



# VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

POST NEWSLETTER

Loudoun County Post 1177  
Leesburg, Virginia  
All-American Post

Volume II, Issue I  
15 February 2018

### Upcoming Events

18 FEB @ 9:30 AM - Veteran Breakfast at Leesburg IHOP

21 FEB @ 7:30 PM Cooties Scratch at Post Home

4 MAR @ 9:00 AM - VFW Legislative Conference at Washington, DC

7 MAR @ 7:30 PM - Post Members Meeting at Post Home

14 MAR @ 5 PM - Auxiliary Member Meeting at Rutarian Club

18 MAR @ 9:30 AM - Veteran Breakfast at Leesburg IHOP

18 MAR @ 11:30 AM - District 10 Meeting at Post 8241 at McLean

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 Rusicolelli
- VFW Auxiliary President: Carolyn L. Hurd

## Holiday Party Brings Joy to All Ages

**LEESBURG, VA** - On December 16th, the post hosted its annual holiday party. The event was highly attended by post members, families and friends.

The post was decorated the day prior by post volunteers including the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary also provided a play area and a holiday themed craft station for the children.

After opening remarks by Post Commander Ray Delpesche and a prayer from Post Chaplin Bob



Santa brought extra joy and cheer to the celebration to all the young

Koberg, attendees enjoyed the potluck provided feast.

Afterwards, Santa Claus came to visit, taking special gift requests for all the children, and children at heart present.

A White Elephant gift exchange was held. In addition donations for Toys-for-Tots were collected, resulting in the post membership donating an overflowing box of toys for the children of the area. ❄️

## Post Awarded All-State and Honor Post

**LEESBURG, VA** - On February 7th, during the monthly Membership Meeting, Post 1177 was formally awarded the All-State Team and Honor Post banners for 2016-2017. Post Commander Ray Delpesche and Former Quartermaster Bill Packard were also awarded All-State Member caps and pins.



Max Gutierrez and Post Commander Ray Delpesche Show Off the Honor Post banner

auditing requirements per VFW Department of Virginia standards. Honor Post is earned when the post exceeds its membership recruitment and retention goals.

The Loudoun Senior Interest Network also presented the post with a \$1,500 check, collected from the Guest

All-State status is met when a post meets the reporting, including volunteer service, and support Loudoun County veterans. ❄️

Bartending Event at Ashburn Pub in November 2017, to support the Post's mission to support Loudoun County veterans. ❄️



## Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy & Other Winners Announced

**LEESBURG, VA** - The winners of the annual Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy at the Post and District level have been announced.

For the post level Patriot's Pen:

- 1st Place: Anya Ambarish, 8th Grade, Stone Hill Middle School, Ashburn
- 2nd Place: Zainab Alkinani, 8th Grade, Sterling Middle School, Sterling
- 3rd Place: Janeth Orellana, 8th

Grade, Eagle Ridge Middle School, Boradlands

Special Note, Anya Ambarish's essay also won 1st place at the district level and has been forwarded for judging at the state level.

For the post level Voice of Democracy:

- 1st Place: Porter DuHadway, 9th Grade, Home Schooled, Sterling
- 2nd Place: Zachary Stevenson, 12th Grade, Loudoun Valley High School,

Purcellville

- 3rd Place: Oliver Olsen, 10th Grade, Loudoun County High School, Leesburg

VFW Teacher of the Year for Loudoun County is awarded to Eric LeHew from Potomac Falls High School.

Awards will be presented at the April post meeting. For the full list of awardees, including honorable mentions, please visit the post website at [www.vfw1177.org](http://www.vfw1177.org).

## Sweats for Vets Warms Up Veterans

**MARTINSBURG, WV** - On Saturday, December 30th, post members, members from the Knights of Columbus and Boys Scouts of America, and members from the local community, prepared and packed over 300 sets of sweats for hospitalized veterans at Martinsburg VA Medical Center.

On January 19th, the boxes of sweats for loaded and on the 20th, they were delivered to the hospital in West Virginia.



Volunteers sort and pack sweat sets for delivery to Martinsburg VAMC

On Saturday, the following day, the sweats were delivered to the hospital. The Knights of Columbus conducted an opening ceremony and the sweats were distributed amongst the patients at the hospital. Socks and t-shirts were also provided.

The veterans at the hospital look forward to the Sweats for Vets drive every year, lining up to an hour in advance to select new clothes. Volunteers delivered sets of sweats for veterans unable to make it to the delivery hall.

## Dept. of VA Opens Vet Center in Loudoun County

**LEESBURG, VA** - February 13th marked the grand opening of the Department of Veteran's Affairs new Vet Center in Leesburg. The Post Honor Guard presented the colors at the ceremony.



The primary focus of the Vet Center will be to aid an support veterans and service members in need of mental health services, including counseling, screenings and PTSD care. The service is 100% free

for veterans.

The center is located at 751 Miller Dr., Suite E, Leesburg VA. More info can be found at [www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov).

Vet Centers serve war zone veterans from all eras and periods of hostility and do not require VA enrollment or service connected health issues.

If you or a comrade is experiencing difficulties re-adjusting to civilian life, need counseling or someone to listen/talk to call the Crisis Call Center available 24/7 at 1-800-273-8255 (Press 1).



## Departed Comrades

### Stanley F. Caulkins



On 12 January, 2018, veteran, community leader, businessman and life post member, former Quartermaster, Stanley Caulkins passed in the morning at his home in Leesburg. He was 92.

Stanley served as a radio operator aboard a B-17 during World War II.

He also supported post-war relief missions, airdropping foodstuffs to needy European communities. He and his brother, Roger owned Caulkins Jewelers, a former staple of the downtown Leesburg shopping district for 61 years. He was a licensed pilot.

Stanley also served as a member of the Leesburg Town Council and was instrumental in the establishment of the Leesburg Executive Airport, where a terminal bears his name.

Stanley is survived by his brother, Thomas. ✂

### Edwin V. Linek



In the morning of Saturday, January 13th, life post member, Edwin "Ed" Linek passed. He was 88 years old.

Ed enlisted in the Navy as a radio operator. He retired with over 40 years of service as a Chief Warrant Officer 4, having

served overseas tours in Korea and Vietnam.

A former Post Commander, Ed had been a long time member of the post, American Legion Post 150 in Sterling and an active member in several other groups: Boy/Cub Scouts, Knights of Columbus, Elks, Ruritans and the Sterling Foundation. He was a fixture of the Sterling area, often dressing as a clown to entertain children at the community.

Ed is survived by his four sons and will be joining his wife, Alice, at Arlington National Cemetery. ✂

## Post 1177 Quick Shots



Aux member Angela Joynt and Service Dog Charlie deliver Christmas cards to VAMC Martinsburg



Comrade Josh Morimoto collects donations at the Dulles Town Center

# Veterans Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255  
PRESS 1



The Loudoun County VFW Post 1177's  
**VETERANS' BALL**



*Come and celebrate our Comradeship with your significant other  
Enjoy a night of dinner and dancing at the Beautiful River Creek Club*

**Friday, June 29th 2018**

**Social Gathering at 6:00 PM**

**Dinner at 6:30 PM**

**Dancing at 8:00 PM**

**\$50 per Person**



**Dress Code:**

**Former or Current Service Dress Uniform  
or Coat and Tie (Miniature Medals  
Encouraged)**

**Address:**

**River Creek Club  
4300 Olympic Blvd  
Leesburg, VA 20176**

Point of Contact: Phil Rusciollelli  
contact1177@vfw1177.org  
(703) 431-3859  
www.vfw1177.org



## VFW National - VFW Disaster Assistance Tops \$680,000

**KANSAS CITY, MO (January 26, 2018)** – The VFW is proud to announce that its VFW Unmet Needs program provided a total of \$684,000 in disaster assistance grants to help more than 2,050 military and veteran families recover from last year's string of natural disasters. .

The relief funds aided more than 1,063 families after Hurricane Harvey, 925 families after Hurricanes Maria and Irma and more than 40 families after the California wildfires.

In addition to the monetary support provided by the VFW National, many local VFW members quickly joined relief efforts in their own devastated communities. When members of VFW



Remains of VFW Post 3904 in Rockport, Texas after Hurricane Harvey passed through the area.

Post 4709 in Conroe, Texas discovered their Red Cross couldn't reach several emergency shelters, they prepared and shipped out three meals a day for nearly 2,000 people.

Members of Puerto Rico VFW Post 12064 helped distribute water and

nearly 1,00 meals to struggling veterans, as well as helped others with debris removal to receive health care, find temporary housing, and by connecting them with the correct government agencies to help get them back to their feet.

The VFW projects that by the end of the fiscal year, nearly 2,400 grants will be distributed, surpassing \$786K in disaster aid.

“The VFW is extremely proud of the fact we can provide a lifeline for so many military and veteran families, especially during an already trying time in their lives,” said VFW National Commander Keith Harman. “This program really showcases what we do, and have always done to support America's service members. ✖

## Virginia DVS - Virginia War Memorial Honors African American Vets

**RICHMOND, VA** - The Virginia War Memorial 2018 Black History Month Series will present special programs honoring the contributions of African American military veterans during February.

On Saturday, February 17 at 2 PM, the Memorial will present “Our Fathers' Fight for Freedom.” The program will include stories told by sons of World War II veterans, the late Howard Baugh, Sr., on of the original Tuskegee Airmen who flew 135 combat missions in Europe, and the late George Bland, who was serving on the USS West Virginia and injured during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.



The program will be presented at the Memorial in Richmond. Admission is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

### About the Virginia War Memorial

The mission of the Virginia War Memorial is to *Honor Veterans, Preserve*

*History, Educate Youth and Inspire Patriotism in All.* Dedicated in 1956, the memorial includes the names of nearly 12,000 Virginia heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf and the Global War on Terrorism. The Virginia War Memorial is a division of

the Virginia Department of Veterans Services and serves as an integral part of its mission in support of all Virginians who served in our military forces. For more information please visit: [www.vawarmemorial.org](http://www.vawarmemorial.org) ✖



### Post Information

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

Website: [www.vfw1177.org](http://www.vfw1177.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/vfwpost1177](https://facebook.com/vfwpost1177)

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

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



### Quartermaster's Corner

Comrades. With the post renovations drawing to a close, it is now time to remake the building our post home. What I mean by this is redecorating the facility so it reflects our proud post's history within the community and its membership.

In order to encourage more post rentals we plan to limit the number of items we display in the main hall.

Our major post awards, such as our All-American Certificates will be hung in the back room of the post, as well as several of our historical photos of members and Loudoun County veterans and memorabilia from our times in the military.

As part of our decoration process, we plan on returning an old tradition. We will display a collage of post members photographs from when they were in the service. While we do have several photos from past members, we are looking to add to it.

We are asking for post members to send



Stephen Hood, USAF,  
Kadena AB Okinawa, 1969

us copies of photos of themselves while they were in the service. Like the photo above. It can be an official DoD photo or a shot while you were in the field, underway or deployed.

Send scans or copies to [qm@vfw1177.org](mailto:qm@vfw1177.org). Please include a name, and approximate timeframe/location when the picture was taken.✘

### On the Lighter Side



Lee-si-Bugs Cooties and family members ticked the toes (and sensibilities) of veterans and residents of the Heritage Hall Nursing Home on 11 February.

### VFW National Convention - Update

The VFW 119th National Convention will be hosted by Kansas City, MO on July 21-25. Pre-Registration will begin on February 20th as well as hotel reservations. For more information on hotels and registration, please go to the VFW National website at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

There are two types of attendees: Visitor and Delegate. As a Visitor, you can visit several booths, learn more about the VFW and take some time to enjoy the local area. A Delegate can do that, but also must represent the post at business

meetings where discussion on changes to by-laws and the future of the VFW are made.

In addition, the convention, which is co-hosted with the VFW Auxiliary National Convention, offers a health fair, Department of Veteran's Affairs representatives, displays of the Patriotic Art Contest, Buddy Poppy Display and the VFW Store.

If you are interested in attending as a delegate, please notify the Post Commander as soon as possible to ensure proper registration.✘