

Veterans News And Views

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April Showers, mess up my swing!!!



ATTACHED

*SBA Info
Marine Corps League
Flag Day Foundation
Post 288 Memorial
Fundraiser*

HONOR YOUR FELLOW VETERANS

No one ever said that War was fast, or painless., despite what some of the politicians, pundits, and “talking heads” may say now.

We, as a society, have grown far to comfortable with the idea of instant gratification. Some of us have also, apparently, come to think that all wars can be fought in a clean and seemingly bloodless (at least American blood) manner.

I think that both of these thought patterns diminish the sacrifices that our young men and women make on a daily basis, in service to our country.

Since the start of the war, we have, as of April 1, 2007, lost 3220 Americans KIA. Not to mention the tens of thousands, who have returned injured.

It is important for all of us, no matter your political persuasion, or whether you support this war or not, to show our unified and un-failing support for our men and women in uniform.

We have all seen the news items, detailing the “failings” of the military and VA Medical systems. This is a symptom of the larger problem, lack of sufficient funding. This is not a new issue, I have detailed the

short-comings in the funding for many years.

It is incumbent upon us to do all we can to pressure our elected officials to “do the right thing”. **Adequately fund the medical systems our troops rely so heavily on.**

Never again, can we have our troops feel their efforts are not appreciated, and more so, unwanted, as our troops had to deal with upon returning from Vietnam.

This was a disservice not only to the military members returning, but also to the families of those who will never return.

GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS



Veterans Employment

Contrary to the thinking of many, our office does not get overly involved in the arena of employment. We specialize in benefits.

We do have the good fortune of having a Workforce Development Office in Mequon, on the campus of MATC (North) They specialize in employment matters.

Numerous Federal programs offer assistance with other areas that some of our fellow veterans don't normally think

About, self-employment, as in owning your own business.

The Small Business Administration offers several options, and some companies are offering “incentives” to open local franchises.

The SBA has offices in Milwaukee to provide information regarding potential loans to assist with the start-up process. They can be found in the blue-pages of your phone book.

See Attached Article

YOUTH GOVERNMENT DAY



The annual American Legion Youth and Government Day was held on Wednesday March 7, 2007.

This annual event was a great success once again. We had nearly 70 students participate from ALL of the county's High Schools.

My thanks to all who showed up to assist with this annual event, and my hats off to Bill Prahl for pulling it off once again.

A special thanks to my secretary Suzanne Maurer, who has to make up the certificates every year, and make last minute changes due to substitutions of students. The process is very tedious and time consuming.

The pizzas went over exceptionally well again !!!

Still Looking for A "Few Good Men"

The Marine Corps League is trying to set up a local chapter in our area.

They are a Congressionally Chartered veterans organization, with many of the same goals as our other Service Organizations.

Membership requirements boil down to service in the U.S. Marine Corps, or as a FMF Corpsman.

See Attached Flier.

Grafton Legion Looks to Establish S.A.L. Squadron

Grafton Post 355 is looking to establish a Sons of the American Legion Squadron, as an augment to its Post. Membership requirements are that your Father/Mother or a Grandparent qualified for Membership in the American Legion. Many of us would qualify as "dual-members".

Currently Cedarburg and Mequon-Thiensville posts have SAL Squadrons.

ANNUAL SALUTE TO THE LEGISLATURE

The annual salute to the legislature was held Wednesday, February 20, 2007 at the Manona Terrace Ballroom.

I was pleasantly surprised to see a number of legislators in attendance, even though they were fighting the budget battles.

We had a good crowd of our own from Ozaukee County, unfortunately, few of our area elected representatives stayed to talk with us. We did get to meet our newest Assemblyman from Mequon, Jim Ott, formerly of WTMJ Channel 4.

Maybe we'll see you there next year!

HELPING THE TROOPS

I have received a number of phone calls from Ozaukee citizens, wanting to know what they can do to help out the troops.

My best suggestion is to go through either the USO, the Red Cross, or the Salvation Army. All of these organizations have programs to send "care packages" either overseas to the troops, or to provide aid to the families left behind.

If you have a computer, you can go online to any of the Military Exchange web sites, where they are accepting cash donations, that will be given to the troops and their families in the form of gift certificates for use at the exchange.

Most of the local Veterans Service Organization Posts are standing by to assist any families in our area who could use help around the house, while the service member is deployed. If you know someone who could use their assistance, either contact the nearest Post, or call my office, we will get in touch with them for you.

VA MEDICAL SYSTEM

The VA Medical System remains open to all veterans.

That's the "good" news.

Because of the number of applications that they receive daily, there is a significant "backlog" of people waiting to actually start using the VA.

Contrary to popular opinion, I do not



have any "special pull" nor do I have a magic wand to get you into the system any faster. The current wait from time of application to first appointment is 5 months.

If you have an acute and immediate need for care, you can go to the VA Medical Center Emergency Room (take a copy of your DD-214), you will receive care for that immediate need, they WILL NOT fill any other prescriptions for you at that time.

Thinking Ahead



The Memorial Day Holiday will be on us faster than you think.

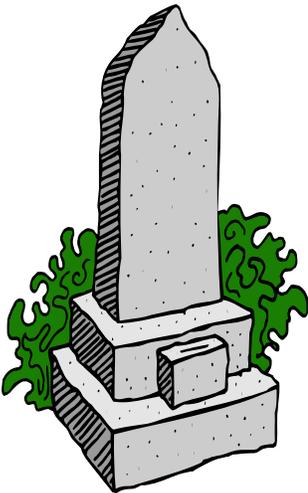
We have received our shipment of flags from the distributor.

Sue will be calling all of the “area coordinators”, as the month of May gets closer, to schedule pick-ups.

As always, Sue has tried to keep the lists up to date since last year, but if you find errors during your “rounds”, please make note of it on the list that Sue provides, so we can get the computer updated.

During the last year, we have bid farewell to just over 100 of our comrades.

COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL



The major portion of our fund-raising is over.

The final payment on the new memorial stone, and other work being done by Hilgendorf Memorials has been made.

The “planning phase” for the re-dedication of the Memorial has begun.

The organizing committee, headed up by Bob Shappell, is still seeking some donations to help defray the cost of the re-dedication ceremonies. Donations can still be

made at any branch of the Ozaukee Bank, just inform the teller that you want your donation to go into the Ozaukee County Veterans Memorial Fund account. Donations can also be sent to my office, where I will insure they are deposited to the account.

Initial plans are for the re-dedication ceremony to occur on Sunday May 27, 2007. Time to be determined.

I will keep all post commanders updated, or you can always call my office.

Flag Day

The National Flag Day Foundation is moving ahead with their planning for this year’s celebration in Waubeka on June 10th.

This year’s “special” honorees will be Vietnam Veterans.

Those wishing to receive a recognition plaque, and some other “perks” should contact Jack Janik at 262-692-9111, or via e-mail at

flagday@neuens.com.

Be prepared to provide him with your name, address and the number of individuals who will be accompanying you for the day.

See the attached bulletin.



NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR GAMES MILWAUKEE

The National Wheelchair Games will be held from June 19 through June 23 in Milwaukee.

These events show how ABLE our wheelchair –bound veterans really are.

These games require a significant number of volunteers to assist the athletes, their families, and the organizer’s in putting on a great series of events.

If you would like to volunteer, you can call:

Denise Jasinsky at 414-389-3999.



OZAUKEE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

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**County Veterans
Service Office**

Serving Those Who Served America

We're on the Web
www.co.ozaukee.wi.us

TAPS

The following comrades have passed away since our last newsletter:

Harry Schwengel; Wilbur Mixdorf; John Ferris; Ronald Knopp;
Marvin Egerer; William Brandenburg; Craig Arnold; William Michels;
Curtis Smith; Norbert Brachmann; Terrance Tumanic; Eric Frdrickson;
James Senger; Steve Pocernich; Norman Moecker; Roman Holz;
Harold Bushee; James Montana; Ervin Norwicki and Arnold Dohrwardt



A Parting Thought

Though I often have "negative news" regarding how the government, or our own citizenry is dealing with our military personnel, I thought a "positive" article was due.

As most of you know, my son Sean, is active duty Army. He is currently attending the Officer's Advanced Course, at Ft. Gordon, GA. (Signal Corps) Ft. Gordon is located just outside Augusta, GA. For all you golfers, you know what that means...Augusta National, home of the Masters.

The Augusta National Golf Club has received a lot of bad press in recent years, mostly for not having any female members...The club has a reputation of being kind of "stuffy", with a bunch of "old-codgers" for members. The rich and elite so to speak.

So with this in mind, I was surprised to hear that Augusta National had given Ft. Gordon a block of tickets for the Masters Tournament to be distributed to active duty personnel at the base, who might want to attend. My son got one of these tickets in a "lottery drawing" that the base held. Unfortunately for me, the tickets are non-transferable, otherwise, I'd already have my air travel booked!!!

If you think Packer's tickets are expensive and hard to come by! I have an old Navy buddy who lives in the area, he tells me that just like Packer season tickets, someone has to die in order for a ticket to become available to the Masters.

For you non-golfers, think of this as an opportunity similar to standing on the side-lines behind the Packers bench during a play-off game. It's that big a deal to those of us who do participate in pasture pool.

My hat is also off to the Milwaukee Brewers, who continue to provide free tickets to selected games for anyone with a military ID Card.

We also have the now annual event at the Milwaukee County Zoo, where vets get free admission and free food on the designated day (usually in early July).

There are occasional bright spots around the country.

My hats off to all, for recognizing the service of our military members.

See you around the County!!!

Ken

