



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 II

15 October 2017

Upcoming Events

- 28 OCT *Flag Retirement Ceremony @ Post*
@ 0900
- 31 OCT *Leesburg Halloween Parade*
@ 1730
- 1 NOV *Member Monthly Meeting @ Post*
@ 1930
- 8 NOV *VFW Auxiliary Meeting @ Sterling Ruritan Club*
@ 1700
- 10 NOV *INOVA Rehabilitation Center Visit*
@ 1400
- 9-13 NOV *Buddy Poppy Fundraiser*
- 11 NOV *Veterans Day Breakfast @ Leesburg IHOP*
@ 0900
- 11 NOV *Loudoun County Vet Day Program @ Marshal House*
@ 1500

Post 1177 Celebrates 80 Years of Service

LEESBURG, VA - October 7th marked the 80th anniversary of VFW Post 1177 charter signing. To mark the occasion, post members hosted a potluck celebration at the post home, inviting all members, family, friends and the community.



The celebration included comradeship, food, cake and music. Post Commander Ray Depesche remarked on the post's accomplishments supporting veterans in need and the active role its membership has in the community. Longevity pins were also presented to members present for 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of membership within the VFW.

Even the Post Jeep made an appearance, always a hit with the younger crowd who were given the opportunity to climb aboard and try on some military gear.

The Post 1177 Auxiliary supported the event by providing fun activities for children of all ages.

Post 1177 has its distant origins in Purcellville prior to being restated in Leesburg in 1937. Its membership have included several key leaders of the local and county government.

In June 2011, the Post merged with Sterling VFW Post 9478, increasing post membership and making it the sole VFW for Loudoun County.



Comrades Bob Cranson and Ray Depesche perform the first cut of the anniversary cake

Post Officially Awarded All-American Status

LEESBURG, VA - During the September 6th Monthly Members Meeting, Post 1177 was formally awarded All-American status for the 2016-2017 year. The presentation included a certificate for the Post and Post Commander, Ray Depesche, a streamer for the Post Guidon and a special All-American Cap for the Post Commander.

All members of the post who were active during the July 2016 to June 2017 time period are authorized to purchase the All-

American pin (at post shop) and/or member cap.

Of the over 7,200 posts worldwide only over 220 posts earn this honor. There are multiple criteria for earning All-American status to include membership goals, fundraising efforts, volunteer hours and participation at VFW events.

Post 1177 has earned All-American status a total of five times since the merger.



Past Commander Max Gutierrez presents Commander Ray Depesche with the All-American Certificate

Post 1177 Officers

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



Vietnam War Commemorations Honors Post

LEESBURG, VA - During the September 8th members meeting, the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration (VWC) presented the Loudoun County VFW with its flag and certificate in appreciation for the support the post has given the organization as a commemorative partner. Post members in attendance who served during the Vietnam War were presented with commemorative pins in appreciation for their service.

Special thanks to Post 1st Year Trustee Stan Dixon for his efforts as a liaison between the Post and the VWC



Stan Dixon and Post CDR Ray Depesche Accept the VWC Flag

Volunteers Help Clean Up Post



LEESBURG, VA - On Sunday, September 10th, Post 1177 members, with the help of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church conducted the annual post cleanup. The volunteers focused their efforts on clearing up the weed buildup along the back of the post's property as well as landscape the front of the property, including around the Howitzer.

The volunteers were thanked with pizzas and beverages as well as a formal letter signed by the Post Commander.

Post 1177 Jeep Makes Appearances at Airshows

DULLES AIRPORT, VA - One of our more unique post members, the 1953 Willys M38A1 Jeep has been making appearances at the local aviation shows. The Jeep, under command by Post JAG officer Dennis Boykin, has been exhibited and offered photo opportunities at the 2017 Dulles Plane Pull on September 23rd and the Leesburg Air Show on September 30th.

The Willys Jeep were built for US Military service between 1952 and 1957 and were used by all branches of the military in Korea, the Dominican Republic and the Vietnam War. They were also used by the US Forest Service and the Border Patrol. Variations were used as ambulances.

The Post Jeep was restored by Loudoun County school teacher Rick Murdock. This included a full restoration of the engine, electrical system, body parts and decals. Period correct equipment was also installed, such as the radios. The vehicle, when restoration started, was previously painted in a pink camouflage!

Now she works like a dream. The jeep also has a cargo trailer, a soft-top and, on occasion, has towed the post Howitzer for car shows and events.

Dennis Boykin is looking for volunteers to become drivers, help maintain the vehicle and participate in events and shows, such as the air shows. If interested, please contact the post at contact1177@vfw1177.org

Post 1177 Quick Shots



Post Honor Guard at Sterling Columbus Day Parade with Loudoun County Sheriff Mike Chapman



Comrade Max Gutierrez Receives Voice of Democracy Award. Submissions due by 31 October



The Post Jeep at This Year's Dulles Plane Pull



VFW Auxiliary and Post Organizations/Committees



Auxiliary Seeks to Expand Membership

STERLING, VA - Did you know that for every veteran eligible to be a member of the VFW, there are multiple family members that can join the VFW Auxiliary? It is true. Spouses, children, grand-children, parents, grandparents and siblings are all eligible to become members.

Established in 1914, the VFW Auxiliary supports the needs of veterans and their families and works in conjunction with the VFW. Nationwide there are over 4,000 VFW Auxiliaries with more than 490,000 members.

The VFW Auxiliary also manages the Annual Patriotic Art Contest, where high school level students submit works of art focusing on patriotism, the military and/or veterans in order to earn scholarships.

The Post 1177 Auxiliary has supported the VFW and veterans by providing food and snacks for District meetings and Martinsburg VA Hospital. They have also provided assistance to veterans in need. They meet monthly at the Sterling Ruritan Club on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. For more information, contact Pam Koberg at melrospach@gmail.com.



Aux. President Carolyn Hurd and Pam Koberg Provide Refreshments at Martinsburg VA Hospital

Building Committee - \$20K Grant From Home Depot Awarded

LEESBURG, VA - During the month of September, Post 1177 has been awarded a \$20,000 grant by the Home Depot Foundation for the purchase of materials for renovations and improvements for the Post building. Included in the grant are volunteer contractors to install the improvements.

The Building Committee is currently seeking volunteers to assist in improving the building. No experience is necessary. Planned improvements include the redoing the floors, removing the wood paneling and upgrading the doors.



The Home Depot Foundation also funds a Veteran Housing Program offering grants up to \$500,000 to Veterans in Need

Special thanks to Comrade Bill Packard, head of the Building Committee, and his efforts to earn the grant for the post.

Construction efforts are expected to take place as soon as mid-October.

The Post 1177 building is over 50 years old and has undergone several changes during its lifetime. However, time has taken its toll and it is in need of various improvements. For more information, contact the Building Committee at contact1177@vfw1177.org



Martinsburg VA Hospital Plays the Numbers

MARTINSBURG, WV - On September 23rd, Post 1177 conducted its annual Bingo event at Martinsburg VA Hospital in West Virginia for veterans receiving short term and long term care at the facility.

The Lee-si-Bugs Cooties led the effort providing smiles, song and of course the main event itself, the bingo for the patients. They were well received despite their lack of singing talent and



Cootie George Williams and Aux. President Carolyn Hurd Pass on Snacks

were asked to scare the patients again at a future date.

The Post 1177 Auxiliary provided snacks and refreshments for all involved.

If interested in joining the M.O.C. please contact Cooties Seam Squirrel: Phil Rusciollelli at puptent@vfw1177.org.



SAVE THE DATE

**THE LOUDOUN COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AND THE LEONARD W. KIDD MEMORIAL
AMERICAN LEGION POST 2001, ASHBURN, VIRGINIA**



**PROUDLY PRESENT THE 4TH ANNUAL
LOUDOUN SALUTE TO OUR MILITARY, VETERANS & FAMILIES
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2017 - NOON TO 4PM, DOORS OPEN AT 10:30 AM
STONE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
43100 HAY ROAD, ASHBURN, VIRGINIA**



★ **VETERANS** ★

Service Officers from American Legion, VFW, DAV and other Veteran Services Organizations will be in the school cafeteria to help Veterans and their families with new, or to assist in resolving prior, VA claims. A VA Benefits Administration direct computer network will enable you to sign up or check your status on the spot. Numerous Veteran Services and information will be available at display tables.

County and National speakers invited to participate in the Salute include:
Phyllis Randall, Chairman of the Board, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

Keynote Speaker

General Lester L. Lyles, *United States Air Force (retired), former Vice Chief of Staff of the USAF, and Commander, Air Force Materiel Command. Since his retirement from the Air Force in 2003, Gen. Lyles became Chairman of the Board, USAA and a company director for General Dynamics, DPL Inc., KBR Incorporated, Precision Castparts Corp., MTC Technologies, and Battelle Memorial Institute.*

Additionally, a musical salute by a Loudoun County Public School band group, a choral salute to veterans by children of Hillside Elementary School choir, and a reading of the county-wide winning essay by the award winning essay writer!





President Approves New Memorial - VFW Behind Creation

WASHINGTON, DC — The national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is saluting President Trump for signing the VFW-supported *Global War on Terrorism Memorial Act* into law on August 18th. The signing now clears the way for the GWOT Memorial Foundation to work with the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission to secure federal approval for acreage on the National Mall, as well as coordinate a national competition for the memorial's design. It also exempts the GWOT Memorial from a provision in the *Commemorative Works Act of 1986* that requires Congress to wait 10 years after the official end of a military conflict before

GLOBAL WAR ★ ON TERROR ★ MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



considering a war memorial in the nation's capital.

"Sixteen years ago, no one would have thought it possible for America to fight a nonstop, multi-front war for so long with just an all-volunteer force," said VFW National Commander

Keith Harman, "That we have — that they have — and continue to do so magnificently, is a testament not only to this generation's patriotism but of their character, as well. The VFW is very proud to support this memorial, and we are extremely proud that VFW members are

the driving force behind its creation."

The GWOT Memorial Foundation founder and executive director, Andrew Brennan, is a life member of VFW Post 3945 in Pittsburgh. The legislation was introduced in the House by Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.), a life member of VFW Post 2037 in Green Bay, Wis., and Rep. Seth Moulton, a member of VFW Post 2005 in Marblehead, Mass. Its companion bill in the Senate was introduced by Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), a life member of VFW Post 2265 in Red Oak, Iowa, and Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), a strong veterans' advocate who also co-chairs the Senate Post-9/11 Veterans Caucus.

Follow the memorial's progress at gwotmemorialfoundation.org ✖

VA and Walgreens Team Up to Fight the Flu

WASHINGTON, DC - This flu season the VA has again teamed up with national retail pharmacy Walgreens to provide no-cost flu vaccinations for enrolled Veterans through the VA Retail Immunization Care Coordination Program. This partnership offered greater access to flu vaccine, and as a result more than 70,000 Veteran patients received flu shots at a local Walgreens last year. The partnership between VA and Walgreens continues to grow and the current vaccination period is now through March 31, 2018.



Young children, the infirmed and the elderly suffer the highest risk of death due to influenza.

To locate a Wallgreens near you, call 1-800-WALGREENS (800-925-4744) or go to www.walgreens.com/findastore.

To learn more about the flu and the flu vaccine, visit www.publichealth.va.gov/flu or www.cdc.gov/flu. ✖

All Veterans who are currently enrolled in VA care may walk into any of the over 8,000 Walgreens to receive a vaccination at no cost. After presenting a Veterans identification card and a photo ID, a Walgreens pharmacist administers the vaccine and transmits that information securely to VA where it becomes part of the patient's electronic medical record.

Help Veterans Impacted by String of Natural Disasters

KANSAS CITY, MO - VFW National is accepting donations to help veterans service-members and military families impacted by the recent string of natural disasters.

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria along with raging wildfires across our western region have left many in desperate need of assistance. The VFW's Emergency Relief Fund provides our organization the opportunity to react with immediate relief to those affected areas.

To donate to the VFW Emergency Relief fund, send checks

payable to the VFW, earmarked "Emergency Relief" to:

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Quartermaster General
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

Donations can also be made online at www.vfw.org.

You my also show your support by making a \$10 donation to the effort by texting the word "NEEDS" to 27722.

Post 1177 has provided \$500 to support our comrades in need out of our Relief Fund. ✖





**Loudoun County Post 1177
Leesburg, Virginia**

**Post Address:
401 Old Waterford Rd
Leesburg, Virginia 20176**

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

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

**Meetings are held on the first
Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM**



Quartermaster's Corner

The VFW's website, VFW.org is a powerful tool for all members. Once logged in, members can gain access to the latest news affecting the organization and veterans, training tools, and even downloadable flyers. It also provides an easy method to renew your membership or to convert your membership to Life and Legacy Life status. You can even update your contact information and request a new membership card.

But the tech wagon does not stop there. For all those tech savvy members out there, the VFW has offered a couple of apps to help manage your membership and recruit new members. Both of these apps can be easily found in your smartphone's app store. These apps are free.

Smartphone users, did you know you can get a digital copy of your membership card? This is available if you log on to the VFW's website using a smartphone. This is also for free. You will then have easy access to your membership card for those veteran's discounts and membership verifications.

Did you know you can help raise money for the VFW while shopping online at Amazon.com? You can, simply by using the websites charitable donation system at smile.amazon.com/ch/43-175899. Once you log on, you can shop for items as you normally would on the website, but 0.5% of your purchase goes to the VFW. A way to support the VFW's mission at no extra cost to you.✘

VeteransCrisisLine.net

Let Veterans know they're not alone.



1-800-273-8255

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Veterans Day Activities

Veterans Day is by fare, the most important holiday for the VFW, followed closely by Memorial day and the 4th of July. During this Veterans Day weekend. We honor all veterans past and present this day. The Post will be highly active in several events. We are requesting as many post members and volunteers as possible for these events. The events are:

- **The Buddy Poppy Fundraiser** - Need members to collect funds at local Giant Grocery stores. Fundraiser goes from Friday to Monday. 100% of money collected to into our veterans-in-need fund. Our major fund builder for the year.
- **Balls Bluff Sunrise Ceremony** - 11 November at 0730 at Balls Bluff National Cemetery honoring veterans. Fantastic ceremony. Uniform recommended.
- **Veteran's Breakfast** - Camaraderie event at the Leesburg IHOP at 0900 on November 11th. Family welcome!
- **Loudoun County Veterans Day Program** - November 11th at 1500. At the Marshall House in Leesburg. The community honors all veterans.

If interested in volunteering or in more information email at contact1177@vfw1177.org ✘

Post Shop

Post 1177 Mesh-Back Ball Caps. \$20 each (\$5 goes to the post). Show off your post pride!



All-American Pins. Show off the pride in our accomplishment by requesting a pin for your cap. \$5 each (\$1 goes to the post).

If interested in purchasing, speak with the Quartermaster at the next meeting or email: QM@vfw1177.org

Ideas for shirts, hats or other materials? Let us know.

