



VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

POST NEWSLETTER

Loudoun County Post 1177
Leesburg, Virginia
All-American Post

Volume I, Issue III

1 December 2017

Upcoming Events

6 DEC @ 7:30 PM - Member Meeting at Post Home

13 DEC @ 5 PM Auxiliary Member Meeting at Rutarian Club

16 DEC @ 11 AM - Wreaths Across America at Balls Bluff

16 DEC @ 4 PM - Post Holiday Party at Post Home

20 DEC @ 7:30 PM - Cooties Scratch at Post Home

3 JAN @ 7:30 PM - Member Meeting at Post Home

10 JAN @ 5 PM - Auxiliary Member Meeting at Rutarian Club

22 JUN @ 7 PM - VFW Veterans Ball at River Creek Club

Post 1177 Officers

- Commander: Ray Delpesche
- Senior Vice Commander: Travis Potts
- Junior Vice Commander: Ray Houck
- Quartermaster: Les Flores
- Service Officer: Jay Greely Jr.
- VFW Riders President: Gene Odum
- Honor Guard Commander: Robert Cranson
- Cooties Seam Squirrel: Phil Rusicoelli
- VFW Auxiliary President: Carolyn L. Hurd

Sunrise Ceremony Honors Veterans

BALLS BLUFF, VA - On Veterans Day, November 11th, in the cold early hours of the day, members from the post and the community conducted the annual Sunrise Ceremony for Veterans at Balls Bluff National Cemetery.



Salutes rendered as the Colors are raised during the Sunrise Ceremony

The ceremony included the flag raising, a speech by Post Commander Ray Delpesche, recognition of

veterans by branch, reciting of the poem "In Flanders Fields" and a gun salute.

Following the ceremony, veterans were invited for breakfast at the Leesburg IHOP, where camaraderie was shared and bodies warmed up.

Afterwards, the George C. Marshal House hosted its annual Veterans Day commemoration, in which Comrade Dennis Boykin presided as master of ceremonies.

Churches and schools across the county offered programs honoring veterans. ✂

Buddy Poppy Drive Brings Over \$4K to Support Vets

LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA - Throughout Veterans Day weekend, post members and volunteers were collected donations from the public in exchange for Buddy Poppy flowers.



The Herndon Civil Air Patrol volunteers to help with Poppy collections at Drainsville Giant

Fighting the cold, volunteers from the post, as well as the

Northern Virginia Community College Student Veterans Association and the Herndon Civil Air Patrol collected donations from patrons of Loudoun County Giant supermarkets

in order to grow the post's Relief Fund.

Phil Rusicoelli, the Buddy Poppy Chairman, stated that over \$4,800 had been raised during the drive.

100% of the funds collected are used to support veterans in need as well as their families and service members within Loudoun County. The VFW has used the Buddy Poppy program since 1922 as a way to generate money for those in need.



Post Honors Retired Flags



Comrade Max Salutes the Retired Flags

LEESBURG, VA - In the morning of October 28th, Post 1177 conducted its semi-annual flag retirement ceremony. Over 50 U.S. Flags were given proper retirement rites, which included a ceremonial burning, saluting and spreading of the ashes.

Comrade Max Gutierrez headed the event, which included the preparing and conducting the retirement of the flags.

Post 1177 collects worn and damaged

proper retirement. There is a flag collection box located outside the side entrance to the post.

Mementos, consisting of the eyelets from flags retired in previous ceremonies, were offered to the participants of the event as a souvenir.

The next Flag Retirement will take place in early Spring, next year. Youth groups and the community are invited to participate and learn about the history of the U.S. Flag. ✘

Halloween Parade Tradition Continues

LEESBURG, VA - On the evening of Tuesday, October 31st, Halloween, the local Kiwanis Club hosted the 61st Leesburg Halloween Parade keeping the holiday traditions alive and well within the community.

Post 1177 was there to celebrate, with the Post VFW Riders roaring down King Street through downtown Leesburg. The Post Jeep, manned by comrades Dennis Boykin and Les Flores gave out candies and treats to the costumed



Comrade Dan Olsen Rides Into the Night
Courtesy of Mark Mogle Photography

children attending the event. Comrades Max Gutierrez and Phil Ruscuillei led the VFW with the post banner.

The post handed out over four shopping bags full of candy to the costumed children lining the route of the parade, which covered most of King Street.

The Leesburg Halloween parade is one of the largest events of its type in the country, drawing hundreds of participants and thousands of attendees. ✘

District 10 Commander Visits Post



LEESBURG, VA - On the 1st of November, during the Post's monthly Members Meeting, District 10 Commander Chuck Wilson presented to the post awards honoring its commitment to veterans, the community and the VFW. In addition Commander Wilson updated the post on District level business and plans, as well as past efforts to secure tax-exempt status for non-profit Veteran Service Organizations for the State of Virginia. He also congratulated the post for earning All-American status and the Home Depot Renovation grant. ✘

Veterans Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1



Post Renovations Underway

LEESBURG, VA - During the second week of November, post member volunteers and volunteers from Home Depot began making improvements to the post home.

Bill Packard, the chairperson of the Building Committee has headed the improvements on the post, which includes new walls for the interior, new doors, new lighting



and improvements to the storage shed.

In October, the post earned a \$20K grant from Home Depot to improve and update the aging building which has served the VFW and the community since 1950.

Renovations are expected to be completed by the end of the year. Special thanks to Home Depot and all volunteers. ✕

Post 1177 Holiday Party

Hosted by Loudoun County VFW 1177 and Auxiliary

Celebration + Fundraiser

Dec.
16th

4pm—8pm

401
Old
Waterford Rd
Leesburg

You are invited to celebrate the Holiday Season with our fellow Comrades and their families at our Post Home.

Festivities include:

- Potluck & Dessert
- Music & Song
- White Elephant Gift Exchange (\$20 limit)
- Activities for the kids, including a visit from Santa!

Please bring a dish to share and a donation in one of the following forms:

- Unwrapped Toy Gift
- Gift Cards

Donations go to support the Toys for Tots Collection Drive.

More information on needed items will be posted online soon.

POC for this Event:
Les Flores
qm@vfw1177.org
(912) 492-0688

More Info: www.vfw1177.org

Post 1177 Quick Shots



Comrade Jessica Flores reads to children at the Herndon Library



CDR Ray Poses for photo at the VFW fundraiser at Ashburn Pub



VFW District 10 Virginia - Puller Veterans Care Center Breaks Ground

VINCENT HILL, VA - Just a few decades ago, Vint Hill Farms was home to thousands of military people and their families. Today, a 30-acre section of the property is taking on a new life as a future home for Virginia's veterans.

The new facility, slated to open in 2019-20 timeframe, is on a site that was home to an Army intelligence-gathering station until it closed in 1997. The \$48-

million Veterans Care Center is named after the Puller family, which has deep roots in the Northern Virginia area, including famed U.S. Marine Gen. Lewis "Chesty" Puller; his wife, retired state Sen. Linda "Toddy" Puller; and his son, Marine Lt. Lewis Puller, Jr .

On October 29th, Gov. Terry McAuliffe and a host of other elected leaders picked up their shovels to break ground on the Puller Veterans



(left to right) Post 1503 Cdr Tim Brown, State Cdr Mike Boehme, Post 1503 Color Guard, Dist. 10 Cdr Chuck Wilson, State Jr. V. Cdr Rick Raskin

Care Center, formally kicking off construction on a 128-bed facility for recovering veterans at the intersection of Vint Hill Road and Vint Hill Parkway in Warrenton.

Del. Rich Anderson, 51st District, *Life Member of the VFW*, and a vocal backer of veterans issues, teamed up with Del. Kirk Cox, 66th District, to sponsor legislation to allocate funding for the centers. Meanwhile, Toddy Puller her-

self, then a Senator for the 36th District, introduced a companion bill.

Del. Scott Lingamfelter, 31st District, and *Life Member of the VFW*, pointed out that the center will bring about 150 "good, solid, well-paying jobs" to his district, and many of those workers could soon settle in

the area. "As Vint Hill develops, they can live, work and shop all through this area," Lingamfelter said. "It's just the perfect setting...and it shows that Virginia is not going to leave its veterans behind.

The VFW Post 1503 Color Guard performed the "Posting of the Colors." ✂

VFW District 10 Virginia - USAF Chief of Staff Speaks at Ceremony

QUANTICO NATIONAL CEMETARY, VA - On Veterans Day, November 11th, General David Goldfein, US Air Force Chief of Staff, honored our veterans with his keynote speech at the National Veterans Day Ceremony, held since 1983.

The Chairman, Potomac Region Veterans Council (PRVC) , and Commander of VFW District 10, Chuck Wilson, Colonel, USAF (Ret), was the Master of Ceremonies. Wilson said, "for generations, the men and women of America's Armed Forc-



es have demonstrated their willingness to put country before self ... patriots who serve for the greater good ... who don't

seek glory or recognition or personal gain. And today, we honor them. Today is Veterans' Day."

PRVC Vice Chairman Randy Coker, led the "Avenue of Honor Recognition" which displays over 500 US Flags that have been donated to honor our veterans who have passed from our midst. Coker is the past Commander of VFW Post 1503 and currently Senior Vice Commander of VFW District 10, Virginia's largest District covering much of Northern Virginia. ✂



VFW National - VFW Receives WWP Grant to Aid Transitioning Vets

KANSAS CITY, MO (November 7, 2017) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. has been awarded a Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) financial grant in the amount of \$443,145 to expand its reach to service members at the time of transition. The grant will be applied to the VFW's Pre-Discharge claims program, which offers free assistance on military installations across the country to transitioning service members and veterans in filing VA claims, and understanding the benefits available to them through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"One of the VFW's top priorities is ensuring our returning military service personnel receive the benefits they've earned," said VFW National Commander Keith E. Harman, a retired county veterans' service officer.



"We're thankful for the continued support shown by Wounded Warrior Project. With 24 Pre-Discharge claims offices across the country, this grant helps ensure the VFW is able to continue to provide the guidance and assistance our transitioning service members deserve."

The VFW Pre-Discharge claims program's proven history of guiding military personnel through the complex VA claims process makes it well-deserving of such a large charitable investment. In 2016, VFW representatives on military installations helped file nearly 15,400 VA claims for transitioning service members and veterans.

WWP grants provide a network of comprehensive supportive services that meet the varying needs of warriors and family members. The organization places a priority on working with others to harness subject matter expertise to reach a greater number of injured veterans, having teamed up with 93 organizations, reaching more than 14,000 veterans and 3,000 family members since 2012. ✖

VFW National - Vietnam Veterans Memorial Turns 35

WASHINGTON, D.C. -

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, more popularly known as "The Wall", was dedicated 35 years ago on Nov. 13, 1982. Since then, more than 100 million people have visited the iconic structure, according to Jan Scruggs, founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. The National Parks Service noted that nearly 5.6 million people visited in 2016, making it the nation's second-most popular memorial or monument.

Donations from more than 275K individuals and entities paid for the wall's construction. VFW contributed



more than \$300,000 and was one of its earliest champions.

Scruggs, a Vietnam War veteran and member of VFW Post 341 in Washington, D.C., said VFW "never wavered" in its support of The Wall when other organizations were against its design.

Names by the Numbers

58,318 Total names as of May 2017

1,604 Names of those missing in action, as of August 2017

376 Names added since 1982, as of December 2016

160 Medal of Honor recipients

120 Individuals from other countries

31 Sets of brothers

16 Chaplains

8 Women (all nurses)

3 Sets of fathers and sons

Source: Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund



Post Information

Post Address:
401 Old Waterford RD. NW
Leesburg, VA 20176

Website: www.vfw1177.org
Facebook: facebook.com/vfwpost1177

For general inquires, including veteran's support, membership & post rental, email: contact1177@vfw1177.org

Member meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM



Quartermaster's Corner

Membership is the lifeblood of our organization. Its through our members that we accomplish our mission to support veterans in need. Whether active at every event or passive, every member counts. As the new year comes upon us, it is a great time to look into your membership status with the VFW.

If you are an annual member, please consider renewing at your earliest convenience. This can be done online at www.vfw.org, via mailers sent directly to you from VFW national or at the next post members meeting. Also consider becoming a lifetime member and never worry about dues again. The cost of lifetime membership varies depending on age and can be done as a lump sum or 12 monthly installments. Check online for up to date pricing.

Renew now!



On the Lighter Side



The Caterwauling Cootie Chorale tickled the toes and hearts of the Inova Nursing Home and Rehab Center on November 15th

Post Shop - Post Ball Caps



We still have several Post ball caps for sale! Show your post pride. Hats are available from the Post Quartermaster, Les Flores for \$20. Please contact Les at qm@vfw1177.org. If there ideas for other types of post merchandise, please share!