

V.F.W. NEWS

Published Four Times a Year by Marion C. Cranefield Post 1318
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vol 25 No. 4 October/November/December 2025



Greetings Comrades,

As the leaves begin to fall and the air turns crisp across Madison, there's a familiar sense of comfort in the changing season. At VFW Post 1318, autumn is more than just a time of transition—it's a reminder of the values we hold dear: service, fellowship, and family. Whether you're a longtime member or newly joined, fall is a meaningful season for all of us. It's a time to reflect on the sacrifices we've made, the bonds we've built, and the importance of community—especially as we approach the holiday season.

From football Sundays and bonfires to chili cook-offs and Halloween festivities, fall at Post 1318 is filled with opportunities to come together. It's a chance to relax, reconnect, and enjoy the company of fellow veterans, friends, and family members who make our Post more than just a building—it's a home.

We invite all members to bring their families and join in the fun this season. Whether it's carving pumpkins with the kids or cheering on the Badgers and Packers in our canteen, these are the moments that strengthen our Post family.

Honoring Veterans This November

One of the most important events of the fall season is **Veterans Day**, a time to honor those who served and reflect on our shared commitment to one another.

This is a powerful reminder of why we joined the VFW in the first place: to support each other, to remember those who came before us, and to ensure future generations understand the value of service and sacrifice.

The Holidays: A Time for Giving and Gratitude

The holidays can be joyful, but they can also be difficult for some—especially those who are alone or dealing with physical or emotional challenges. Let's look out for one another. If you know a member who could use a visit, a hot meal, or simply a listening ear, reach out. One small gesture can go a long way.

Family: The Heart of Our Post

At Post 1318, we believe strongly that family extends beyond blood—it includes every person who walks through our doors with respect, purpose, and heart. Our Auxiliary, spouses, children, and friends are an essential part of who we are.

This fall and holiday season, let's celebrate not only our service but the people who've stood beside us through it all—our families. Their support makes our mission possible, and their involvement keeps our Post thriving.

(Continued Page 3)



Commander Steven Eisenhauer

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

6th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
7th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:00 pm
11th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
12th – CiC Breakfast – 8:30 am - noon
15th – Classic Car & Bike – 5:00 pm
28th – Events Committee – 6:00 pm
House Committee – 6:30 pm

November

3rd – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
4th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
8th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am.
15th – Extravaganza -
28th – Events Committee – 6:00 pm
House Committee – 6:30 pm

December

1st – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
2nd – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
13th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
23rd – Events Committee – 6:00 pm
House Committee – 6:30 pm
27th – Meat Raffle - 3:00-5:00 pm
28th – 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 -----Andy Lochner
 Trustee, 2yr -----Tim Hilsenhoff
 Trustee, 1yr -----William Muether
 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
 Historian----- William Muether
 House Committee -----Members: Bob Evans,
 Steve Eisenhower, Venus Hilgart, Ray Trent, Sharon
 Warsaw, Rose Doucette, Gundel Metz, Bill Austin,
 Joseph Hines, Justin East and Permanent Guest -
 Auxiliary Representative
 House Committee and Events Committee meet on
 the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6:00pm

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

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

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

WEB ADDRESS

VFW1318.ORG

Telephone: 608-255-5955

Email: vfw1318qm@gmail.com

V.F.W. NEWS DEADLINE IS
 DECEMBER 30TH. 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: VFW1318QM@gmail.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



CANTEEN

CANTEEN HOURS

Monday – Closed
 Tuesday: 11 am to 8 pm
 Wednesday: 11 am to 8 pm
 Thursday: 11 am to 11 pm
 Friday: 11 am to 11 pm
 Saturday: 11 am to 11 pm
 Sunday: 11 am to 8 pm

Canteen Information:

Food Specials:

Taco Tuesday
 Burger Wednesday
 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 3:00-5:00 pm

Stop on by and meet our staff, Kate,
 Erica, Allison, Nicole, AP, Michael,
 Anna Marie, Flip, 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.

**If you want information for the
 on-line Post meetings, please
 contact the Post Quartermaster
 at vfw1318qm@gmail.com. All
 Post meetings are hybrid, some
 members at the Post and the
 others via internet.**

(continued from page 1)

Stay Connected

We encourage all members to check the event calendar, follow us on social media, and stop by the Post regularly. Whether you're looking for camaraderie, support, or simply a place to unwind, you'll always find a warm welcome here.

If you haven't been by in a while, this fall is the perfect time to reconnect.
Stay warm, stay connected, and stay proud.

In Comradeship,
Steve Eisenhower
Post 1318 Commander

VA UPDATE

Not impacted by the shutdown

- VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics, and Vet Centers will be open as usual and providing all services.
- VA benefits will continue to be processed and delivered, including compensation, pension, education, and housing benefits.
- Burials will continue at VA national cemeteries. Applications for headstones, markers, and burial benefits processing will continue.
- The Board of Veterans' Appeals will continue decisions on Veterans' cases.
- Call Centers: VA's primary call center ([1-800-MyVA411](tel:1-800-MyVA411)) and the Veterans Crisis Line (Dial [988](tel:988), Press 1) will remain open 24/7. The VA Benefit Hotline ([1-800-827-1000](tel:1-800-827-1000)) will be available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET.
- Suicide prevention programs, homelessness services, and caregiver support will continue.

Impacted during the shutdown

- VA will cease providing transition program assistance and career counseling.
- Call Centers: VA's GI Bill (1-888-GIBILL-1) and National Cemetery Applicant Assistance (1-800-697-6947) hotlines will be closed.
- VA benefits regional offices will be closed.
- Public Affairs and unfunded outreach to Veterans will cease, including social media, VetResources emails, and responses to press inquiries.
- No grounds maintenance or placement of permanent headstones at VA cemeteries.
- Applications for pre-need burial at VA cemeteries will not be processed.
- No printing of new Presidential Memorial Certificates.
- No outreach to state, county, tribal, municipal, faith-based, and community-based partners by VA Central Office.

Please visit: <https://department.va.gov/contingency-planning/> for updates on the government shutdown.



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Rose Doucette

Hello Auxiliary Members:

Greetings to all my auxiliary brothers and sisters. I look out my window and observe the gold leaves falling in bright sunshine. Splendid colors of orange and red sprinkle the pavement. I am so grateful for the times I can work with family and friends to celebrate this season. I appreciate the camaraderie and friendship of this Auxiliary and of my fellow veterans working together to support veterans and our community.

We participated in two wonderful events at the 115th Fighter Wing Base this summer. Post and Auxiliary members were given a tour of the base. This included the fire department that supports the fighter wing and the Truax airport. Of course, I had to climb into the cab of the fire engine. This Air National Guard unit supports both state and federal missions. It is comprised of roughly 700 National Guard soldiers and 500 full time employees. They provide homeland defense to the mid-west and maintain an operational ready combat unit. Statewide missions include disaster relief, search and rescue, protection of public services and defense support to civil authorities.

The base tour included a brief history of the unit, tour of the hangar, introduction of key personnel and questions and answers with a pilot. The 115th is just the second base to receive the F35A Lightning aircraft. Most exciting of all was observing the take-off of the F35 fighter jets. They can travel from Madison to Volk Field in 6 minutes.

Thank you to Auxiliary members who helped serve at the Fighter Wing family day. It was special to this unit as all of its soldiers have returned from overseas missions. Our pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad and coleslaw were a hit.

Community service activities continue into the fall. We hosted a hydration station for runners participating in the final Ruck 22. We will serve a pancake breakfast with proceeds going to Shop with a Cop on October 26th. Please come and join us. We will assist the Post with a brat fry at a UW football game honoring veterans which is supported by WDVA.

Are there any other community service events you would like to participate in? Please let me know. Our goals continue to be to preserve Veterans rights, advocate a strong national defense, promote patriotism and offer community service. "Be the lighthouse in someone else's storm" as quoted from National President Lois Callahan. Working together makes us a strong force.

Rose Doucette
Auxiliary President



115TH FIGHTER WING UPDATE

COMMAND CHIEF MICHAEL ALVAREZ

As the 115th Fighter Wing rolls into the crisp fall season and wraps up their summer fun, we celebrate the new fiscal year with a lot of wins and accomplishments. Our folks executed their training at the highest level and engaged in several TDYs to various locations, showing our Badger pride, work ethic, and exceptional skills as we did.

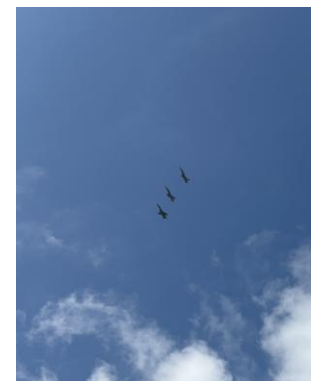
Of note, our members engaged in the REFORPAC exercise mid to late summer, which took place in the INDO-PACOM region. This exercise was a massive lift with an enormous number of military assets moved over vast expanses over a short period of time. The complexity and intricacy of this exercise cannot be overstated and I'm proud to say our members were involved in it from the start, from our planning teams and logisticians to representatives from each Group and the involved Squadrons. The result was a flawless movement of our assets from home station, across the country, then across the oceans to Guam, where they staged for sorties and missions out into the island chains. Not only did our Airmen gain critical and exceptional experience, but they executed the mission in novel ways not seen in my career. We were incredibly proud of our Badgers!

Adding to our pride, the 115th Fighter Wing can finally say that we have taken back the Alert mission and are standing ready to respond to threats to the homeland again, this time as the first F-35 unit to do so. We cannot thank the Duluth F-16s enough for covering down for us while we made the transition to the new airframe. Their professionalism and expertise were critical, allowing us to focus on the process needed to make the transition and prepare our pilots, maintainers, and other shops to take on the task again with the new airframe. Being that we are the first F-35 unit to operate this mission, it is notable that a significant amount of research and problem solving went into ensuring we would be able to take on and execute this mission effectively and reliably. Again, Badgers leading the way!

Finally, September is always when the 115th focuses on family and resilience, and October is the month of the military child. With that, as we do every year, we had a family day out at the base with food and activities for the military families and a stack of programming designed to focus on the family and on personal resilience and readiness. Post 1318 partnered with us again as they have in years past and it was great having the VFW out for that event, feeding folks and interacting with our most precious resource, the 115th Airmen. I heard excellent feedback from our members who were out there with you and they very much appreciated having Post 1318 out at the base. Thank you for your efforts to stay connected with the 115th and for your continued support.



F-35 at the family day event.
Pictures courtesy of Gundy's
sister.



SPECIAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST



IN HONOR OF
CAROL WHITMORE
FIRST FEMALE
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
IN THE 126-YEAR
HISTORY OF THE VFW

12 OCT
8:30 AM – NOON

MENU Omelets (cheese, vegetarian, or ham & cheese) • Pancakes • Sausage • Bacon Fruit • Mimosa

\$12 per person • \$6 children under 10



Inflatable USS Wisconsin SSBN 827 submarine on display

THE "V" POST 1318 • 2740 SKI LANE, MADISON

PUBLIC WELCOME

MEAT RAFFLE!

OCT. 25th • 3-5PM
YOUR CHANCE TO WIN LOTS OF MEAT!



PLUS, A SPECIAL RAFFLE FOR A SIGNED BOTTLE OF BUFFALO TRACE

The
POST 1318

THE "V" POST 1318
2740 SKI LANE

JOIN THE VFW POST 1318 AUXILIARY

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

MONEY RAISED WILL BE DONATED TO

SHOP WITH A COP



Shop With A Cop - Dane County, Inc. strives to create a positive interaction between law enforcement and the community by helping economically disadvantaged children shop for gifts for their families during the holiday season. Shop With A Cop - Dane County, Inc. is a 501(c)(3), non-profit agency.

SUNDAY OCT 26
from 9AM -12PM

PANCAKES | EGGS | SAUSAGE | MILK | O.J. | MIMOSA

THE 'V' POST 1318
2740 SKI LANE, MADISON

The
POST 1318

THE "V" POST 1318
2740 Ski Lane, Madison
Proud home to Walk for Warriors

Events for everyone

• Trivia • Karaoke • Wacko

facebook.com/vfw1318/
vfw1318.org




🎗️ **WALK FOR WARRIORS** 🎗️
Walking Together • Supporting Veterans • Saving Lives

COMING 2026

Operation Ruck 22 ends in 2025, but our mission continues. VFW Post 1318 proudly launches Walk for Warriors.

Follow us for updates & event details:
facebook.com/groups/walkforwarriors



scan for details

EVENTS

JAMIE HERRMANN

Looking Back: Summer & Early Fall

This summer and early fall were filled with energy, community spirit, and memorable events that kept our Post lively.

- Weekly Favorites – Trivia on Thursdays, Karaoke Fridays, and WACKO Sundays remained crowd-pleasers.
- Monthly Car & Bike Nights – In partnership with Rolling Thunder Wisconsin Chapter 5, members and guests enjoyed a showcase of classic cars, motorcycles, and camaraderie, with plenty of prizes up for grabs.
- Special Activities – Monthly Paint Nites, Drag Bingo (8/9), Cookie Decorating with Sugar Llama (8/19), and Hat Burning with Burlap (8/23).
- Community Outreach – Fitchburg Police Community Night Out (8/13) and the 115th Fighter Wing Family Day (9/13), Post and Auxiliary members served food to participants at each event.
- Operation Ruck 22 – Final March (9/27) – A milestone moment as we closed 10 years of rucking for awareness of Veteran suicide prevention. The Auxiliary served snacks and water to 140 marchers.

Looking Ahead: October – December 2025

October Highlights

- Drag Bingo – Oct. 4 (5 PM) – Outrageous fun, friendly competition, and lots of laughs.
- Breakfast for the Commander-in-Chief, Carol Whitmore – Oct. 12 (8:30 AM–12 PM).
- Car & Bike Night – Oct. 15 (5–8 PM) – The season finale with Rolling Thunder®.
- Wreath Class – Oct. 18 (1–3:30 PM) – Step-by-step build a beautiful wreath to take home and enjoy.
- Paint Nite – Oct. 18 (6–9 PM), our local artist, takes you from start to finish to complete your very own painting.
- Meat Raffle – Oct. 25 (3–5 PM).
- Pancake Breakfast – Oct. 26 (9 AM–Noon) – Funds raised for Shop with a Cop.

Events continued on Page 8

(Events Continued)

November Highlights

- Pull Tab Tournament – Nov. 1 (2–4 PM), teams of 2-4 people. Preregistration is required by emailing vfw1318events@gmail.com or signing up with a bartender.
- VFW Tailgate – Nov. 8 – The post members will be outside Camp Randall selling brats, hot dogs, and beverages before the Badger game. Come join us before the game.
- Vets on Fly Nights – Wednesdays (5:30–7:30 PM) – learn more about fly fishing and making flies.
- Paint Nite – Nov. 15 (6–9 PM).
- Meat Raffle – Nov. 22 (3–5 PM, Thanksgiving theme).
- Pancake Breakfast – Nov. 23 (9 AM–Noon).

December Highlights

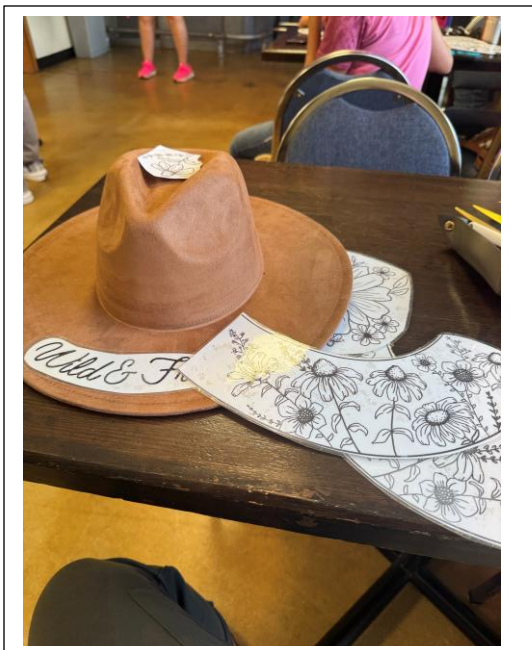
- Holiday Extravaganza – Dec. 6 (1–4 PM) – shop with vendors, enjoy quarter auctions, raffles, and a lot of fun!
- Vets on Fly Nights – Wednesdays (5:30–7:30 PM).
- Paint Nite – Dec. 20 (6–9 PM).
- Meat Raffle – Dec. 27 (3–5 PM).
- Pancake Breakfast – Dec. 28 (9 AM–Noon).

Walk for Warriors – Coming 2026

While Operation Ruck 22 has concluded, our mission to support Veterans continues. Starting in 2026, VFW Post 1318 will launch Walk for Warriors – a new annual tradition to honor Veterans, raise awareness of PTSD and suicide prevention, and keep our community moving forward together. Families, friends, and neighbors will join us on local trails in Fitchburg and beyond, ensuring the spirit of Operation Ruck 22 carries forward into the future.

Stay Connected

Our Post thrives because of the dedication of our members, families, and community partners. Follow VFW Post 1318 on Facebook for photos, reminders, and updates on events. Together, we honor yesterday's heroes, support today's Veterans, and strengthen our community.



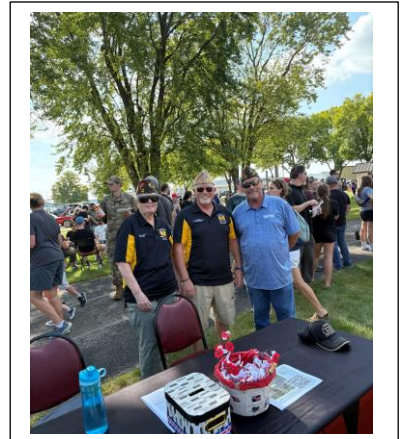
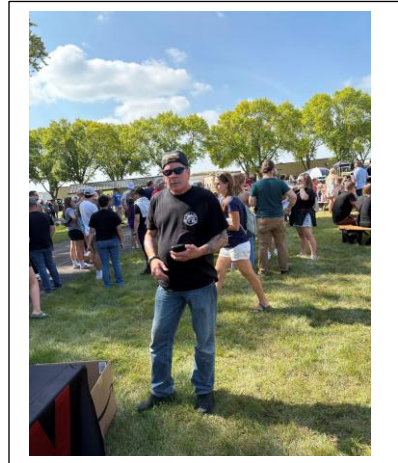
Pictures from
cookie
decorating and
hat burning
events





Top-pictures of Post members working at Fitchburg Night Out

Left/Right/below – Post and Auxiliary members worked at the 115th Family Day.



Pictures from the classic car and bike events (more pictures on page 11)



ROLLING THUNDER® INC.

WISCONSIN CHAPTER 5

BY WILLIAM MUETHER

- The chapter hosted the 2025 Thunder Run on September 20 at NV Corners, Sun Prairie, with cash prizes ranging from \$100 to \$5,000. Proceeds totaling \$11,000 were allocated to support the UW MIA Recovery and Identification Project, Custom Canines, Rock Valley Community Programs, and Edgerton Community Outreach.
- VFW 1318 Classic Car and Bike Nights were moved to from the second Wednesday to the third Wednesday to avoid conflicts with other Tuesday car events and boost participation. The events on August 20th and September 17th were better attended. The final classic car and bike night is scheduled for October 15th from 5-8 pm.
- The chapter supported Ruck 22 on September 27th with a refreshment stop at the Elks Lodge on Lake Monona.
- Annual elections were conducted at the September 13th meeting for the offices of Vice President, Treasurer, Chairman of the Board and four Board of Directors positions.
- The annual Rolling Thunder National Conference in DC is scheduled from October 31 to November 1 and several of our chapter officers will be attending.

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.



MEMBERS CORNER



Left: WW II member Karl Kleemann presents a generous donation to the Post Junior Vice Commander Rose Doucette



Top: Post Quartermaster, Gundel Metz, with State Commander, Ty Letto, at the 115th Fighter Wing Family Day.



Post Commander, Steve Eisenhauer, standing beside the sign showing Post 1318's support of the Commander-in-Chief Homecoming



COL Statz (Post member) presents the Post Commander with picture of the F-35 for 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.
vfw1318qm@gmail.com