

VFW



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Joyce M. Helson VFW Post 5162

January 2017

Vol. 3 Iss. 1

Commander's Comments

2017 is here! It is a new year and I am wanting to make the best of it. So I am including a mini-survey that I am requesting all members to fill out and return via snailmail or email with the subject line "VFW Survey". It will help us to improve our post.

I know that you are probably tired of reading "we are in need of active members", but this need is huge. I understand being too busy with life, but my question to you is, "do you know of someone that is a combat veteran who would be a good asset to our post?" So I am including a membership application just in case you do know someone.

We have our Awards Banquet this month (January) on the 17th at the American Legion Post 237 on Drake Ave. We will begin at 1900. Please R.S.V.P. by the 10 January, we want to make sure we have enough food. You can send an email to commander@vfwpost5162.com with the subject line "Awards" or call/text to 256-503-3551. I really hope to see many of you there.

I am working to find an alternative, smoke free place to conduct our meetings. We can't afford to rent space so this is going to be a challenge. If you know of a place, please contact me.

Tammy Johnson
docj45@hotmail.com
256-503-3551



We still have coins and pins for sale! The coin is \$15, the pin is \$5. 100% of the proceeds go toward the VFW Post 5162's Combat Veteran's Fellowship! Yes, I said 100%!!!! We only have a limited amount of tin cups left! They are \$8. If you are interested in getting one, contact the commander.

Senior Vice Commander's Comments

First, I would like to thank everyone for taking up the slack for me while I was away for October and most of November. Thanks for covering for me during Buddy Poppies and Veteran's Day. On the Programs, the Post has submitted the Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Patriot's Pen (PP) essay winners as well as a fire fighter winner to District. Our fire fighter won 1st place at District and the PP took second place. We will be present post awards at the Awards Banquet on January 17, 2017 at American Legion Post 25.

We have a Middle School Teacher in the works for Teacher of the Year, but if you know a high school or Elementary Teacher deserving an award go to <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/teacher-of-the-year> for more information. The Deadline to Post is February 15.

The Boy or Girl Scout of the year is due to Post by March 1. For more information go to <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/scout-of-the-year>.

We will start present JROTC awards in the coming months and if you would like to help presenting them please contact me. Hope to see you at the Awards Banquet.

On another note, the Post is at 92% on membership for this year so if you have not renewed your membership now is the time as the Post only needs 14 more for 100%.

David Ladner
dwlad@aol.com
256-689-0024

Quartermaster's Comments

Happy New Year Brothers and Sisters!

I trust you all had a joyous holiday celebrating with family and friends. Well it's the start of a new year and I am asking that those of you that have not paid their annual dues to please take a minute and send a check to me at the post. Annual dues are \$38.00. You might want to consider a Life Membership. For your convenience, I have included the Life Membership Fee Schedule below.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE

*AGE as of DEC 31st

Age	One Time Payment	Initial payment/11 monthly payments
30 & under	\$425	\$45/\$38.64
31-40	\$410	\$45/\$37.27
41-50	\$375	\$45/\$34.09
51-60	\$335	\$45/\$30.45
61-70	\$290	\$45/\$26.36
71-80	\$225	\$45/\$20.45
81-older	\$170	\$45/\$15.45

The best and quickest way to communicate with you would be through email. **Please make sure that I have a valid email address for you.** The easiest way to do that is to send me an email to vfw5162@gmail.com.

If you are needing assistance dealing with VA, give me a call or send me an email.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at the meetings on the third Tuesday starting at 1900 (7:00PM) at the American Legion Post 237. This month's meeting will be our Awards Banquet.

Jim Carter
vfw5162@gmail.com
256-665-4692

Upcoming Events

Jan 5 & 12: 1400 hours, Bingo with the Veterans at Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans home, 2701 Meridian Street

Jan 17: 1900 hours, Awards Banquet

Feb 2 & 9: 1400 hours, Bingo with the Veterans at Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans home, 2701 Meridian Street

Feb 12: 1300 hours, District Meeting in Decatur at Post 4190

Mar 2 & 9: 1400 hours, Bingo with the Veterans at Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans home, 2701 Meridian Street

Apr 6 & 13: 1400 hours, Bingo with the Veterans at Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans home, 2701 Meridian Street

For those that are Life Members, I have included a brochure entitled "Leave a Lasting Legacy". Please read it and consider becoming a Legacy Member.

Look on the back of this page to see the legislation that the VFW has help to pass.

If you are in need of any assistance, please contact one of the officers.

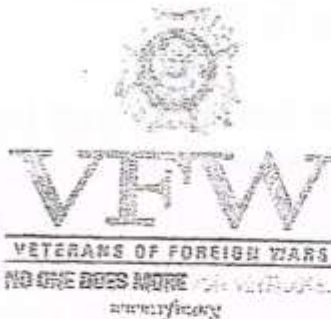
Also, if you need a ride to a doctor's appointment or to our meetings, let us know!

What your membership dues have done in 2016.

This past year we have assisted local veterans financially and emotionally. We sponsor and physically assist with BINGO at Tut Fann Veterans's Home twice a month. We do a Buddy Poppy Drive twice a year, which provides funds to help veterans. We provided Tut Fann with six turkeys for their Thanksgiving Day dinner this year. The post participated in Memorial Day activities at Maple Hill Cementery. We have assisted in the Veteran's Day Parade Pre-show at the Veteran's Memorial, the Vietnam Lecture Series, and many other veteran related activities around the city. Our post has given awards to JROTC cadets, students, teachers, and first responders through VFW's national community programs. We also host a Combat Veteran's Fellowship that provides a safe place for combat veterans to heal and fellowship with others who can understand the issues that can arise from combat. There are many other things that Post 5162 touched within our community this past year. We are excited to continue our excellent services to the community in 2017.

Be sure to visit our website!

vfwpost5162.com



VFW Legislative Victories

VFW played an instrumental role in virtually every significant piece of veterans' legislation passed in the 20th century, as well as bills enacted in the 21st century.

Note: In each case, this is the year an act was passed or an institution established.

Media Contacts:

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| 1917 | War Risk Insurance Act Amendments | 1981 | Former POW Benefits Act |
| 1918 | Vocational Rehabilitation Act (P.L. 178) | | Veterans Health Care, Training & Small Business Loan Act |
| 1919 | Census Act Rider on Veterans Preference Discharge Allowance | 1982 | Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) |
| 1920 | Widows & Orphans Pension Act (Spanish-American War) | | Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated |
| 1921 | Veterans Bureau Act | 1983 | Emergency Veterans Job-Training Act |
| 1923 | Veterans Preference Point System | 1984 | Montgomery GI Bill |
| 1924 | House Veterans Affairs Committee | | Veterans Dioxin & Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act (P.L. 98-542): Agent Orange & Atomic Exposure |
| | World War Veterans Act | 1987 | New GI Bill Continuation Act |
| | World War Adjusted Compensation Act | 1988 | Radiation-Exposed Veterans Compensation Act |
| 1925 | Senate Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs | | Department of Veterans Affairs Act |
| 1926 | Spanish-American War benefits | | Veterans Judicial Review Act |
| | New Johnson Act (WWI benefits) | | Veterans Benefits & Improvement Act |
| 1930 | Veterans Administration (VA) | 1989 | VA becomes a Cabinet department |
| | World War Service Disability Pension Act (P.L. 522) | | Court of Veterans Appeals |
| 1931 | Bacharach Amendment (P.L. 743) allows borrowing on WWI bonus certificates | 1990 | Agent Orange service-connection |
| 1933 | Wagner-Peyser Act: Veterans Employment Service | 1991 | Agent Orange Act (P.L. 102-4) |
| 1934 | Pension for widows of WWI vets | | Persian Gulf War Veterans Assistance Act (P.L. 102-25) |
| 1936 | Bonus bonds (\$2.4 billion) to WWI vets redeemable | | Veterans Benefits Improvement Act (P.L. 102-86) |
| 1938 | Armistice Day (Nov. 11) legal holiday | 1992 | Veterans Health-Care Act |
| 1940 | Philippine Travel Pay Bill | 1996 | Veterans Health-Care Eligibility Reform Act |
| | National Service Life Insurance | 1999 | Veterans Millennium Health-Care and Benefits Act |
| | Selective Service & Training Act | 2003 | Concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 50% disabled or more (P.L. 108-136) |
| 1943 | Benefits to WWII veterans (P.L. 10) | 2004 | Full concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 100% disabled (P.L. 108-375) |
| | Disabled Veterans Rehabilitation Act | 2005 | Traumatic Injury Insurance supplemental created |
| 1944 | GI Bill of Rights (P.L. 346) | 2006 | Protestors banned from military funerals |
| | Veterans Preference Act | | Stolen Valor Act signed into law |
| 1946 | Veteran Emergency Housing Act | 2007 | VFW calls for VA/military healthcare system review after Walter Reed outpatient debacle |
| 1947 | Bureau of Veterans Re-employment Rights (BVRR) | 2008 | Record VA discretionary budget approved |
| 1950 | Vocational Rehabilitation Act | | GI Bill for the 21 st Century signed into law |
| 1951 | Servicemen's Indemnity & Insurance | 2009 | Advanced Appropriations for VA becomes law |
| 1952 | Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (Korean War GI Bill) | 2010 | Family Caregiver Legislation signed into law |
| 1954 | Veterans Compensation Act | | Ensured all VA and DOD health care programs were recognized as meeting minimum coverage standards under national health care law |
| | Nov. 11 as Veterans Day (P.L. 380) | 2011 | YOW to Hire Heroes Act |
| 1962 | Veterans Benefits Act (Cold War GI Bill) | | VFW stopped TRICARE premiums from increasing annually |
| 1966 | Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act (P.L. 89-358) (Vietnam War GI Bill) | 2012 | Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act |
| 1970 | Senate Veterans Affairs Committee | | Extended USERRA protections to veterans working for TSA |
| 1972 | Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act | 2013 | Reinstated military Tuition Assistance programs |
| 1973 | Federal court agrees veterans preference applies to state jobs | | New Stolen Valor Act signed into law |
| 1974 | Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (vocational rehabilitation) | | Stopped Creation of Distinguished Warfare Medal (Drone Medal) |
| 1976 | Veterans Education & Employment Assistance Act | 2014 | Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 |
| 1977 | Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Act | | In-State Tuition for Post 9/11 GI Bill eligible veterans |
| 1978 | Veterans preference preserved | | Veterans Funding First Act: Advance appropriations for VA Benefits |
| | Veterans & Survivors Pension Improvement Act | 2015 | Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans (SAV) Act |
| | Veterans Day returned to Nov. 11 | | Eliminated 1% COLA reduction penalty on future military retirees |
| 1979 | First joint meeting of House/Senate Veterans Affairs Committees | | Created government match to military Thrift Savings Plan accounts |
| | Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program (creates Vet Centers) | | |
| 1980 | VFW calls for Agent Orange study | | |
| | Veterans Rehabilitation & Education Amendments | | |

VFW National Headquarters

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