



W H E A T O N

# Post News

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF DU PAGE MEMORIAL POST 2164

May-June 2012



## A Message from the Commander

*By Commander Lee I. Burr*

First, I'd like to commend all the members who stood for election to leadership positions within the Post, the Ladies Auxiliary, and the Men's Auxiliary. Secondly, we extend congratulations and support to the newly elected officers. See *article on page 6.*

## Membership Roster

Communication with our members is key to our success and future growth. To start improving on this important component, we are compiling a directory of our total membership which will include Post members, Ladies Auxiliary and Men's Auxiliary members.

If you have not already given us your email address, please consider doing that. In addition to it helping us better inform you of Post activities, it will also help us reduce the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter. See *article on page 5.*

## Suicide Prevention Seminar

We are all concerned over the growing numbers of veterans who commit suicide. In order to bring attention to this epidemic and possibly prevent a loved one from ending his or her own life, we're presenting a seminar for Post members and the community. See *article on page 5.*

There are lots of activities scheduled for the next couple of months so jump in to help or have fun at them!

## All-American Post Designation



A heartfelt thanks to Post, Ladies Auxiliary and Men's Auxiliary members, and Friends of the Post! Through your hard work and enthusiastic support, we have achieved the prestigious honor of being named an "All-American Post."

Requirements for this designation are set by the National Commander-in-Chief. We fulfilled all the requirements, which included an increase in our membership, participation in community activities, and support of the many veterans' programs necessary for consideration of this high honor.

We are proud to say that Post 2164 is #1 in the 19th District, #4 in all city groups in the State of Illinois and #1 in the Nation in our Post category and division!

We faced down many challenges this year and that effort has made all of us stronger and more focused. To be recognized as an elite Post throughout the Veterans of Foreign War organization is a tribute to you *all*. Thank You.

*Lee Burr, Commander  
John Finn, Adjutant & Quartermaster*



## 2011-2012 Officers

### POST OFFICERS

*Commander:* Lee I. Burr, Jr.  
*Sr. Vice Commander:* Thomas E. Tracy  
*Jr. Vice Commander:* Sam J. Maggio  
*Quartermaster:* John R. Finn  
*Chaplain:* James Lopez  
*Judge Advocate:* Charles D. Earnest  
*Surgeon:* Howard W. Nates, Jr.  
*1 Year Trustee:* John Milton  
*2 Year Trustee:* Tim McNally  
*3 Year Trustee:* Lewis E. Youngs  
*Service Officer:* John Milton

### LADIES AUXILIARY

*President:* Pam Turner  
*Sr. Vice President:* Tawn Williams  
*Jr. Vice President:* Nicolette Laurich  
*Treasurer:* Heather Klemm  
*Secretary:* Mary Richter  
*Chaplin:* Samantha Augustyn  
*Conductress:* Char Wiedel  
*Guard:* Amanda Naickilath  
*Trustee:* Linda Sane  
*Trustee:* Karen Augustyn  
*Trustee:* Kathy Youngs

### MEN'S AUXILIARY

*President:* Mike Popow  
*Sr. Vice President:* Albert Baker  
*Jr. Vice President:* Owen O'Reilly  
*Treasurer:* Herb Johnson, Jr.  
*Secretary:* George Flaherty  
*Chaplin:* John Dawson  
*1 Year Trustee:* Rick Malina  
*2 Year Trustee:* Ted Schab  
*3 Year Trustee:* Richard Augustyn  
*Sergeant at Arms:* John Ascher

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Post News is published in Jan-Feb, March-April, May-June, July-August, Sept-Oct, and Nov-Dec.  
 Please send your news articles to Editor John Dawson by the 10<sup>th</sup> of February, April, June, August,  
 October, and December. Email: [dawson437@comcast.net](mailto:dawson437@comcast.net) / Phone: (630) 308-8411

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*God Bless America.  
 God Bless the Comrades & Sisters  
 of this Great Organization.*

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

## Ladies' Auxiliary News

By President Pam Turner

Dues notices will soon be sent by our treasurer, Heather Klemm. Please note that since our per capita fees have increased, dues are now \$20 for continuing members and \$25 for new members.

We will again be sending packages to our troops and we desperately need updated addresses for your family and friends who are currently deployed. After our last mailing, several boxes were returned with incorrect addresses and that is just a waste of postage money that we work very hard to obtain. Please contact me with updated addresses as soon as possible at (630) 247-2708 or [psstt@att.net](mailto:psstt@att.net).

The Ladies Auxiliary is again hosting a Mother's Day Breakfast on **Sunday, May 13**. It's a wonderful way to show your love for your mother and support your Auxiliary. We hope to see many of you there! (Volunteer workers are needed.)

Congratulations to Guard Amanda Naickilath! She will be graduating from Benedictine University on Sunday, May 13, 2012 ~ we are very proud of her.

We are happy to report that our Poppy Display received 1<sup>st</sup> place in Category 3 in the District Poppy Contest held on April 14. Thanks to Shirley Vega and Char Wiedel for their work on this year's poppy display. We will be helping with poppy sales in May. There will be a signup sheet in the Canteen or call Pam Turner if you are interested in helping with the sale.

The Men's Auxiliary is hosting a Father's Day Weekend Breakfast and they have asked for our assistance on **June 16**. Since several of us will be in Springfield attending the State Convention, I'm asking for anyone interested in helping to please step forward and volunteer a few hours to help the men by serving breakfast that morning.

Our Auxiliary will hold a bake sale at the Pasta Dinner on **May 19**. We appreciate any donations and also encourage you to attend the dinner.

Bike Run on Sunday, **June 24** with Rolling Thunder!! Be here at 8:00 am. Riders usually leave around 10:00 am. More details to follow.

**Remember: Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. Please try to attend—we need your input and support.**

## Mother's Day Breakfast

Hosted by Ladies Auxiliary



Mothers are special every day but this particular day is devoted entirely to showing them how much they are loved and appreciated. Start your Mother's Day festivities with a scrumptious breakfast at the Post!

**SUNDAY, MAY 13**  
**8:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Omelets or 2 eggs (fried or scrambled), ham or sausage, hash browns, toast, biscuits and gravy, juice and coffee

## From the Battlefield to the Boardroom

[Orion International](#) is the nation's largest military recruiting firm, specializing in placing today's top military leaders, engineers, and technicians into America's Fortune 500 and beyond. It is owned and operated by former military professionals representing all branches of the Armed Forces.

Orion finds civilian careers for Junior Military Officers, Noncommissioned Officers and Enlisted Technicians leaving the service, as well as veterans who have already transitioned but are seeking a career change. Orion helps you make the transition into the civilian workforce by matching your skills and career goals with opportunities within corporate America.

**Your first step. . .**

[Register online](#) with Orion. A recruiter will contact you to provide guidance and answers to your questions.

Or call Dan Clevenger at (800) 298-0432 ext. 445.

## Chaplains' Corner

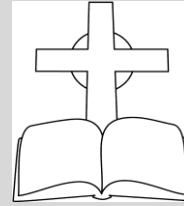
*James Lopez, Post Chaplain / Samantha Augustyn, Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain*

### TAPS

It is our sad duty to report the passing of these members:

- *Donald R. Tyer*, Post member
- *Nicolas A. Veronico*, Post member
- *Marjorie Wind*, Ladies Auxiliary member

Please keep their families in your prayers.



### SICK CALL

- *Toni Manor* is recovering from a stroke so continue sending her good thoughts and prayers.

Please contact the Post (630/668-8756) if you are aware of a member who is ill or needs assistance.

## May-June Dates to Remember

**May 20** / District Convention in Naperville  
**May 26** / Installation Dinner

**June 14-16** / State Convention in Springfield

## Stand Downs Connect Homeless Vets with Valuable Services

*The VFW national organization and our Post support the Dept. of Veterans Affairs Stand Down program.*

[Stand Downs](#) are one part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts to provide services to homeless veterans. Stand Downs are typically one- to three-day events providing services to homeless veterans such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, VA and Social Security benefits counseling, and referrals to a variety of other necessary services, such as housing, employment and substance abuse treatment. Stand Downs are collaborative events, coordinated between local VAs, other government agencies, and community agencies that serve the homeless. Stand Downs are held throughout the US all year long. View [full schedule](#) on the VA website.

The Chicago Stand Down will be on **June 15-16** at the General Jones Armory, 5200 S. Cottage Grove, in Washington Park, Chicago. On site will be eye care specialists, dentists, medical personnel, pro-bono lawyers, and VA service representatives. Veterans will also be provided with haircuts, clothing, overnight sleeping, showers, etc. Six meals will be served as well.

One of the driving forces behind the Chicago Stand Down is Illinois VFW State Homeless



VA Photo by April Eilers

Veterans Chairman Paul Bezazian. "We are thankful that we can make even one day better for our homeless vets," says Paul, who is a Vietnam vet and Chicago firefighter. "We're in need of volunteers and donations of clothing, particularly shoes, t-shirts, pants, underwear socks, and the like."

Bring donations to the Armory on Thursday, June 14 after 8 am or on the day you're volunteering. Volunteers may report to the Armory June 15 and June 16 starting at 7 am. Contact Paul at (773) 637-2469 or (773) 387-7720 or email [pbezazian@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pbezazian@sbcglobal.net) (put Stand Down in subject header).

The next Chicago Stand Down is in November.

## New Post Membership Roster

In order to improve communications with our members, we're compiling a roster of Post members, Ladies Auxiliary members, and Men's Auxiliary members. The goal is to create a collective directory of all members—complete with addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and membership category.

You should soon receive draft copies of the Master Roster via email or at member meetings. Review your listing and fill in any missing data or correct any wrong data. We'll provide the list at meetings over the next two months so if you have not seen the draft roster please ask the Commander or your auxiliary president for a copy of it. **All updates should be completed by mid-July and the official directory will be available to members by August 1.**

This roster will also be an excellent way to acquire an accurate mailing list. Currently, we incur unnecessary expenses resulting from duplicate mailings to the same address and to many undeliverable addresses. It can also help reduce our printing and postage costs by allowing you to choose how you want to receive the newsletter and other Post announcements. You'll note that the Master Roster has a column titled "Newsletter Delivery Preferences" under which you can indicate whether you wish to receive an electronic version via email, a paper copy that will be mailed to your home, or both the electronic and paper versions.

## Newspaper Column to Feature Wheaton Veterans

Starting in June, the TribLocal will be running a new series called "5 Questions with A Veteran." The writer of this column, Suzanne Flynn, is looking for veterans who wish to be featured in the series and would like to interview anyone "who wore a uniform and served their country."



## Suicide Prevention Seminar

The numbers are astounding and far ranging. According to the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, a veteran commits suicide every 80 minutes. *Armytimes.com* reports that 18 veterans commit suicide every day. The *London Times* in 2007 reported that "More American military veterans have been committing suicide than US soldiers have been dying in Iraq. At least 6,256 US veterans took their lives in 2005, at an average of 17 a day. Such statistics compare to the total of 3,863 American military deaths in Iraq since the invasion in 2003 - an average of 2.4 a day."

[The Center for a New American Security](#) issued a [Policy Brief](#) in October 2011, in which its authors state that "America is losing its battle against suicide by veterans and service members," And as more troops return from deployment, the risk will only grow."

Faced with the stigma of post-traumatic stress disorder, high unemployment rates, and a loss of military camaraderie, many veterans report feeling purposeless upon returning home.

To help someone who might be harboring suicidal thoughts, the Post is holding a seminar by the [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#) (AFSP), which will be announced in June. Topics will include suicide warning signs, AFSP as an organization, and resources available to veterans and their families.

Whether you have foreign war experience or other military service, Suzanne would like you to contact her for a 15-minute interview. You'll also need to provide her with a photo via email. Call Suzanne at (630) 269-5605 or email her at [suzanne@flynncreativegroup.com](mailto:suzanne@flynncreativegroup.com).

## Pedal Pushers Benefit

The Wheaton Pedal Pushers are holding a benefit for the Post on **May 5** at Ultra Foods on County Farm Road (by Kohls) from 11 am-5 pm.

Buy a hot dog, chips and a soft drink and drop a donation in the jar! Thank you, Pedal Pushers for your volunteer work with veterans and your support of Post 2164!

## Election of 2012-2013 Officers

*Congrats to the newly elected officers of the Post and its auxiliaries!  
The new leaders will begin their duties on July 1, 2012.*



### 2012-2013 Post Officers

Commander: **John Milton**  
Sr. Vice Commander: **Tom "Tex" Tracy**  
Jr. Vice Commander: **Sam Maggio**  
Quartermaster: **Tim McNally**  
Chaplain: **Jim Lopez**  
Judge Advocate: **Lew Youngs**  
Surgeon: **Bill Nates**  
1-Year Trustee: **John Meschi**  
2-Year Trustee: **Jerry Douglas**  
3-Year Trustee: **Scott Olsen**  
Service Officer: **John Milton**



### 2012-2013 Ladies Auxiliary Officers

President: **Pam Turner**  
Sr. Vice President: **Tawn Williams**  
Jr. Vice President: **Linda Sane**  
Treasurer: **Heather Klemm**  
Secretary: **Mary Richter**  
Chaplin: **Shirley Vega**  
Conductress: **Char Wiedel**  
Guard: **Amanda Naickilath**  
1-Year Trustee: **Cheryl Chandler**  
2-Year Trustee: **Karen Augustyn**  
3-Year Trustee: **Linda Sane**



### 2012-2013 Men's Auxiliary Officers

President: **Art Gutierrez**  
Sr. Vice President: **Albert Baker**  
Jr. Vice President: **Owen O'Reilly**  
Treasurer: **Herb Johnson Jr**  
Secretary: **George Flaherty**  
Chaplin: **John Dawson**  
1-Year Trustee: **Ted Schab**  
2-Year Trustee: **Richard Augustyn**  
3-Year Trustee: **Stanley Garrett**  
Sergeant at Arms: **John Ascher**

## Prayer for Vets

For all who have gone over there to fight for our freedom, for those who have lost their lives while serving our country, for their loved ones, family and friends, we pray that God looks down on them. For those who are going over there, may they stay safe. For those who got hurt, we pray for their recovery. May all come home safe!

*By Anna*

## Bingo is Back!

Wednesdays / 7 pm

Big cash prizes!

\$50 \$75 \$100 \$125 \$150 \$500  
Late Night Game 50/50 Split

## Hey, Why is the Door Locked?

Listen up, newbies. Because we are a private organization, our door is locked (except when the Post is open to the public) so you'll need to ring the buzzer in the canteen entrance to get in. Key cards are available, but if you don't have one, then keep your current dues card handy.

You're *always welcome* at the Post so stop by and connect with your fellow members.

## May-June Events at the Post

Over the next two months we have several events planned so if you can lend a hand, it will be very much appreciated. Most of our events are suitable for families, and as always, friends are welcome, too!

**May 5**

**MENS AUXILIARY  
DERBY DAY**

3:00 pm / **\$10.00** / Limit 70 tickets  
*(Cost of admission includes your first cocktail)*  
Horse racing video game with at least 10 races  
Food and cash bar  
Ladies "Southern Belle Hat Contest"  
*(Ladies wearing hats receive a rose and a chance to win a bottle of wine and \$50 florist's gift certificate.)*

**MAY 13**

**LADIES AUXILIARY  
MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST**

8:00 am–12:00 pm  
Omelets or 2 eggs (fried or scrambled),  
ham or sausage, hash browns, toast,  
biscuits and gravy, juice and coffee  
**\$5.00 (adults)**  
**\$3.00 (kids)**

**May 19**

**POST  
PASTA DINNER**

4:30–8:30 pm  
Spaghetti, meatballs, sausage,  
salad and bread. Get your desserts  
at the Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale!  
**\$10.00 (adults)**  
**\$5.00 (kids 10 & under)**

**June 16**

**MENS AUXILIARY  
FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

8:00–12:00 pm  
Pancakes and eggs (fried or scrambled),  
sausage, biscuits and gravy, juice and coffee  
**\$5.00 (adults)**  
**\$3.00 (kids 10 & under)**

**June 24**

**LADIES AUXILIARY  
ROLLING THUNDER BIKE RUN**

8:00 am Meet at the Post / 10:00 am Riders Roll  
Rolling Thunder's mission is to publicize the  
POW-MIA issue by educating the public of the  
many American Prisoners of War who were left  
behind. They are also committed to helping  
American veterans from all wars.

**To Be Announced**

**POST  
SUICIDE PREVENTION SEMINAR**

7:00–8:00 pm  
*presented by*  
*American Foundation for Suicide Prevention*  
Topics will include issues relative to suicide  
among veterans, suicide warning signs,  
and resources available to veterans  
and their families.

## Join the Post's Email List!

Just send an email to [vwfpost2164@yahoo.com](mailto:vwfpost2164@yahoo.com) and include your first and last name. You'll be added to our database and will begin receiving online announcements from the Post.





DuPage Memorial Post 2164  
0N731 Papworth  
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

2011-2012 ALL-AMERICAN POST  
Incorporated June 1931

## Buddy Poppy Campaign

Since 1922, the Buddy Poppy has been an integral part of the VFW community. As VFW's official memorial flower, the Poppy represents the bloodshed of American service members. It reiterates that the VFW will not forget their sacrifices.

The Poppy movement was inspired by Canadian Army Col. John McCrae's famous poem, "In Flanders Fields." Poppies were originally distributed by the Franco-American Children's League to benefit children in the devastated areas of France and Belgium following WWI.

In 1922, VFW conducted a campaign and got Poppies from France. Members soon discovered it took too long to get the flowers in from France and they came up with a better idea. Disabled, hospitalized and aging veterans could make the paper flowers and ship them out to the members for distribution.



These men and women assemble the Poppies, tie them in bunches of 10 and pack them in boxes for shipment to the Posts and Ladies Auxiliaries. VFW pays the disabled veterans for the work. In most cases, this extra money provides additional income for the worker to pay for the little luxuries that make hospital life more tolerable.

Furthermore, Poppy assembly is often used as a therapy program to provide exercise for fingers and hands crippled by wounds, disease and the effects of old age.

## Post 2164 Poppy Days

May 11, 12 & 13 / Wal-Mart at Route 53 and Butterfield Road  
May 18, 19 & 20 / Jewel at Main Street and Geneva Road  
May 25, 26 & 27 / Home Depot at Main Street and Geneva Road