison High School [later Central High] graduating in 1914. He attended the University of Wisconsin but joined the Wisconsin National Guard during his junior year in 1917. He was promoted to Lieutenant Cranefield at training in Texas. While leading troops in France, he was killed in action, as his father wrote, "...with his face to the enemy..." Lt. Cranefield was buried with 50 comrades in a common grave in France. In 1921, his body was brought to Madison's Forest Hill Cemetery for local burial.

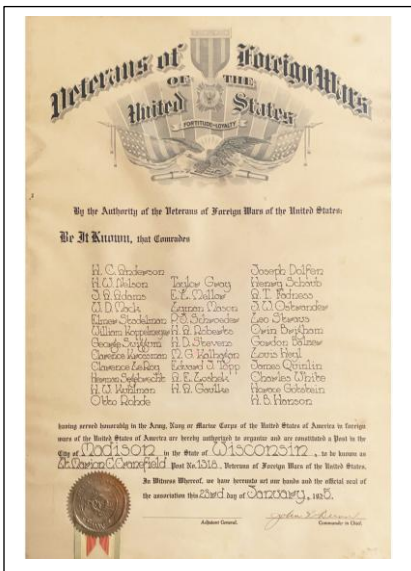
Lyall Beggs joined the 64th Coast Artillery shortly after high school graduation. In France, he was exposed to mustard gas and had eardrums ruptured by incoming artillery. After hospitalization, Corporal Beggs remained in France until spring 1919, helping in the demobilization of U.S. forces. Beggs received his law degree from the UW in 1925. As a member of the DAV and the American Legion, Beggs became commander of VFW Post 1318, 1939-40, then State Commander in 1941-42, and National Commander-in-Chief in 1949-50. He served as an Assistant District Attorney in Madison for the many years of his law practice.

The Cranefield Post has contributed one National Commander (Lyall Beggs), two National Council Members (Curt Taylor & Gundel Metz), one National Chaplain (Father Henry), one National Legislative Committee Member (Lyall Beggs), five State Commanders (Lancelot Gordon, Marvin Levenick, Lyall Beggs, Curt Taylor, & Gundel Metz), and numerous District Commanders to VFW leadership. The Post started a Drum & Bugle Corps in the 1920s that won several state championships; this group grew in to the VFW Post 1318 Concert Band. The 1318 Firing Squad evolved in to the Madison Veterans Firing Squad. This post expects to serve veterans, their families and the community as long as there is a combat brotherhood called the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Post chose to honor one of our own at the banquet. World War II Veteran, Private First Class Karl Kleemann, was honored as our special guest. Karl was with Bravo Battery, 485th AAA Battalion. He served in the Pacific during WW II. Karl participated in the liberation of the Philippines. Karl joined VFW Post 1318 in 1948. That means that he has been a member for over three quarters of the time that the Post has been active in the Madison area. Karl was accompanied by his son, Ken Kleemann. Whenever Karl is up to it, he still attends the Post meeting. One of us will pick him up and then take him back home after the meeting. For as long as I have been a member (a mere 27 years) Karl has been the Post Guard.



Pictures of the Open House held January 18, 2025.

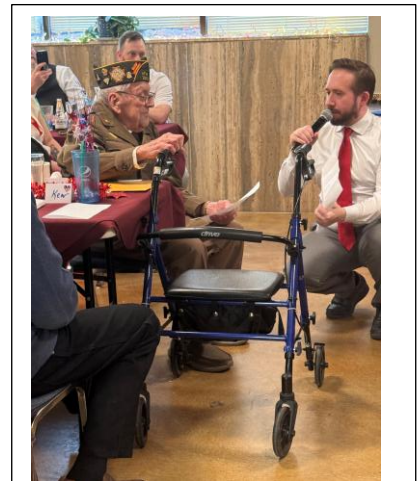


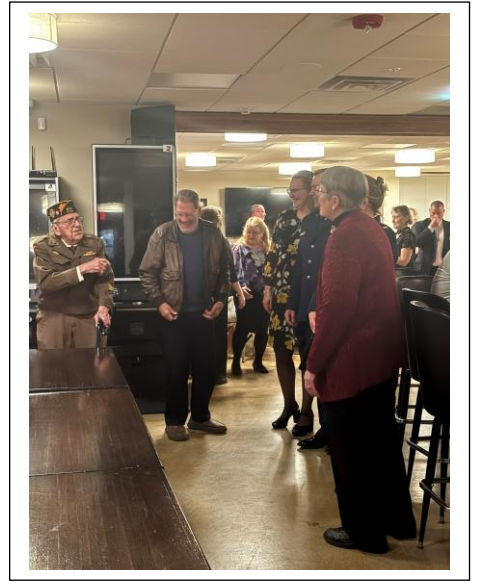
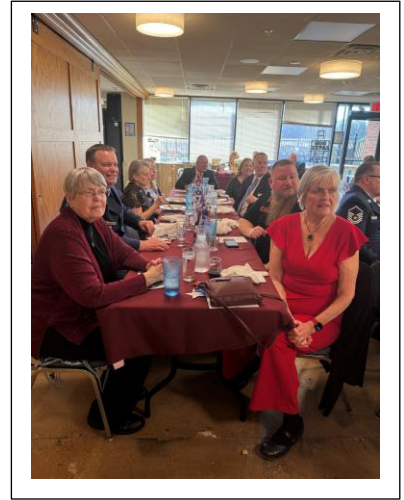
At left: Post Charter
At Right: Lt. Marion C. Cranefield, who the Post was named after. WW I KIA.



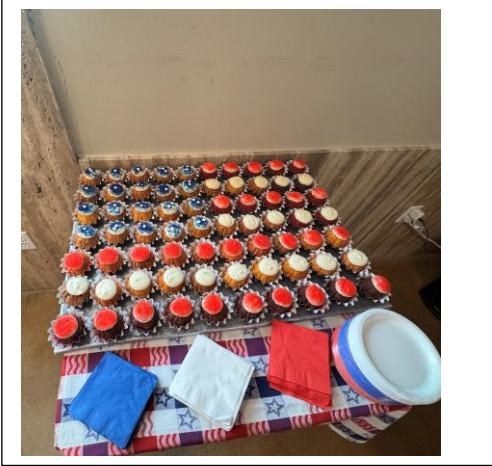


APR 5, 2025
Anniversary
Dinner





APR 5, 2025 Anniversary Dinner



APR 5, 2025
Anniversary
Dinner



(Events continued from page 6)

March: Milestones and Momentum

March was a month filled with events celebrating both legacy and innovation. It began with our inaugural Pull Tab tournament, which saw great attendance. This was followed by the uniquely themed Purse WACKO, adding a creative twist to our traditional WACKO events. As the month drew to a close, we held another Pancake Breakfast, reaffirming our success in community fundraising by raising money for the Dane County Shop with a Cop program. Lastly, on March 20, the final meeting of the 100-Year Anniversary, the Committee ensured that preparations for the grand celebration on April 5th were well underway.

Looking Ahead: What's on the Horizon for 2025

The excitement is far from over. The remainder of the year promises an engaging mix of events that build on the success of Q1. Early April will feature our 100-Year Anniversary Party—a milestone celebration filled with historical displays and a festive atmosphere. April also brings fun events starting with a Puzzle Competition and a creative Paint Nite, alongside our popular Meat Raffles and a Pancake Breakfast hosted by Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Wisconsin Chapter 5.

May and June will maintain the energy with our pancake breakfasts, meat raffles, Paint Nites, and in June, our first Drag Bingo event.

A Year of Promise and Community Spirit

Q1 2025 has not only reaffirmed our commitment to service and community but has also laid a solid foundation for an eventful year ahead. As we celebrate our history, nurture our ongoing programs, and embrace new opportunities, our focus remains on deepening community engagement and celebrating the vibrant spirit of our Post.

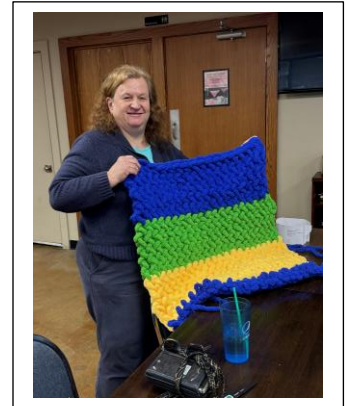
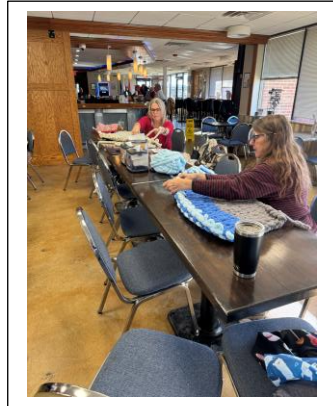
Stay tuned for more updates as we continue this exciting journey through 2025, building on the momentum of Q1 to create even more memorable experiences for our Post and community.

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/>.

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.

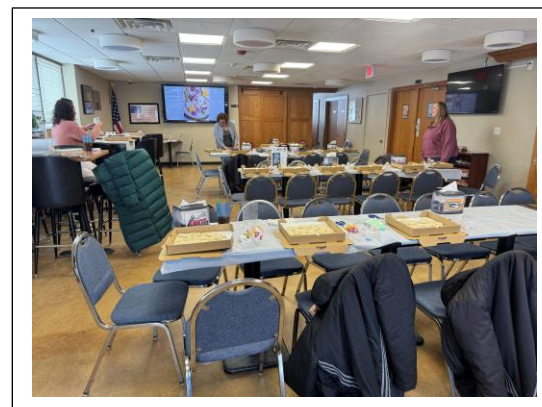


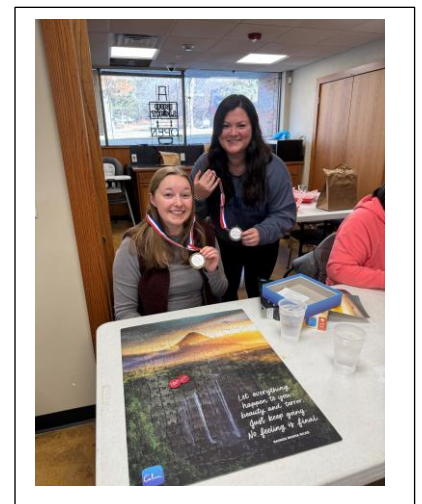
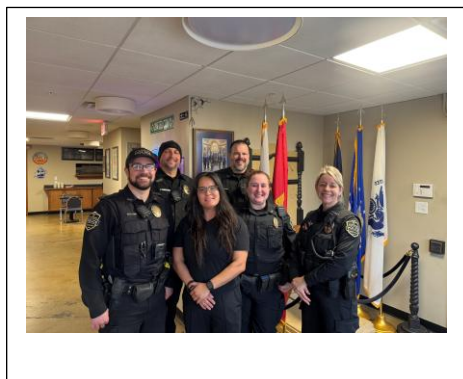
Chunky
Blanket,

Purse
Wacko,

Cookies &
Cocktails,

Meat Raffle





Meat Raffle, Pancake Breakfast, Operation Ruck 22 check presentation, Pull Tab and Puzzle Completion

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

JOSEPH HINES

State - The Post Commander encourages all members to join him at the Veterans Day at the Capitol (VDTAC) here in Madison on Tuesday April 22, 2025! This event is a joint effort between the Wisconsin VFW and other state veteran service organizations to include the Wisconsin American Legion and the Wisconsin Disabled Veterans. The agenda for this event is as follows:

9am	Register at Monona Terrace
10-11:30 am	Program and Lunch
11:30 am	March to Capitol
12-1pm	Capitol Rally
1pm	Meet State Legislators

Our tried-and-true method of advocacy is our membership strength and that “strength” showing up in numbers at the State Capitol. The main Wisconsin Legislation issues that we request our State Assemblypersons and State Senators to support are:

1. The Veteran and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit Reduction (PTC) to include 70% and above. This is the 14th year we have been fighting for the PTC. The last session (2023-2024) was the first time we were able to get the PTC through the Assembly (unanimously) and on to the Senate where it ran out of time in committee before the session ended. It is currently in the Governor's Biennial Budget for 2025-2026, but we expect it to get lined out once the legislators get it so we will create a Stand-Alone bill for it. Wisconsin is one of the only states that does not offer a property tax credit to military disabled veterans and spouses under 100%!
2. The UW/MIA Recovery and Identification Project (UW/MIA) Funding.
 - a. As you remember, the UW/MIA was PSC Cory Geisler's Special Project. It costs an average of \$250k for each trip that this team of volunteers take to recover Wisconsin MIA.
 - b. Last session, the Biennial Budget had \$500k for the project, but it was lined out. We wrote a stand-alone bill that the legislators would only let us put \$250k on it, and the bill did not even get a shake on the Assembly floor. This session UW/MIA Funding is back in the Biennial Budget for \$500k, but sadly we are also expecting it to be lined out of the budget again and we will write a stand-alone bill to fund this project.

Members are not required but should register early for this event. Here is the link to register for VDATC. It is especially important to register now if comrades want to get transportation to the event. You MUST register online to be able to get lunch and/ or bus.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/veterans-day-at-the-capitol-2025-tickets-1248371224939?aff=oddtcreator>

National – VFW National Legislative Conference. Fifteen (15) Wisconsin VFW Members and three (3) Wisconsin VFW Auxiliary Members participated in the VFW National Legislative Conference held in Washington D.C, March 2-6. Our Wisconsin delegation met with the offices of all eight Wisconsin U.S. Representatives and both Wisconsin Senators. Our members discussed and presented the following six (6) VFW Priority Goals with each of these members: Transition from the Service, Unaddressed Toxic Exposure, Exploring Alternative PTSD Treatments, Cracking Down on Predatory Claims Companies, GI Bill Parity, Retired and Military Personnel.

MEMBERS CORNER



Left to right: Roxan Reas (Auxiliary Member), Venus Hilgart (Post Senior Vice-Commander), Rose Doucette (Post Junior Vice-Commander), Ellen Evans (Auxiliary President), and Sharon Warsaw (Post Chaplain)



Left to right: Steven Eisenhauer (Post Commander), Ty Letto (State Senior Vice-Commander), and Karl Kleemann (World War II Post member) receiving the 100th Anniversary Citation from National

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